

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Bribie Island Bridge

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/3/99)—

With reference to the recent death of a pedestrian on the Bribie Island Bridge and the anguish now expressed by residents of the Bribie Island community in the raising of a petition signed by over 4,000 residents for lighting and a proper pedestrian walkway over the bridge—

- (1) When is the Government going to commit to the upgrading of this vital bridge to prevent other deaths and potential fatal incidents?
- (2) What will be the extent of this upgrading considering the limited width of the bridge in relation to the number of heavy vehicles, buses and caravans which utilise the bridge?
- (3) As an external pedestrian walkway attached to the bridge appears to be the best option, wide enough for pedestrians and cyclists, is this the option currently under consideration; if not, why not?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/4/99): I am aware of the recent fatality on the Bribie Island Bridge and personally undertook an inspection of the bridge during my visit to the area on 14/15 February 1999 for the Community Cabinet Meeting.

- (1) I am committed to the upgrading of the safety of this bridge for both pedestrians and cyclists. I have asked the Main Roads District Director to consult with the local community to identify options that are acceptable.
- (2) Any option considered will need to take into account the limited width of the bridge and will not be allowed to impact on the width available for the vehicular traffic.
- (3) A range of options will be sought from the community so that they can be considered along with any funding constraints. An external walkway extension will be one of the options discussed.

2. Lockyer Electorate, Roadworks

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/3/99)—

With reference to the recent rains which have shown up inadequacies in the chip resealing program that is under way in the Lockyer electorate and as in many areas due to poor road base preparation in troublesome sections of road, the new surface is breaking up—

What quality assurance and checking program does his department carry out to ensure the quality of work is up to standard?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/4/99): The chip resealing work was carried out for Main Roads by a Contractor who has an approved quality assurance system which complies with International Standards AS/NZS ISO 9002.

Records show that the quality of the recent chip resealing works met all specification requirements.

The real problem lies with the load bearing capacity of existing pavements being resealed. Unfortunately, in some cases these fail in places after reseal work.

Main Roads carried out pavement repairs and resealing works on several kilometres of road in the Ipswich area prior to Christmas 1998.

Main Roads will consult with Ipswich City Council to review priorities for all works in order to carry out urgent rehabilitation of the Ipswich-Boonah Road at a cost of over \$1.5 million.

3. Breath Testing Machines, Licensed Premises

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (2/3/99)—

With reference to the large number of drink driving offenders—

- (1) Is there any intention of enforcing installation of breath testing machines at all licensed premises?
- (2) Is he prepared to consider a proposal to enforce installation of breath testing machines at all licensed premises?
- (3) If a person requests a breath test from the police prior to driving, are the police obliged to provide this test?

Mr BARTON (1/4/99):

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) Police have no lawful authority and are not obliged to provide a breath test to a person who requests such test prior to driving. However, depending on the particular circumstances, police may accede to the person's request to provide such a test as a goodwill gesture.

4. Tewantin-Tin Can Bay Road

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/3/99)—

With reference to the \$6.285m proposed and most welcome investment in the Rainbow Beach Road—

What are his department's plans to upgrade the connecting road from Tewantin to Tin Can Bay Road?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/4/99): There is currently no direct connecting road from Tewantin to Tin Can Bay Road. This issue has been the subject of widespread community debate. Consequently Main Roads undertook a study to assess whether such a road was needed, and if so what were the consequences. This study concluded that a "need for upgraded access has been identified to provide for future travel demand resulting from growth in the urban populations on the coast and the requirements of economic activities in the region".

Consequently, Main Roads is conducting a route location study for a possible future road link between Boreen Road and Tin Can Bay Road to address the need identified in the former study.

Public Consultation is an integral part of the study and a Community Reference Group has been established to assist Main Roads in ensuring that the wider community is given the opportunity to provide input to the study. This group includes representatives from Local Government, environmental, business, tourist and industry groups.

It is expected that this study will take a period of 12 months; however, this depends on the consultation process and outcome.

5. Yabulu Refinery

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (2/3/99)—

With reference to the nickel and cobalt refinery at Yabulu and questions submitted to me by the residents of Rupertswood—

- (1) Is it correct that the Queensland Nickel Agreement Act clearly defined a specific project that is now concluded?
- (2) Precisely what allows this operation at Yabulu to continue to access underground water and denies access to the same water to other landowners in the area now that the specified project has elapsed?
- (3) What are the other areas of Queensland in which landowners cannot access or use water from under their ground?
- (4) Has this operation at Yabulu been given preference to underground water to give it a competitive edge?
- (5) Which Australian firms does this competitive edge operate against?
- (6) Who is the firm that now operates what was formerly known as QNI Limited?
- (7) Is the new firm listed on the Australian Stock Exchange or any other stock exchange?
- (8) Is he aware that cadmium in very small quantities, produced during the manufacture of nickel, kills all breeding marine life such as clams, oysters and crabs?
- (9) What has been discharged or is being discharged from the pipeline that runs under the sea from Yabulu plant out into Halifax Bay?
- (10) What monitoring is undertaken to check for what is leaching into surrounding lands and waterways outside the Yabulu plant perimeter from the tailing ponds or other discharge points at the plant?
- (11) What are the results of that monitoring?
- (12) Is there any monitoring or analysis conducted of the area by an accredited independent laboratory; if so, by whom?

Mr WELFORD (31/3/99):

(1) The Queensland Nickel Agreement Act 1970 defined a project that consisted of both mining and treatment aspects. Although both aspects related to the one project, the statutes which governed the project treated each aspect separately. It is true that

the mining component has concluded however the treatment component of the project has continued virtually uninterrupted by sourcing other sources of nickel ore when the Greenvale Mine ceased operations.

(2) The Queensland Nickel Agreement Act 1988 is an Act to amend the Greenvale Agreement Act 1970-1975 in certain particulars. In many respects, including the water supply arrangements, it is the principal Act, that is, the Greenvale Agreement Act 1970, which contains the primary provisions relating to water supply arrangements for the project.

The Greenvale Agreement Act 1970 consists of 8 parts. Part 6 deals with Water for and in Connection with Mining and Treatment Operations and consists of three divisions namely:

Water supply arrangements for the Burdekin Area to supply the Greenvale Mine and Township;

Water supply arrangements for the Townsville Area for the Treatment Plant; and

General conditions.

In clause 9 of Part 6 in the General Conditions the Agreement outlines the arrangements with regard to water supply:

- (a) should operations cease either as a result of the forfeiture or voluntary surrender of the company's Special Mineral Lease at Greenvale; or
- (b) should the company cease operations at their Treatment Plant near Townsville.

The company has ceased operations at Greenvale and the provisions in clause 9(a) of Part 6 have been invoked.

The company has not ceased operations at their treatment plant near Townsville and the water supply arrangements which relate to access to underground water for that plant continue.

The Queensland Nickel Agreement Act 1970 provides an entitlement to 8638 megalitres of groundwater water per annum from the area. It provides that licences were to be issued to the Company for this entitlement under the provisions of the Water Act 1926 which is now replaced by the Water Resources Act 1989. It also provides that licences are not to be issued to others in the area that would unduly diminish the supply of water available from the Company's existing bores or wells.

Under the terms of the Queensland Nickel Agreement Act 1988, my Department of Natural Resources has negotiated guidelines with the Company to ensure that no new licences are issued which would result in such diminishment of supply. The negotiated guidelines preclude the issue of new licences to certain categories of bores in certain areas of the Queensland Nickel wellfield.

(3) My Department of Natural Resources regulates the diversion of subartesian groundwater in areas declared under the provisions of the Water Resources Act 1989 throughout Queensland. Some 75% of the state is covered by these declarations. There are various management policies in place to protect groundwater supplies from over exploitation

or water quality deterioration. Since there is considerable competition for groundwater supplies in these areas, it is necessary to restrict, either partly or absolutely, further exploitation for domestic, stock, irrigation or commercial purposes.

(4) The statutes that gave rise to this project were drafted in 1970. I am not privy to the motivations of the drafters of the legislation of that time. The Company's treatment plant was established at a time when the supplies of water available to the Company from urban water supply authorities were inadequate. Secure entitlement to groundwater was a factor contributing to the successful establishment of the treatment plant.

(5) The circumstances concerning the Queensland Nickel groundwater entitlement has been described previously. It is not possible to comment on the circumstance of the Company relative to any other company without knowing the circumstances of the other company.

(6) My Department of Natural Resources has issued waterworks licences to Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd to divert water to the treatment plant at Yabulu near Townsville. Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd is a subsidiary of QNI Limited.

(7) This question has no relevance to my portfolios of Natural Resources and Environment and Heritage. I suggest the question could be directed to the Australian Stock Exchange.

(8) While I am aware that cadmium can be lethal to marine biota, monitoring results of cadmium concentrations in the refinery effluent on a daily basis indicate that the concentrations are below minimum effect concentrations let alone lethal concentrations. Currently the concentrations of dissolved (biologically available) cadmium are analysed to a reporting limit of 0.1 parts per billion with measured concentrations typically at or below this limit. Toxicological studies indicate that cadmium is chronically toxic at an order of magnitude greater than cadmium levels measured in the effluent. Lethal concentrations are normally two or more orders of magnitude greater again. Independent studies of cadmium concentrations in Cleveland Bay, near the refinery, are reported to vary from 0.02 to 0.18 parts per billion.

(9) Discharge from the Yabulu plant into Halifax Bay consists of a solution of ammonium sulfate. The discharge of effluent from the tailings dam also contains metals and trace elements, including cadmium. The discharge is carried out in accordance with limits specified in Queensland Nickel's environmental authority. The Company recognises that ocean discharge is no longer an appropriate water management practice and have adopted a zero discharge policy with ocean discharge expected to cease at the end of March 1999.

(10) Monitoring of groundwater to check for leaching of water from the current tailings pond was instigated at the time of commissioning the pond. Seepage was observed entering the toe drain and several mitigation measures were implemented, including the construction of a toe drain dam in which seepage water is collected and returned to the tailings pond.

An Environmental Management Program under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 was commenced by the Company in 1995 with the objective of limiting the adverse impacts on land and groundwater and to contain impacts within the Company's property. Regular monitoring from a number of bores surrounding the tailings pond will continue for the life of the pond.

Ecological monitoring is being conducted as part of an environmental assessment and management program at the Yabulu site with the aim to establish environmental conditions, assess environmental impacts and develop management actions to improve environmental conditions.

(11) Monitoring results indicate that groundwater quality downgradient of the eastern and northern seepage collection trenches, in general, continues to improve. Where improvements have not been noted, additional bores have been installed and indications are that seepage is confined to a small pocket on the refinery site and does not constitute a stream leading away from the dam.

(12) Monitoring of chemical concentrations is conducted in accordance with the environmental authority which has conditions relating to methods and the analyst having appropriate experience and qualifications. The Company undertakes this monitoring and analysis based on the NATA certification system.

Consultants have been contracted to undertake specific monitoring and analysis of data. For example in the recent past, WBM Oceanics Australia analysed the water quality data collected in Halifax Bay. Researchers from Central Queensland University are also undertaking ecological monitoring of the site.

6. Ms P. Devine; Professor Ansford

Mr NELSON asked the Premier (2/3/99)—

- (1) Does he recall speaking to a Professor Ansford in reference to a media conference and evidence he was to give at a coronial inquest into the death of Peta Ann Devine?
- (2) Did he at any time, when he was the Minister for Health, direct Professor Ansford to give evidence at that coronial inquest?

Mr BEATTIE (31/3/99): I am advised that an exhaustive search of files in the Health Department and in the Health Minister's office has revealed no record whatsoever of any discussions between Professor Ansford and myself.

I do not recall speaking to Professor Ansford regarding a media conference or his evidence.

7. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Funding of Logan City Organisations

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (2/3/99)—

- (1) Which organisations in Logan City currently receive funding, current and recurrent, from her department?

- (2) How much money does each organisation receive?
- (3) What is the purpose for which each organisation receives funding?

Ms BLIGH (30/3/99): There are currently 22 organisations receiving recurrent funding in Logan City to administer 38 services and 2 services receiving non-recurrent funding in the Logan City area:

- Emergency Relief—6 services
- Supported Accommodation Assistance Program—4 services
- Alternative Care and Intervention Service Program—6 services
- Community and Individual Support Program—7 services
- Domestic Violence Initiatives Program—2 services
- Child Abuse Prevention Program—2 services
- Family Support Worker Program—2 services
- Youth and Community Combined Action Program—2 services
- Youth Services Development Grant—1 service
- Disability Program—4 services
- Child Care Long Day Care—1 service
- Child Care Limited Hours Program—1 service
- Child Care Outside School Hours Program—1 service
- Older Person's Action Program—1 service

A table outlining the funded services, the amount for which they are funded and the purpose for which they are funded is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

8. Pacific Motorway, Exit Signage

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/3/99)—

- (1) When is a standard regarding exit signage on the Pacific Motorway likely to be available?
- (2) As a great number of significant enterprises adjacent to the motorway undertake comprehensive marketing campaigns which are planned up to 2 years in advance, will he ensure that an appropriate priority is given to this matter to ensure that no further disruption to commerce occurs in the area?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/4/99):

- (1) For the Pacific Motorway considerable community input was encouraged to ensure appropriate signage to meet the needs of the motorist and the use of exit numbering was considered. The design of the signage is nearing finalisation.

- (2) The Pacific Motorway project team has endeavoured to work closely with businesses who rely on highway trade. They have been encouraged through community groups and business associations to comment on the sign layouts prior to a decision being taken on the final signs.

9. Emergency Services Portfolio

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for her portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mrs ROSE (1/4/99):

1. The Department monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring system. Estimated expenditure for the Department for 1998-99 is \$31.157M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$5,564,000
 October-December 1998—\$3,380,000
 January 1999—\$2,198,000

2. Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is impossible to calculate.

10. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr BRADDY (1/4/99):

1. Estimated expenditure for the Department for 1998-99 is \$47.277M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

Jul-Sep '98—\$5,450,000
 Oct-Dec '98—\$6,472,000
 Jan '99 —\$2,780,000

2. Accurate information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is unavailable.

11. Public Works and Housing Portfolio

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours

figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr SCHWARTEN (1/4/99):

Public Works

The Department of Public Works monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Reporting System. Estimated expenditure for the department for 1998-99 is \$104.442M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$18,683,000
 October-December 1998—\$14,667,000
 January 1999—\$4,895,000

Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is impossible to calculate.

Housing

The Department of Housing monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Reporting System. Estimated expenditure for the department for 1998-99 is \$262.638M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$28,705,000
 October-December 1998—\$61,852,000
 January 1999—\$9,773,000

Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works projects is impossible to calculate.

12. Mines and Energy Portfolio

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr McGRADY (30/3/99):

(1) The Department monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. Estimated expenditure for the Department for 1998-99 is \$12.823M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$361,000
 October-December 1998—\$1,979,000
 January 1999—\$370,000

Estimated expenditure for Government-owned electricity corporations for 1998-99 is \$959.697M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$203,184,000
 October-December 1998—\$201,894,000
 January 1999—\$46,631,000

(2) Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is impossible to calculate.

13. Tourism, Sport and Racing Portfolio

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1) The Department monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. Estimated expenditure for the Department for 1998-99 is \$103.58M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$3,002,000
 October-December 1998—\$10,842,000
 January 1999—\$5,407,000

The Department administers a number of capital grants and subsidy programs, which benefit sport and recreation across the State. Due to timing and other administrative matters associated with the allocation of funding under these programs, an acceleration of capital expenditure is expected in the second half of the year.

(2) Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is impossible to calculate.

14. State Development and Trade Portfolio

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr ELDER (1/4/99): The Department monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. Estimated expenditure for the Department for 1998-99 (excluding \$35.448M in capital grants) is \$25.290M. Actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$981,000
 October-December 1998—\$5,190,000
 January 1999—\$961,000

Whilst capital works expenditure has, thus far, been low, acceleration is now occurring as negotiations concerning major projects are finalised.

Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is impossible to calculate.

15. Health Portfolio

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for her portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mrs EDMOND (31/3/99): Estimated expenditure for capital projects for Queensland Health in 1998-99 is \$621m, the full amount budgeted for. Estimated expenditure against actual expenditure is:

Period: Estimated—Actual
 July-Sept 98: \$97m—\$ 94.081m
 Oct-Dec 98: \$142.799m—\$145.872m

Estimated expenditure for the final two quarters is \$381m. As of 31 January 1999, actual expenditure was \$288m. There will be no underspending as this Government's estimates are realistic and achievable.

The Coalition Government's budget allocation for 1997-98 was \$557m. Actual expenditure was \$475m, leaving \$82m underspent in the health capital works program.

Detailed information on person hours impacts for capital works projects is impossible to calculate. However, the Queensland Health capital works program will create 9000 jobs.

16. Environment and Heritage and Natural Resources Portfolio

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr WELFORD (31/3/99):

1. The Department (Natural Resources) monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. Estimated expenditure for the Department for 1998-99 is \$135.038M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$15,318,000
 October-December 1998—\$26,136,000
 January 1999—\$13,690,000

2. Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is impossible to calculate.

Environmental Protection Agency:

The Environmental Protection Agency monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. Estimated expenditure for the Agency for 1998-99 is \$33.609M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$5,695,000
 October-December 1998—\$7,355,000
 January 1999—\$1,470,000

Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is impossible to calculate.

17. Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities Portfolio

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for

Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr MACKENROTH (30/3/99):

(1) The Department's capital expenditure consists predominantly of grants and subsidies to local governing bodies for a wide range of capital works classifications. Payment of grants and subsidies by the Department is dependent on local government progress on individual approved projects. Budgeted expenditure for the Department in 1998-99 is \$203.799M. Of this, the actual expenditure is as follows:

July-September 1998—\$25,553,000
 October-December 1998—\$46,239,000
 January 1999—\$3,896,000
 February 1999—\$6,379,000

(2) The direct administration of these local government grants and subsidies programs within the Department utilises approximately 2,040 person hours per month.

18. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Women's Policy and Fair Trading Portfolio

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for her portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Ms SPENCE (30/3/99):

1. The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. Estimated expenditure for the Department for 1998-99 is \$47.141M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$6,767,000
 October-December 1998—\$5,024,000
 January 1999—\$1,892,000

The Department of Equity and Fair Trading monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. Estimated expenditure for the Department for 1998-99 is \$0.594M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$0
 October-December 1998—\$0
 January 1999—\$239,000

2. Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is impossible to calculate.

19. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr BARTON (1/4/99): Both the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Corrective Services Commission monitor progress of their Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System.

1. Estimated expenditure for the Queensland Police Service for 1998-99 is \$39.69M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$1,785,000
October-December 1998—\$8,561,000
January 1999—\$2,227,000

Estimated expenditure for Queensland Corrective Services Commission for 1998-99 is \$176.939M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$26,760,000
October-December 1998—\$27,594,000
January-March 1999 (estimated)—\$14,500,000

2. Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Program is impossible to calculate.

20. Transport and Main Roads Portfolio

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/4/99): The Departments of Main Roads and Transport monitor progress of their Capital Works Programs through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. Estimated expenditure for the Departments for 1998-99 is \$1,358,906m. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$262,107,000
October-December 1998—\$368,675,000
January 1999—\$85,959,000

Precise figures on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects are not available.

21. Primary Industries Portfolio

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr PALASZCZUK (1/4/99):

1. The estimated and actual expenditure for the Department of Primary Industries for 1998/1999 are shown in the following tables.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FOR TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

1998/1999	Financial	Year—Estimated
	Expenditure	
July-September 1998		\$1,637,000
October-December 1998		\$4,443,000
January-March 1999		\$3,750,000
April-June 1999		\$5,236,000
Total		\$15,066,000

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES ACTUAL EXPENDITURE FOR TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM 1998/1999

1998/1999	Financial	Year—Actual Expenditure
July 1998		\$244,801
August 1998		\$489,603
September 1998		\$906,448
October 1998		\$1,467,587
November 1998		\$1,547,541
December 1998		\$651,234
January 1999		\$1,221,689
February 1999		\$1,161,378
Total		\$7,690,281 (year to date)

The capital works program is currently on track and the Department does not anticipate any significant under expenditure at the end of the year.

2. Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects administered by the Department is not available.

22. Education Portfolio

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr WELLS (26/3/99): Estimated expenditure for Education Queensland for 1998-99 is \$257.950M inclusive of Capital Grants, School Improvement Assistant Scheme Subsidy and the Commonwealth Education Fund. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$45,579,000
October-December 1998—\$67,907,000
January 1999—\$15,794,000

Detailed information of person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is impossible to calculate.

23. Treasury Portfolio

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr HAMILL (24/3/99): Approximately half of the Government's capital works has been expended as at January 1999. This augurs well for the year with experience showing that spending tends to be higher in the second half of the year as the construction industry picks up after the Christmas break and as billing is finalised.

1. Estimated expenditure for Treasury for 1998-99 is \$14.004M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$3,853,000
October-December 1998—\$8,032,000
January 1999—\$21,000

2. Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is impossible to calculate.

24. Premier and Cabinet Portfolio

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr BEATTIE (1/4/99): The Department of the Premier and Cabinet monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. Estimated expenditure for the Department for 1998-99 is \$70.198m. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$5,718,000
October-December 1998—\$15,133,000
January 1999—\$1,091,000

The capital works program is currently on track and the Department does not anticipate any significant underexpenditure at the end of the year.

Capital works expenditure will accelerate during the second half of the year with anticipated major project expenditures as follows:

South Bank Masterplan development—\$20m
Heritage Trails Network (including Ipswich Rail Technology Centre)—\$18m
Cairns Esplanade—\$2.5m
QUT theatre—\$1.5m

Detailed information on person-hours impacts for capital works projects administered by the Department is not available.

25. Justice and The Arts Portfolio

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for his portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Mr FOLEY (1/4/99): The Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the statutory bodies within my portfolio monitor progress of their Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System or the respective entities financial management system. Estimated expenditure for 1998-99 is \$61.277 million. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July-September 1998—\$6,928,652
October-December 1998—\$21,268,135
January-February 1999—\$9,202,151

Capital works expenditure will accelerate during the second half of the year with anticipated major project expenditures as follows:

Brisbane, New Arrest Courts—\$5.9m
Gladstone, New Courthouse—\$0.7m
Roma, Repairs to Courthouse—\$0.5m
Innisfail, Upgrade Courthouse—\$0.7m
Charleville, Upgrade Courthouse—\$0.5m
Relocation of the Anti-Discrimination Commission—\$0.5m
Museum of Tropical Queensland—\$4m
Southbank Playhouse—\$0.4 million
Maryborough Performing Arts Centre—\$1.5m
Queensland Cultural Centre 2000—\$0.5m
Queensland Cultural Centre Maintenance—\$3m.

26. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (2/3/99)—

What are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for her portfolio and its entities total capital works program for each quarter of 1998-99 and what is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and the associated person hours figures for the portfolio and its entities so far in 1998-99?

Ms BLIGH (30/3/99):

1. The Department monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. Estimated expenditure for the Department for 1998-99 is \$50.647M. Of this, actual expenditure to date has been as follows:

July 1998 to September 1998—\$0.307M
October 1998 to December 1998—\$3.002M
January 1999 to February 1999—\$1.672M

2. Detailed information on person hours impacts for Capital Works Projects is impossible to calculate.

The anticipated under expenditure in the Program relates to the Youth Detention Centre Infrastructure Program and can be attributed to the transfer of the Youth Detention Centre function and the need to finalise the details of the new Infrastructure Plan. Treasury has approved the carry-over of these funds until 1999-2000. This underspend is due to the failure of the former Coalition Government to adequately plan for and deliver capital works in the juvenile justice area. In all other respects, the Department's Capital Works Program is proceeding on track.

27. Queen Alexandra Home; Coorparoo TAFE Campus

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (2/3/99)—

With reference to the Queen Alexandra Home and the TAFE Campus at Coorparoo—

- (1) What has happened to the \$1.5m Labor promised, prior to the State election, to spend on the enhancement of this facility?
- (2) As two senior Southbank officers were to outline the future of the campus to staff at a meeting in October, why was the local Member engaged in a project over the Christmas/New Year vacation period to determine the future of the campus?

Mr BRADY (1/4/99):

(1) A reference group, comprising representatives of local and state government, community groups and the Member for Greenslopes, has been established to support the review of options for the future of this precinct. Funding will be considered when detailed information is available.

(2) The Senior Management were not at the Coorparoo Campus to outline the future of the campus, but rather the future location of the programs and staff who were physically located at the Campus during this time.

28. Cyclone Rona; Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority

Mr ROWELL asked the Premier (2/3/99)—

As there have been substantial losses to many sectors of North Queensland and Far North Queensland as a result of Cyclone Rona, what assistance will be provided by the State Government for the following initiatives to reduce the impact (a) expanding the guidelines of QRAA to make it more pragmatic, (b) implement a method of rate support for local authorities that have been affected by the economic decline of their industries and a natural disaster which has seriously depleted the viability of the communities, (c) improve risk management by encouraging industries such as the banana industry to increase areas insured by exempting the 8.5 per cent stamp duty on crop insurance and (d) support and expedite infrastructure programs to enable key industries in the affected area to recover their earning capacity?

Mr BEATTIE (1/4/99):

(a) Since the election, my Government has listened to the needs of the rural sector and has improved the focus of Government assistance, especially following the recent flooding which has affected many parts of Queensland. As a result of the Government's reforms Natural Disaster Relief concessional loans are now available at an interest rate of 4% compared to 5.5% under the Coalition Government and security requirements have been altered, with producers now required to mortgage only appropriate landed assets commensurate with loan value rather than all landed assets.

(b) Immediate support for councils and local communities in times of natural disaster is supplied under the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Assistance arrangements. This assistance addresses the short term impacts of natural disasters on communities. Whilst providing rate support to councils may sound an attractive proposition, in reality it would be difficult to ensure that those individuals and industry groups most affected by natural disaster would actually receive the assistance they need and deserve from such an approach. It is therefore more effective to provide assistance that is directly targeted at those affected.

The Government provides financial assistance to councils under a number of funding programs, mainly aimed at providing capital works. In addition, the Local Government Grants Commission, which administers Commonwealth funding for local councils, makes recommendations on the allocation of general purpose assistance to councils. The Commission uses a number of indicators to determine the level of support for each council, such as the value of agricultural production and income levels. Therefore, the ongoing impact of natural disasters on the economic wellbeing of the community would generally be reflected in increased grant allocations over time.

(c) The Queensland Government's revenue position is being threatened by the Federal Coalition's GST package, which is expected to deny Queenslanders \$465 million in funding. The uncertainty created by the Federal Government's GST package has forced Queenslanders to await the finalisation of the GST tax arrangements and has resulted in the deferral of any reduction in stamp duty on crop insurance.

In order to achieve a fair outcome for Queensland, my Government has attempted to secure the support of all State and Federal Members to protect Queensland's funding and services. I would urge the Honourable Member to contact his Federal Coalition colleagues to ensure that the State receives its fair share of revenue and has the capacity to make the concessions sought for stamp duty on crop insurance.

(d) Apart from support provided under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements, there are a range of programs provided by Government Departments and agencies that assist communities and industry recover their earning capacity. These include:

concessional loans to primary producers who are unable to provide for their own recovery for carry-on needs, stock replacement and restoration of fixed/landed assets;

freight subsidies to primary producers which are tailored to address specific needs or deficiencies which may exist during and following a natural disaster event;

concessional loans to small business operators who are unable to provide for their own recovery to re-establish operations following physical loss; and

grants to Local Governments for the restoration of essential public assets, such as roads and bridges.

I raised this issue with the Prime Minister in February when I proposed the establishment of a joint Commonwealth State Disaster Relief Mitigation fund. The fund would have the specific purpose of assisting Local Governments to develop and implement strategies to mitigate the impact of future natural disasters on the community. I am hopeful that the Prime Minister will see the value of this approach and join with the State Government on providing an appropriate level of disaster assistance to communities.

29. Mackay TAFE Campus

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (2/3/99)—

With reference to the final sentence of his response to Question on Notice No. 456—

Will he table a copy of his request to the department and the results of the department's investigation?

Mr BRADY (1/4/99): Question on Notice No. 456 was not asked of me.

30. TAFE

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (2/3/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 753, and as almost half the financial year had gone by the time he responded quite inadequately to this question which related to statements in his Ministerial Portfolio Statements—

Will he now provide a complete answer to Question No. 753?

Mr BRADY (1/4/99): As a result of Round 1 of the 1999 Competitive Purchasing Program, 564,376 Annual Hours Curriculum is to be delivered to about 2,864 participants in regional and remote areas during 1999.

Regional/Remote Area—Number of Participants to receive training under Round 1 of the 1999 Competitive Purchasing Program

Far North Queensland—364
North/North West Queensland —640
Central Queensland—556
Wide Bay/Sunshine Coast—909
South West Queensland—410

In relation to the Printing Industry, no training has been contracted in regional and remote areas in 1998/99 under competitive purchasing. The

reference to increased cost per Annual Hours Curriculum due to printing courses, and their delivery in regional and remote areas, reflects the information within the 1998/99 Ministerial Program Statement of the previous Government.

With respect to the Furnishing Industry and delivery in regional and remote areas, the Department has contracted Registered Training Organisations to deliver a total of 46,948 Annual Hours Curriculum from July 1998 to December 1999.

31. Moura Ambulance Centre

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (2/3/99)—

With reference to the Moura Ambulance Centre—

- (1) How many staff positions are located at this centre?
- (2) How many of these positions have been vacant in the last three months and for how long?
- (3) What steps have been taken to fill these positions?
- (\$)
- What training programs does the department have to train suitable staff for rural ambulance stations?
- (5) Are there any plans to scale down this centre?

Mrs ROSE (1/4/99):

(1) There are three staff positions located at this centre.

(2) Two positions have been vacant in the past three months.

(3) One position has been vacant since December 1997 and the other since October 1998. Relief staff have been provided from neighbouring stations. Moura is part of a 'cluster' which includes Theodore, Gladstone and Biloela stations. The Moura roster is structured in such a way that complements the roster of Biloela, allowing a staff member from Biloela to provide constant relief. When the Biloela relief staff is unavailable because of annual leave or training courses, relief is provided from Gladstone. Difficulties in attracting permanent staff to Moura relate to the low clinical workload and lack of community infrastructure. These positions have been advertised in the DES weekly gazette and will continue to be called in the gazette. A house is offered at 15% of base pay rate rental. The Officer-in-Charge is drawing up a profile of the area to assist in attracting staff. A Student Ambulance Officer was appointed to Moura, but requested, for personal family reasons, to be transferred. This officer also requested his transfer due to the fact that Moura had a very small workload and he would not be able to achieve his student competencies.

The QAS has in place a remote area incentive scheme, which has been enhanced by additional funding contained in the last budget. The QAS also is in the process of reviewing staffing needs across the state and a working group is considering options to attract staff to rural and remote areas where staffing has been a problem.

(4) The QAS does not distinguish recruit training of ambulance officers between rural and urban locations. The current level of qualification for a Qualified Ambulance Officer is the Diploma of Health Science (Pre-hospital Care). In addition, the QAS is piloting an Extended Care Program (ECP) which offers an extended range of drugs and procedures to appropriately trained officers in remote and rural locations for use following consultation with a doctor.

(5) It has been proposed to relocate the long-term vacant third position from Moura to Gladstone. Caseload suggests the third position is not needed due to mine closures and the down-sizing of the township. Case load has reduced from 572 in 1995/96, to 440 in 1996/97, to 280 in 1997/98, to 128 up to December 1998, with an estimated 200 for the 1998-99 financial year. Transferring the position to Gladstone will help ensure that Moura staff get their allocated days off by enhancing the relieving pool. The proposals have been discussed with the Moura Local Ambulance Committee and community. Consultation will continue. Transferring a vacant position to Gladstone would have no impact on service delivery to Moura.

32. Construction Industry, Cement Packaging Costs

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (2/3/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 565 in relation to his uncosted pre-election promise to the Builders Labourers Federation—

- (1) What is the result of the Workplace Health and Safety Board's investigation and consideration?
- (2) Have they been able to estimate the cost of delivering on his promise; if so, what is that cost?

Mr BRADY (1/4/99):

- (1) Not yet available.
- (2) See (1).

33. Tobacco Products

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health (2/3/99)—

With reference to the penalties which were substantially increased in May 1998 for the offence of selling or supplying cigarettes or other tobacco products to people under the age of 18 years, to protect the health of young Queenslanders—

- (1) How effectively is this legislation being policed?
- (2) How many people have been fined since then for selling or supplying tobacco products to persons under 18 years?

Mrs EDMOND (31/3/99):

(1) Fifty-eight Queensland Health environmental health officers are authorised to enforce the Tobacco Products (Prevention of Supply to

Children) Act 1998. Queensland Police Officers are also authorised to enforce the Act.

(2) Queensland Health has responded to 56 reports of alleged breaches of the Act during the nine-month period 31 May 1998 to 28 February 1999. All responses to these alleged breaches have been positive, resulting in non-complying retailers improving their practices.

34. Education Minister

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Premier (2/3/99)—

With reference to the shameful attack in The Courier Mail on the people of Drillham, a small township in Western Downs, by his Minister for Education, the Hon Dean Wells in December 1998 and to a number of people in the Drillham district who were appalled by Mr Wells's slur on the good name of their community, including one citizen who I know wrote to the Premier requesting him to discipline Mr Wells—

What action has the Premier personally taken to reprimand his Minister for his disgraceful actions?

Mr BEATTIE (31/3/99): I have been unable to find any article in The Courier-Mail during December 1998 which mentions the Education Minister and Drillham.

35. Gympie Floods, Loan Applications

Mr STEPHAN asked the Premier (2/3/99)—

With reference to funds allocated and set aside to assist those who have suffered hardship in recent floods in Gympie and elsewhere during February—

- (1) How many made application for assistance through the avenue of loan money at 4 per cent interest?
- (2) How many were successful with their applications?
- (3) How many were not successful?
- (4) How many are still being processed?

Mr BEATTIE (31/3/99): For the period from February 1999 to date: (1) 104; (2) 42; (3) 24; (4) 38.

36. Protective Equipment and New Tools Subsidy

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (2/3/99)—

- (1) In each industry where there is a current skills shortage, how many apprentices and trainees have taken up the Government's Protective Equipment and New Tools subsidy announced by him in mid-November 1998?
- (2) How many apprentices and trainees from other industries have also taken advantage of the subsidy?

Mr BRADY (1/4/99):

(1) As of 5 March 1999, nine apprentices/trainees have been paid for the provision of tools and

equipment. These apprentices/trainees are principally employed in the Hospitality industry in the area of Cooking.

(2) The assistance is not available to industries outside of the skill shortage areas identified.

37. Pialba State School

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Education (2/3/99)—

With reference to his recent announcement of the building of a \$5.8m state-of-the-art primary school at Hervey Bay which is in close proximity to the 100 year old Pialba State Primary School where the P&C have raised the issue of poor maintenance, including areas of dilapidated asbestos fibre roofing on classrooms, tuckshops and other areas which have been singled out as being potential health hazards—

- (1) Will he put in place, as a matter of urgency, steps for the removal of the asbestos roofing on two student blocks and replace those roofs with suitable corrugated steel roofing?
- (2) As, in a student toilet block at the same school, the roofing is so dilapidated that when it rains, water pours into the supposedly sealed light fittings turning them into live fittings which then fuse out, will he allow this potentially fatal situation to continue or will he direct that urgent maintenance, including the re-roofing of this toilet block be carried out immediately?
- (3) As in the same toilet block, sub-standard concrete footings have failed, whereby a large crack in the toilet walls runs through the boys' urinal which has been mended with silicon, will he instigate an immediate investigation into these serious matters and will he call for an immediate engineering report, independent of Q Build as it is my understanding that Q Build were responsible for the engineering, supervision and construction of this toilet block?
- (4) As corrugated asbestos roofing has been used as shade covers over windows in two further areas of the school and in one instance Q Build insisted on the removal of a tree which had the potential to scratch and damage one of these coverings over the principal's window and during removal of the tree, a branch smashed part of the asbestos covering which was left in its broken condition for twelve months with a large piece of broken asbestos lying on the ground where it fell and no attempt has been made by Q Build to repair, seal, or even mend with silicon, this broken asbestos covering which has been removed by a P&C representative and placed in safe keeping, will he ensure that this farce stops here and will he order the immediate safe removal and suitable replacement of this health menace?
- (5) Also, a corrugated asbestos cover which shades the tuckshop windows in the food preparations area is so dilapidated that it is visibly cracked and there has never been any attempt to seal this menace with paint or anything else and because of the hot working

conditions in the tuckshop area, the windows directly under this asbestos menace remain open to allow fresh air to flow through the tuckshop, will he now act to put a halt to the continuing run down of the condition of the existing Pialba State Primary School, by ordering the immediate, necessary and urgent repair works to be carried out?

Mr WELLS (26/3/99):

Item 1—An Asbestos Management Plan is in place for Pialba State School. The plan identifies the roofs of these two buildings as containing asbestos roof sheeting. The Management Plan was based on an Asbestos Audit conducted in November 1995. The roofing materials on Building No. 25 were identified as being in good condition with no signs of deterioration. The roofing materials on Building No. 26 were identified as being in fair condition with signs of deterioration. Although the roofs may look dilapidated, neither poses a risk to the health of the users of the buildings. No funding has been available to date for a second Asbestos Audit. Q-Build has been requested to provide a detailed report on the current condition of these two roofs. Q-Build is also preparing a report, requesting the continuation of the Asbestos Audit Program, which is due to end this financial year, so that such items can be addressed on an ongoing basis.

Item 2—Water leakage of the roof to the student toilet block was repaired in September 1998. Replacement of the roof has been identified by Q-Build as a high priority for the next financial year under the Annual Maintenance Program. In accordance with current practice, the school will be involved in determining maintenance priorities for the 1999-2000 Annual Maintenance Program. Electrical contractors attended the school on the 23 November 1998 and the 9 December 1998 and repaired the light fittings, replaced the bulbs and refitted housings. The rusted roof sheeting was repaired in September 1998 and the school registrar reported to Q-Build that there were no further leaks occurring into light fittings. The light fittings are not considered dangerous. Electrical contractors undertake all three processes of repair, makesafe and inspection on each occasion that work is undertaken.

Item 3—An Engineers Report has already been undertaken by Barlow Gregg & Associates. Rectification works to make good structural damage to the student toilet block to a value of \$4076 has been approved to proceed.

Items 4 and 5—Shade covers on both buildings have been identified for replacement. Materials lists are currently being prepared and the shade covers will be replaced on 22 March 1999.

38. Heiner Documents

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (3/3/99)—

With reference to the State Archivist's role in approving the destruction of public records pursuant to the Libraries and Archives Act 1988 and given that the Labor Government has hidden behind the apparent approval received from the State Archivist when destroying the Heiner Inquiry documents in March 1990—

Will he confirm, after checking with Ms Lee McGregor, the State Archivist, that had she not been deceived by the Cabinet into believing that no one wanted the material and had been told the truth that (a) they were known to be required as evidence in impending court proceedings, (b) they were the subject of a legally enforceable access statute and (c) Cabinet wanted them destroyed to prevent their use in those court proceedings, would she still have given her approval to shred them on 23 February 1990?

Mr BEATTIE (31/3/99): My Government has set up an independent inquiry into child abuse. There have been 10 inquiries into the matter of the Heiner documents. I have made all relevant Cabinet documents available. I do not intend to waste any more public money on the so-called "Heiner documents".

39. Mr K. and Ms R. Schloss; RSPCA Raid

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (3/3/99)—

With reference to the RSPCA raid on Ken and Ruth Schloss' dairy farm at Wondai on 4 March 1997 and as the RSPCA Officer Inspector Lewis visited the farm on 26 February 1997 but the raid did not take place till 4 March 1997—

- (1) If the animals were being kept in such a disgraceful state as claimed, why did the RSPCA wait a further six days before they acted?
- (2) Did the RSPCA wait so that they could arrange media coverage to gain media enhanced public support for the action?
- (3) Why did it take so long after the court case to return the dairy heifers?
- (4) Why was the RSPCA reluctant to provide treatment details of the animals?
- (5) Why weren't all the animals returned to the Schloss family?
- (6) Did the RSPCA sell these animals even though a court case was proceeding?
- (7) Why isn't the RSPCA obliged to compensate the family for the losses?

Mr PALASZCZUK (1/4/99): The RSPCA is not a Statutory Authority, and does not report to me. These questions should be referred to the RSPCA for direct reply.

40. Pialba State School

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (3/3/99)—

With reference to the announcement of a new \$5.8m school to be constructed in Hervey Bay—

- (1) Is he aware of the massive volume of maintenance required to bring other schools in the area up to an acceptable level?
- (2) Is he aware of the fact that a large number of buildings within the Pialba State School have asbestos roofing eg. classrooms, canteen etc?

(3) In light of the recent publicity referring to asbestosis, will he direct his urgent attention to the removal of this dangerous product, especially in a school situation?

(4) Will he consider having a tour of the school with the Member for Hervey Bay and representatives from the School P & C to personally see the extent of repairs required?

Mr SCHWARTEN (31/3/99):

(1) Q-Build, a business unit of the department, has submitted a Strategic Maintenance Plan for 1998/99 to Education Queensland for schools in the Hervey Bay Region, totalling \$472,934. To date, \$116,404 of the submitted amount has been approved to commence, leaving \$356,530 still unapproved. For 1999/2000, \$640,000 of maintenance has been identified in the Strategic Maintenance Plan for submission to Education Queensland in May 1999.

(2) An Asbestos Audit of Pialba State School was undertaken in November 1995. Four buildings were identified as having asbestos roofing and of these, two are having sun shades replaced shortly. The other buildings are teaching blocks. The roof of one was assessed as being in 'good' condition and the roof of the other was in 'fair' condition. Despite the appearance of the roofs, neither pose a risk to the health of the users of the building.

(3) Asbestos Audits are undertaken on all school buildings as part of the current Asbestos Audit Program. Pialba State School would have a Building Management Plan emanating from that Audit. The department is responsible for the development of recommended annual maintenance works programs, including any asbestos removal works required for schools, based on the priorities of the works and the budgets available. Schools have final approval of which works are undertaken at the school, within their notional budgets allocated to them by Education Queensland from within their total maintenance budget.

(4) I am unaccustomed to receiving third party invitations to visit schools. Should the Member for Hervey Bay wish me to visit a school within his electorate, all he needs to do is ask.

It is interesting to note that you have no concerns about schools in your own electorate. I therefore presume that there are no maintenance issues at those schools.

Maintenance is a huge issue in our schools as for 32 years the former Coalition Government allowed our schools to fall into disrepair and it was not until Labor was elected in 1989 that some of those issues were tackled. Anyone with any common sense will know that it will take years and hundreds of millions of dollars to undo those 32 years of neglect.

41. Unemployment

Mr BLACK asked the Premier (3/3/99)—

With reference to an article in The Australian of 26 February warning that there is now solid evidence that Australia's seven year economic boom will slow next year with the threat that miners, property developers and manufacturers will sharply scale back

investment which must, of course, lead to an adverse impact on employment—

- (1) What is he saying to all of our unemployed who must certainly be confused and amazed to learn that they have been experiencing boom times?
- (2) How now does he, and by deduction his Federal Labor colleagues, propose to get unemployment down to just five percent with these factors threatening even those who are now employed?

Mr BEATTIE (1/4/99):

(1) Although nationally some industries may be experiencing sharp scale-backs in investment as the Australian newspaper quoted, Queensland is reporting good profitability and solid improvement in general business conditions with an increase in the employment growth rate between June 1998 when Labor came to office and February 1999 of 1.9 per cent (trend series data.)

As a result, since Labor came to office, there has been a significant improvement in the unemployment rate with the trend rate falling from 8.9% to 8%, the lowest level for nine years. In addition, the intake for apprentices has increased by 44% and trainees by 38% between June 1998 when Labor came to office and March 1999. This is compared to the same period while the previous Government was in power.

(2) Unlike the Opposition, the Queensland Government has set itself a target and has introduced the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative as a major program to reduce the unemployment rate to 5% over five years.

We will be establishing 24,500 new job placements over four years in both the private and public sectors. We are providing an additional investment of \$283 million over four years in employment and training to help the next generation. This will create apprenticeships, trainees and job placements. It will include 6,000 trainees and 500 apprentices in Government departments, agencies and local government; 7,500 apprenticeships and traineeships in industries with skills in demand; 900 apprenticeships in the building and construction industry as a result of the 10 per cent training rule in government public work projects; 600 new building and construction industry apprentices through expansion of the housing industry trade training program and 9,000 places on essential public works.

We are currently looking at strategies to address the emerging labour market needs to create and sustain employment.

The Government is doing more than just reducing unemployment. It is systematically building a foundation to support the skilling of the employed and unemployed to both enhance job security and prepare for the work of the future.

At the same time, the Government is determined to build Queensland's regions and increase statewide development so that all the regions prosper and expand the State's economy.

The Government is determined to make Queensland the Smart State. We are also working towards making the information technology and

telecommunications industry, which already employs 33,000 Queenslanders, the State's largest employer early in the next century.

My Government is turning Queensland into an action state which encourages and attracts large corporations to invest in the state. Already there is an impressive list of head office locations to this state: Boeing, Mack Trucks, the Gartner Group, Anderson Consulting, Shell Coal, and Parmalat. We have also attracted a number of large call centres to the state, including most recently, IBM's.

42. **Pialba State School**

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Education (3/3/99)—

With reference to the recent announcement of the construction of a new \$5.8m primary school in Hervey Bay—

- (1) Has he any intention of closing the Pialba State Primary School when this new school is completed?
- (2) When does he intend to commence construction of this new school?
- (3) Will he be carrying out any urgent maintenance to the Pialba State Primary School prior to the construction of the new school?
- (4) Will he guarantee no job loss for staff and teachers at the Pialba State Primary School?
- (5) Would the positions for staff in the new school be firstly filled with staff members from the old school?
- (6) Will the new school be air-conditioned?

Mr WELLS (26/3/99):

Item 1—I have no intention of closing Pialba State School when construction is completed of the new school. Residential development is planned within the natural catchment of Pialba State School. It is expected that this will be such that the enrolments will increase at this school after an initial decline in 2000 when the new school opens.

Item 2—Construction of the new school is scheduled to commence in July.

Item 3—Urgent maintenance work is continually being carried out in all Queensland State Schools, as the need arises.

Each year schools are provided with a notional budget for maintenance issues. This budget is available to schools to enable them to prioritise planned maintenance projects and to authorise urgent maintenance requirements through Q-Build, as the government's maintenance service provider.

For the 1998-99 financial year, Pialba State School has received a notional budget of \$45,787 comprising \$27,472 for planned maintenance and \$18,315 for unplanned maintenance. In keeping with the philosophy of school based management the school determines what maintenance work occurs not the Minister for Education.

Item 4—There will be no loss of employment for any permanent employees. Staffing for Pialba State School in 2000 will be determined by the primary allocative methodology.

Item 5—Advice from Human Resources indicates that the positions for staff in the new school will be firstly filled with staff members from existing schools.

Item 6—The new school will not be air-conditioned as it does not fall within the Cooler Schools zone.

43. TAB; Racing Industry

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

With reference to the Government's proposed corporatisation of the Queensland TAB—

- (1) What will be the basis for determining payments by TABQ to the racing industry?
- (2) What will be the timing of payments by TABQ to the racing industry?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

- (1) This will be determined during ongoing negotiations between the Queensland Racing Industry and the Government.
- (2) This will be determined during ongoing negotiations between the Queensland Racing Industry and the Government.

44. TAB; Racing Industry

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

With reference to corporatisation of the Queensland TAB—

- (1) What will be the rules which effect racing clubs and control bodies in relation to running race programs, supplying racing information to TABQ and coordinating timing of races with interstate races covered by TABQ?
- (2) Who will be responsible for determining which capital projects are pursued within racing?
- (3) Who will fund new capital developments and initiatives within racing?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

- (1) These matters will be resolved between the interested parties.
- (2) This will be determined during ongoing negotiations between the Queensland Racing Industry and the Government.
- (3) This will be determined during ongoing negotiations between the Queensland Racing Industry and the Government.

45. Tourism, Sport and Racing Department

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

With reference to the 1998-99 Ministerial Program Statements in which the office of the Director-General has allocated an expenditure under his office of \$18,000 for the Minister's office—

To date, what costs have been incurred against this amount and for what purposes has this funding been used?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1) The expenditure incurred by my Ministerial Office totals \$6,397.78.

(2) Expenses include—\$624.80 maintenance; \$5460.73 consumables; \$312.25 other administration expenses.

46. Racing Development Fund

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

With reference to the Racing Development Fund—

Will he outline the current financial status of the fund, what funds have been expended so far in 1998-99 and for what purpose?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): The Racing Development Fund (RDF) expenditure of \$24,662,576 is on target against the 1998-99 Budget Estimate. Purpose of approved 1998-99 RDF advances as at 15 March 1999 are:

Name of recipient—Comment

Queensland Principal Club (QPC)—
Developmental Race Clubs

Brisbane Turf Club—Consideration for sale of Deagon Racecourse to the Racing Development Corporation as part of a plan for having Deagon Racecourse, including the operations of Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre, retained to service the needs of the Queensland Racing Industry.

Queensland Principal Club—Super Queensland Racing Incentive Scheme (SuperQRIS) prize money.

Queensland Principal Club—Training Track Subsidy Scheme (received into RDF from Consolidated Fund)

Queensland Principal Club—QPC operating expenses

Queensland Principal Club—Thoroughbred code capital works and development projects

Queensland Harness Racing Board—Harness code capital works and development projects

Racing Division—To reimburse Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre for capital works at Deagon Racecourse

Queensland Harness Racing Board—QBred prize money (harness breeding incentive scheme)

Greyhound Racing Authority—GRA operating expenses and greyhound code projects

Queensland Principal Club—Rebate scheme for unplaced SuperQRIS horses

Greyhound Racing Authority—GRA operating expenses

Queensland Principal Club—Matilda Highway/Fossil Trail Series

Greyhound Racing Authority—Greyhound code capital works and development projects

Gold Coast Turf Club—Promotion of Magic Millions Summer Racing Carnival.

47. TAB; Race Club Funding

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

- (1) Will he explain how, under corporatisation of the Queensland TAB, race clubs in my electorate such Thangool, Eidsvold and Gayndah will receive their funding to continue operations and will he provide the formula to be used?
- (2) What will be the commercial arrangements between TABQ and the racing clubs, or between TABQ and the control bodies?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

- (1) This will be determined during ongoing negotiations between the Queensland Racing Industry and the Government.
- (2) This will be determined during ongoing negotiations between the Queensland Racing Industry and the Government.

48. Racehorses

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

What economic studies have been done to understand the impact of Queensland racehorse owners electing to have their horses trained and raced in New South Wales and Victoria rather than in Queensland and what initiatives does the Government propose to rectify the situation?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): Almost \$1 million was provided to fund strategic plans for the three codes of the Queensland Racing Industry. Queensland owners have always had an option to have horses trained and raced in New South Wales or Victoria. The Queensland Racing Incentive Scheme, now Super QRIS, was introduced to encourage Queensland owners to invest in breeding and racing in Queensland.

49. TAB; Corbould Park Complex

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

- (1) Will he provide details of what action he has taken in relation to calls by the Sunshine Coast Turf Club for assistance in negotiating with Caloundra City Council in an effort to eventually secure the freehold of the Corbould Park complex?
- (2) Is this process being delayed by the refusal of the Government to address the subject of TAB privatisation which the previous Coalition Government initiated with the full support of the racing industry?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

- (1) The Sunshine Coast Turf Club has a long term lease on the Corbould Park property. The SCTC has been advised that they should investigate any further options directly with the Council.
- (2) No.

50. TAB

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

With reference to the Government's plans to corporatise the Queensland TAB—

- (1) Will a corporatised TABQ have an exclusive wagering licence?
- (2) Will a corporatised TABQ have an exclusive sports betting licence?
- (3) What will happen to the present on-course totalisator operations?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) This will be determined during ongoing negotiations between the Queensland Racing Industry and the Government.

51. TAB; Racing Development Fund

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

- (1) Will race clubs, such as the Sunshine Coast Turf Club, still be able to access funds from a Racing Development Fund for safety and integrity purposes once the TAB is corporatised?
- (2) What avenues will be available to the Sunshine Coast Turf Club to access such funding if the RDF no longer exists?
- (3) What will happen to the existing RDF debt?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

- (1) On TABQ Corporatisation the Racing Development Fund would be wound up.
- (2) The SCTC would need to apply to the Queensland Principal Club.
- (3) It will continue to be held by the Queensland Treasury Corporation, as it is now.

52. TAB; Racing Legislation

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

With reference to the proposed corporatisation of the Queensland TAB—

- (1) What will be the future of the Wagering Act and the racing legislation amendment that was brought into the Parliament by the previous Coalition Government in March 1998?
- (2) Will a corporatised TABQ be subject to an income tax equivalent regime?
- (3) If TABQ is subject to an income tax equivalent regime (a) how close will this be to the corporate rates of tax, (b) how much tax is TABQ likely to be required to pay in its first year of operation and (c) how will this additional tax liability effect the amount of funding to the racing industry?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1) The Wagering Act 1998 and the Racing Legislation Amendment Act 1998 would commence on the date TABQ was corporatised.

(2) A corporatised TABQ would be subject to an income tax equivalent regime.

(3) (a) Exactly the same.

(b) This will depend on the financial performance of the entity.

(c) There is no additional tax liability but a different tax regime. Under a corporatised TABQ funding could be delivered to the racing industry on a pre-corporate tax basis.

53. TAB

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

With reference to the proposed corporatisation of the TAB—

(1) Who will own TABQ if it is corporatised?

(2) Will the interests of racing and racing clubs under the racing and betting legislation at present be recognised?

(3) What form will this recognition take?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1) Legal title would vest with the Shareholding Ministers appointed under the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993.

(2) On TABQ corporatisation, the Wagering Act 1998 and the Racing Legislation Amendment Act 1998 would be proclaimed.

(3) This will be determined during ongoing negotiations between the Queensland Racing Industry and the Government.

54. Horseracing; Prize Money

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

(1) Is he aware that interstate prize money differences impact on Queensland raced horses when it comes to entry into feature races when the order of entry is determined by the amount of prize money won?

(2) With the annual Winter Racing Carnival only a couple of months away, what guarantees will he give that Queensland raced horses will have an equal opportunity for entry into the rich feature races over the carnival?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1) Prizemoney is not the only determining factor in entry to feature races.

(2) Race clubs are responsible for entry conditions for feature races.

55. TAB

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

(1) Will a corporatised TABQ be required to pay dividends to the State?

(2) How will Government determine the level of dividends if any to be paid by a corporatised TABQ?

(3) How will this additional outgoing effect the amount of funding to the racing industry?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1) The Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 requires that a corporatised entity pay a dividend to the shareholding Ministers.

(2) A dividend level would be set after appropriate consultation with the Board of TABQ.

(3) There would be no "additional" outgoing effect as a result of dividends to Government.

56. Greyhound Racing Authority Board; QBIS

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

With reference to the 1997-98 Greyhound Racing Authority Annual Report in which it shows a credit surplus of \$61,821 for that period and a carry over figure of \$434,996 for the QBIS scheme and a further \$224,103 held in a general reserve fund on behalf of the Greyhound Industry—

Why was it necessary for the present Greyhound Racing Authority board to reduce the QBIS scheme from \$750,000 under the previous Coalition Government, to approximately \$300,000?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): I understand the decision to reduce funding to QBIS was made to take up Sky Channel coverage for the Beenleigh, Parklands, Toowoomba and Ipswich Greyhound Racing Clubs.

57. Horseracing; Prize Money

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

Will he provide details of (a) prize money comparisons between Queensland Saturday metropolitan gallops races and (i) New South Wales Saturday metropolitan gallops races and (ii) Victorian Saturday metropolitan gallops races, (b) prize money comparisons between Queensland mid-week metropolitan gallops races and (i) New South Wales mid-week metropolitan gallops races and (ii) Victorian mid-week metropolitan gallops races, (c) prize money comparisons between Queensland provincial gallops and (i) New South provincial gallops races and (ii) Victorian provincial gallops races and (d)) prize money comparisons between Queensland country gallops races and (i) New South country gallops races and (ii) Victorian country gallops races?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): Details requested by the Honourable the Member can be obtained from information provided in the following publications:

"Queensland Racing Calender" published by the Queensland Principal Club

"Inside Racing"—a Victorian Racing Industry official monthly publication

"NSW Racing"—the NSW Thoroughbred Racing Board official monthly publication.

58. North Queensland Greyhound Racing Clubs

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

- (1) Will he explain why the Greyhound Racing Authority wrote to North Queensland Greyhound Racing clubs seeking their input into a proposal to appoint a regional manager, given that the previous board withdrew the position because it was found to be financially unviable?
- (2) What does the salary package for this position consist of and how does the board intend funding the position?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1) During the normal course of business planning, I understand the Board made preliminary enquires in relation to reinstatement of the North Queensland Regional Executive Officer position.

(2) I am advised the Board has not created a regional manager position.

59. Greyhound Racing Authority Web Site; Zilgara Pty Ltd

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

With reference to the Greyhound Racing Authority's web site—

- (1) Why is it that when logging on to this site for field draw information that a message appears to connect to a private commercial company, Zilgara Pty Ltd, for the information when the draws are conducted by the authority and that the information is the property of the authority and the relevant club?
- (2) Why does a greyhound licensee have to register with the private commercial company and pay a fee to obtain race day fields and information on form when this information is stored on the Greyhound Racing Authority's own data base and could be provided on the GRA's web site at no cost to licensees?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1) I understand Queensland Greyhound Form Guide (Zilgara Pty Ltd) is currently in the process of winding up its service.

(2) I understand that while drawn from raw data supplied by the Greyhound Racing Authority, a fee was charged as the specific format of information furnished by Zilgara was devised by that firm.

60. Greyhound Racing Authority Board

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

As six months has now passed since the dismissal of the chief executive officer of the Greyhound Racing Authority by his appointed board, will he advise if all

separation payments due to the officer, in accordance with his legal contract of employment, have been finalised in accordance with the industrial laws and to the satisfaction of both parties? If not, why not?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): I am advised that in the terms of his contract of employment the Greyhound Racing Authority has met all legal separation entitlements.

61. Greyhound Racing Authority Board

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

Will he provide details of the expenses incurred by the current Greyhound Racing Authority Board from appointment to date in relation to (a) board fees—Chairman, (b) board fees—three members and (c) ancillary fees—i.e. attendance at any other meeting by board members for which fees are claimed?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): Details of Board members' fees are tabled below:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The total of special assignment fees paid to Board members covered the period of extra workloads during the process of recruitment of a Secretary/Manager.

62. Sky Channel Race Coverage

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

If the Office of Racing signed a contract with Sky Channel for a six figure amount on behalf of the Greyhound Racing Authority for delivery of pay television via the home racing channel for Beenleigh, Ipswich, Toowoomba and Parklands Greyhound Racing clubs, why is the contract not being honoured in that very little coverage is being delivered of these meetings to the viewing audience and what steps are being taken by the authority to have the situation rectified?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): Racing Division, Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing (formerly Office of Racing) has not signed a contract with Sky Channel.

63. Greyhound Racing Authority Board

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

With reference to media reports that the Greyhound Racing Authority Board has recently appointed a specialised steward called an "Investigative Steward"—

- (1) What specialised role will this person play within the Greyhound Racing Industry?
- (2) Why has it not been necessary for the Queensland Principal Club or the Harness Racing Board to make such an appointment?

- (3) What additional costs have been incurred by the board with this appointment?
- (4) Will he provide details of all incidents that have occurred in the last six months to prompt the decision to appoint this official?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

- (1) I understand the Board determined that a strategy should be implemented in the area of compliance.
- (2) Each statutory Control Body is responsible for developing and implementing systems for effectively the body's operations.
- (3) I am advised that estimated additional costs related to the trial total \$3,090.
- (4) I understand that the Board's decision to implement the position as a trial was taken after it had identified, and weighed, the nature of the Authority's operations.

64. Greyhound Racing Authority Board; QBIS

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

Will he explain why the QBIS incentive scheme for the Greyhound Racing Industry introduced by the previous Coalition Government, has been reduced from \$750,000 to approximately \$300,000 by the present GRA board when in a letter to Honourable Tom Barton MLA, Minister for Police and Corrective Services dated 16 February he clearly states that \$1.5m in funding has been allocated to the Greyhound Racing Authority for 1998-99, exactly the same amount allocated in the previous two years?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): The greyhound code's "financial package" funded from the Racing Development Fund for financial years 1996-97 and 1998-99 has been \$1.5 million.

I understand the decision to reduce funding to QBIS was made in order to take up the opportunity to take up Sky Channel coverage for Beenleigh, Parklands, Toowoomba and Ipswich Greyhound Racing Clubs.

65. Greyhound Racing Authority Board

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

Will he provide details of the expenses incurred by the current Greyhound Racing Authority Board from appointment to date in relation to (a) fuel for board members vehicles, (b) mobile phones provided to board members and (c) private telephone accounts or phone allowances paid on behalf of board members?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

- (a) Fuel reimbursement paid to Board members between 27 August 1998 and 16 March 1999 totalled \$463.49.
- (b) Board members have not been issued with mobile telephones.
- (c) Telephone call reimbursement paid to Board members between 27 August 1998 and 16 March 1999 totalled \$404.52.

66. Horseracing; Prize Money

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

- (1) Will he provide details of all development race clubs in Queensland that have been recently advised of a reduction in prize money and/or meetings?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that no funding reductions will occur in 1999-2000 to developmental clubs as a result of the purchase of the Deagon complex from the Racing Development Fund?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

- (1) Total funding paid to the Queensland Principal Club for the 1998-99 Developmental Club Scheme was \$5.5 million. The same as that paid for the Scheme in the previous financial year. The QPC is responsible for determining prizemoney levels and funding allocations for developmental clubs.
- (2) The purchase of Deagon Racecourse was a one-off capital investment funded by the Racing Development Fund. It does not have a consequential impact on the annual recurrent funding program for the developmental club group.

67. Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

- (1) How many international students are enrolled for 1999-2000 at the Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre and how does this figure compare with forecast estimates?
- (2) How much does each international student pay to attend the centre?
- (3) Will he provide a break-down of what services are provided to international students from the fees paid?
- (4) If international student fees are not expected to match the forecast estimates, where will the additional funding come from to fund the operations of the centre?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

- (1) The exact number is commercial-in-confidence.
- (2) I am advised that each international student pays \$24,818 to attend the 50 week Basic Horse Management Course.
- (3) I am advised that the fee structure for the Basic Horse Management Course is as follows:

Item—Amount

Non-refundable enrolment fee—\$500
 Tuition—\$21,250
 Resources and administration—\$2,807
 Student health cover—\$261
 Total—\$24,818

- (4) If the international fees were expected to be insufficient to cover costs then a decision would have to be made by the Queensland racing industry on how to fund its commitments to improving education and vocational skills in the industry. The

issue of the future delivery of Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre services is to be addressed in conjunction with the Control Bodies.

68. Greyhound Racing Clubs

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

Is he aware of comments allegedly attributed to at least one member of the current Greyhound Racing Authority Board that at least five Greyhound Racing Clubs are in financial difficulties and will close in the not too foreseeable future; if so, will he advise which clubs are expected to close?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): I am unaware of these comments.

69. Greyhound Racing Clubs

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

Will he provide an explanation as to why prize money paid at Brisbane, Parklands, Ipswich and Toowoomba Greyhound Racing Clubs has been reduced since the change of Government when TAB turnover has increased from \$1.7m per week to approximately \$3m per week, an increase of 60 percent?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): Under current arrangements, the TABQ's net profit for each financial year is paid in arrears to race clubs as TABQ distribution while an incentive component is paid monthly in arrears. This means that the main benefits resulting from any increase in TABQ turnover are not received by race clubs until the following year.

70. Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of a trip undertaken by several Queensland racing industry representatives to Japan in November 1998 in an attempt to raise awareness of the Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre?
- (2) Who were those representatives and what area of the industry did they represent?
- (3) What was the cost of the trip for each individual and who paid for those costs?
- (4) How many prospective students were targeted?
- (5) As a result of the trip, how many students have officially enrolled for this year's courses?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1) Yes

(2) The industry group which made the trip to Japan in November 1998 comprised the following representatives:

Representative —Details

Mr Bob Mason—Director, Racing Division, Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing

Mr Kevin Hasemann—Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Principal Club

Mr Greg Lund—Marketing agent, Japan Access Corporation

Mr Lyle Plumb—Queensland Principal Club licensed trainer

Mr Takuya Muto—Queensland Racing Industry graduate and Queensland Principal Club licensed apprentice

Ms Fukue Furuse—International Liaison Officer, Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre, Racing Division, Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing

(3) The costs of the trip to Japan were funded from the Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre budget. A breakdown of these costs is tabled below:

Item—Amount

Airfares 6 persons—\$22,633

Venue hire; catering; transportation costs; postage; stationery; part-time telephone operator etc—\$12,091

Accommodation expenses—\$8,689

Travel expenses—\$1,229

Total—\$44,642

(4) This information is commercial-in-confidence whilst recruiting activity is still in train for the 1999 intake.

(5) This information is commercial-in-confidence whilst recruiting activity is still in train for the 1999 intake.

71. TAB; Mackay Turf Club

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

Under TAB Corporatisation, what guarantee can he give to Mackay Turf Club that consideration will be given to allow the club to return to race on 42 days per year in order that the club remains viable and able to compete on a level playing field with other clubs such as Townsville and Cairns?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): Race date allocation is the responsibility of the Queensland Principal Club.

72. Greyhound Racing Authority

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

(1) Will he advise who owns the information stored on the Greyhound Racing Authority data base in relation to an individual greyhound and its racing form?

(2) If the Greyhound Racing Authority owns this information, why is it made available to a private commercial company to be on sold to the 13 greyhound racing clubs in order to produce form sheets for the race patron and what does the company pay the Greyhound Racing Authority for this information?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1) I am advised the Greyhound Racing Authority owns the information stored on its data base.

(2) I am advised that with the Greyhound Racing Authority's approval, the racing information stored on data base may be provided free-of-charge to industry service providers. These organisations convert this raw information to user-friendly formats which are then on-sold as value added product.

73. 4TAB Radio Race Coverage

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

With reference to a Courier Mail report of 8 February which states that punters in the central Queensland towns of Yeppoon and Moranbah will again be able to listen to 4TAB radio racing coverage from a low-power licence operating from Rockhampton after a Yeppoon licence was lost at tender in 1998—

Will he give details of any other areas of Queensland that may be under consideration for a similar service following the decision by ABC regional radio to cease racing coverage in 1998 which denied around 12 percent of the State a regular racing radio service?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): The next round of radio frequency releases by the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) is expected in May this year. To date, the ABA has not divulged which licences will be made available in this round of releases.

74. Greyhound Racing Industry

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3/3/99)—

Will he advise what arrangements have been put in place with the racing industry as from 1 April (Corporatisation) for modification of the current incentive payment scheme for a percentage return on off/on course turnover to the Greyhound Racing Industry?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): The Greyhound Racing Authority has been advised that the current TABQ Distribution Scheme and Incentive Scheme applies for 1998-99.

75. Motor Vehicles

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/3/99)—

With reference to a justifiably high level of concern by members of the community that proposals exist to ban older vehicles (although roadworthy)—

Will he confirm that no such proposals will be accepted in Queensland?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/4/99): Queensland Transport has no plans to implement any proposals to ban older vehicles in Queensland. Queensland Transport's policy is to allow continued access to the road for any vehicle, regardless of age, if the vehicle remains roadworthy.

Queensland Transport initiated a trial of vehicle emissions testing last year whereby motorists are randomly stopped and their vehicle's exhaust emissions are tested. The vehicles are given a rating

of either, Good, Fair or Poor depending on their level of emissions.

Older vehicles that run on leaded petrol are permitted higher levels of emissions than more recent vehicles, taking into account the technological improvements in vehicles over the years, and requiring less emissions. Therefore, as long as older vehicles are properly maintained, owners of such vehicles need not be concerned about emissions testing. Queensland Transport is concerned about targeting unroadworthy and grossly polluting vehicles on our roads regardless of their age.

The Federal Government has given a commitment to the phasing out of leaded fuel before 2010. Experience from overseas has demonstrated that leaded fuel vehicles are able to operate on premium unleaded fuel with the addition of small amounts of lead-free, valve lubricants which are readily available. Queensland Transport will continue to monitor the international experience, in particular the additives that best perform in the unleaded fuel.

76. Logan Electorate, School Capital Works Projects

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Education (3/3/99)—

- (1) How much has been spent on Capital Works on schools in the Logan electorate since the Beattie Government Budget was introduced?
- (2) What is the amount approved for each school in the Logan electorate?
- (3) Is he aware of the need for new facilities at Browns Plains State School and Marsden State School and what action is under way to improve these schools?

Mr WELLS (26/3/99): I am aware of the Member's keen interest in trying to attract new facilities to schools in his electorate and his active representations have been favourably received by the Government.

1. The 1998-1999 Education Queensland Capital Works program has allocated \$2.677 million for works at nine (9) state schools in the Logan electorate.

2. The attached table provides details of the schools, projects and costs for the 1998-99 financial year: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

3. In relation to the need for new facilities at Browns Plains State School, officers from Facilities and Services Branch of Education Queensland are aware of the increase in school enrolment for 1999.

Planning is presently under way for an additional modular building to be provided to the school as soon as possible.

So as not to disadvantage students at the school during the construction phase of the additional building, temporary classroom accommodation will be available in the near future.

In relation to the need for new facilities at Marsden State School, there is currently sufficient

accommodation at the school to cater for current enrolments.

However, a need for upgrading of relocatable classrooms presently used for the Special Education Program has been identified in a statewide survey of facility needs for new and continuing special education programs. This need will be considered in a statewide assessment process which will determine priority projects for possible inclusion in the draft Capital Works Program for 1999-2000.

77. Prawn Aquaculture Farming

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (3/3/99)—

Which legislation governs (a) the treatment required of pond water in prawn aquaculture farming before it is permitted to be discharged into the environment, (b) the measures taken to ensure prawn viruses are prevented from going from pond to pond, (c) the measures taken to ensure infected prawns do not enter the market place, (d) the measures taken to ensure that aquaculture feed is safe for the Australian environment as most aquaculture feed is imported, (e) the compulsory obligation for an aquaculture farmer to advise the authorities when disease is discovered in his stock, if any and (f) which department polices prawn farms and what is the extent of their authority?

Mr WELFORD (31/3/99):

(a) Licences for prawn farming issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 have conditions which define a minimum quality to be achieved for pond water prior to its discharge to the environment. The quality conditions are set to protect the environment at the location of the discharge. Licences do not normally specify a particular method of treatment to achieve the required quality standards.

(b)-(f) These matters fall within the portfolio responsibilities of my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Primary Industries, and should be addressed to him.

78. Patient Assistance Transit Forms

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health (3/3/99)—

With reference to the need for a patient (cancer, organ transplant) being required to return constantly to a GP for the signing of the relevant paperwork so they can attend their specialist thus incurring the Government Medibank payment to the GP over and over again and adding to the cost burden for those inconvenienced by ill health—

Is he aware of the change in the Patient Assistance Transit Forms which encourages monetary wastage by the Government?

Mrs EDMOND (6/4/99): If patients need a series of trips for treatment for the same condition, requests for a travel subsidy can be considered for up to four weeks in advance. If the specialist health provider wishes the patient to return for subsequent

appointments that have not been approved, the specialist service provider is required to consult with the patient's medical practitioner and ask that the medical practitioner make another request for travel subsidies. Patients are not required to revisit their medical practitioner.

79. RSPCA Campaign against Battery Hens

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (4/3/99)—

With reference to the RSPCA which has commenced a public campaign against the egg laying industry and has labelled the battery hen industry as cruel, uncaring and economically driven—

- (1) Does he support this campaign; if not, will he come out and support the industry?
- (2) What scientific evidence has the RSPCA used to support their argument and is it biased?
- (3) What statistical survey did the RSPCA use to support "65 percent of Australians want to ban the battery cage"?
- (4) Is the RSPCA using any of the substantial public funding in its campaign; if not, where is the funding coming from?

Mr PALASZCZUK (1/4/99):

1. As Minister for Primary Industries, I recognise the importance of the egg industry in providing a high quality staple food item. I also recognise the importance of ensuring that Queensland's primary industries promote and maintain high animal welfare standards in their production systems.

2-4. The RSPCA is not a Statutory Authority, and does not report to me therefore these questions should be directed to that organisation.

80. Mr K. Wright

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Premier (4/3/99)—

- (1) Will he detail the ups and downs of former Labor leader, Keith Wright, while in prison on child molestation and rape convictions?
- (2) What special privileges did he receive?
- (3) Why was he released before his sentence was fully served?
- (4) How can he now be considered for a Real Estate Licence when one must be a fit and proper person for service with an industry which already has at times had a chequered history?

Mr BEATTIE (31/3/99):

(1) Keith Webb Wright was sentenced to a total term of imprisonment of nine years for the offences of Indecent Dealing with a Girl under the Age of 14 Years; Indecent Dealing with a Girl under the Age of 16 Years; and Rape. His term of imprisonment commenced on 28 October 1993. He has currently completed five years and four months of that term.

Wright applied to the Queensland Community Corrections Board for the first stage of community-based release (Leave of Absence—Release to Work) on 21 November 1996. The Queensland Community

Corrections Board is a totally independent statutory authority comprising representative members of the community. It was not until 20 July 1998—20 months later—after Wright completed the Sex Offenders Treatment Program, the Queensland Community Corrections Board approved his release to undertake Leave of Absence (Release to Work) for a period of six months at a community corrections centre. The conditions of his leave were that he not associate or be alone with any girl under the age of 16 years and that he attend the Sex Offenders Relapse Prevention program in the community.

On 5 February 1999, the Queensland Community Corrections Board considered Wright's case for progression to Home Detention. Upon receipt of an offer of accommodation from his brother, Wright's release to Home Detention was approved to commence from 22 February 1999. Consideration for release to Parole will be considered in June 1999.

(2) Wright did not receive any special privileges. As with other prisoners, Wright was required to participate in programs to address his offending behaviour. Wright was eligible for release on a community supervision option in line with the opportunities offered to all prisoners.

(3) Wright was not released before his sentence was fully served. His term of imprisonment is current and is not due to expire until 27 October 2002. In accordance with Section 163 of the Corrective Services Act 1988 and based on the sentencing Judge's recommendation that Wright be considered for parole on 28 April 1998, Wright was eligible to be considered for the first stage of community-based supervision (Leave of Absence—Release to Work) on 28 December 1996. Wright was held for a further 19 months before this was granted. His eligibility date for release to Home Detention was 28 December 1997. Home detention was not granted until 14 months later.

(4) Should Wright apply for a Certificate of Registration as a real estate salesperson, his application will be considered by the Auctioneers and Agents Committee within the requirements of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971. While Wright is subject to a community supervision order, he is required to make application to his Community Correctional Officer for approval to undertake employment. Consequently, any application for employment as a real estate agent would be monitored.

81. Bundamba, Mine Shafts

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (4/3/99)—

With reference to subsidence of old mine shafts in the Bundamba area—

- (1) What action has the Department of Mines taken to address the situation of subsidence of land in Tibbits Street, Bundamba?
- (2) Has the Department of Mines investigated the subsidence of land in the Bundamba area?

(3) If subsidence of old mine shafts cannot be stabilised, have any investigations been made with a view to compensation for the families living in this area?

(4) How many homes are being affected by land subsidence in the Bundamba area?

Mr McGRADY (7/4/99):

(1) The Department of Mines has investigated every reported incidence of subsidence in the Tibbits Street area. Actions taken include : employed independent Geotechnical Engineers to investigate and review available information; held a public meeting to provide up to date advice to local residents; purchased three homes in Tibbits Street; commissioned an independent inquiry by Professor Wallace of QUT and Dr Lax Holla, Department of Mineral Resources, NSW in April 1992; developed a policy on subsidence in accordance with Dr Holla's recommendations; and the matter of subsidence in the Tibbits Street area was investigated by Mr Albeitz, Parliamentary Ombudsman, in 1993.

(2) Action taken to address land subsidence in Tibbits Street, Bundamba includes inspection by mines inspectorate of every reported mines subsidence event; drilling of 22 exploratory boreholes to locate unrecorded mine workings (December 1989); inspection and mapping of some shallow mine workings exposed in an excavation on a Tibbits Street property; and further limited drilling of the area in March 1990

(3) The old mine workings under Tibbits Street are very old and no records exist as to when they were mined. The area is generally very stable however a limited number of surface subsidence events have occurred. Most claims for property damage in the Tibbits Street area have been as a result of the reactive clays that the homes have been built on. A copy of the Department of Mines & Energy policy includes issues of compensation and is provided for your information. The policy places the onus on the Department to prove that the property damage is not caused by subsidence.

(4) One surface subsidence event is known to have adversely affected a residence and indirectly affected the neighbouring properties on either side. The Department of Mines purchased the three properties and conducted stabilisation work and minor repairs to the house. The stabilisation program was completely successful and no further remedial maintenance work has been required at any of the three properties.

However, while evidence restricts the mining induced damage to only three houses, the Government is concerned about damage to people's homes, particularly the elderly, in areas of previous mining activity. Therefore, on Friday 19th March 1999, a DME officer visited the residence of Mr Shearer to re-examine the damage to his property. Mr Shearer's case had been brought to my attention through representations by the Hon. Bob Gibbs MLA. Despite there being no new evidence suggesting any mining induced damage to his property, I am currently considering ways of providing assistance to aged pensioners, such as Mr Shearer, in old mining areas.

82. Herberton, Wild River Bridge

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/3/99)—

With reference to the long delays on the bridge over the Wild River at Herberton—

What is the proposed completion date and what plans has he to expedite the completion of the bridge?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/4/99): Due to the lack of any practical options for a sidetrack, it has been necessary to build the new Wild River Bridge in two halves under traffic.

The Atherton-bound lanes originally were programmed for completion in early March 1999. Protracted contract negotiations, bridge foundation difficulties and wet weather, have resulted in the current expected completion date for this first stage being delayed.

The Herberton-bound lanes are due for commencement in early April and will be completed by June 1999.

83. Laura Police Station, Tracker

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (4/3/99)—

With reference to a letter from the Laura Progress Association to him and the Police Commissioner with the full support of the indigenous community stating the loss of the paid position of Tracker (catered for under the AWU award) is both culturally inappropriate and morally indefensible which is due to the support needed at vital times by this type of position and as the one man station, single officer patrol, such as at Laura, urgently needs assistance from this type of vital position—

- (1) Will he explain to this House and the citizens of Laura, Lakeland and Drumduff the reasons behind the refusal to reinstate the position of Tracker (a position of stature in these communities) at the Laura Police Station as the Tracker is vital in this harsh Queensland Police Division of some 63,000 sq. km, where searches for lost tourists, and visitors can be a regular occurrence?
- (2) What is he intending to do to reinstate this paid position at the Laura Police Station?

Mr BARTON (6/4/99):

- (1) The position of Police Tracker became vacant in Laura due to the resignation of the occupant on the 9 November 1998.

Senior Police from the Cairns District are in the final stages of a consultation process with members of the local community in regard to a new position description for the replacement of the Police Tracker at Laura.

That new position description has the title of Police Tracker/Police Liaison Officer. The successful applicant should possess both tracking skills and a knowledge and understanding of cultural issues specific to the Laura area. The Police Liaison Officer role includes working with the local indigenous

community to find solutions to problems before they escalate to the point where Police enforcement action is required.

The Laura Police Division covers an area of 33,740 square kilometres and there has only been two (2) searches conducted in the Division in the last 12 months.

The Laura Police Division has a population of approximately 400 persons. The township of Laura itself has approximately 80 persons, i.e. 20 persons of European origin and the remainder are of Aboriginal descent. In terms of reported crime the following statistics are relevant: Offences Against the person, in the Laura Police Division for the years, 1995/1996 = 7, 1996/1997 = 8; 1997/1998 = 10. For Offences Against Property in the years, 1995/1996 = 5; 1996/1997 = 5; 1997/1998 = 10.

(2) The position of Police Tracker/Police Liaison Officer is in the final stages of a consultation process with members of the Laura Community. The position is expected to be advertised and filled within the next two months.

84. Emergency Services

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services (4/3/99)—

With reference to Cyclone Rona during which a number of deficiencies were identified which are required to be upgraded to ensure the safety of life and bearing in mind there are another two months of likely cyclonic weather—

- (1) What changes are to be made with protocols involving other departments?
- (2) What additional equipment and facilities will be provided including (a) an itemised list of the equipment, (b) the value of equipment, (c) a time when it will be delivered and (d) the location of extra equipment and facilities?
- (3) Will there be any changes to the structure of the emergency services as a result of Cyclone Rona; if so, what will they be?
- (4) What improvements will occur to recording systems and the transfer of information to relevant coordinating centres in the event of a natural disaster?

Mrs ROSE (6/4/99):

- (1) Cyclone Rona, like any other natural disaster, created its own unique demands on the State's Disaster Management System. However, none of the matters arising from the de-briefings would warrant consideration of any changes to my department's relationship with other Government agencies. Indeed, the Emergency Services Division of my Department, through its Disaster Operations Unit has developed a very close and effective working relationship with other Government departments and agencies having a functional lead agency role in the State's Disaster Management System. These departments and agencies are drawn together as the State Disaster Coordination Group. During Cyclone Rona this Group met on a number of occasions and provided an effective method of communicating with relevant departments and agencies and coordinating

effective disaster responses across government. I would like to place on record my appreciation of the support and dedication of the Liaison Officers who represent their organisations on the State Disaster Coordination Group.

(2) As with any post disaster analysis, some requests for additional equipment and facilities have been received since Cyclone Rona and further local assessment will undoubtedly reveal other needs. When all appropriate details are available, demands will be assessed in the light of relevant priorities and available funding. However, the Government has already made progress in its commitment to the provision of a flood boat replacement program with contracts to be let shortly which will see \$1.5M worth of replacement flood boats purchased over the next three years.

(3) I can certainly see no reason to change the structure of the emergency services as a result of Cyclone Rona. Indeed, I publicly commend the effort and diligence of the men and women, whether permanent or volunteer, who performed so admirably in the many aspects of the disaster response on this occasion. The coordinated efforts of Disaster Operations, Disaster District Coordinators, Local Government, Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Police Service, State Emergency Service and the many community-based volunteer groups ensured a very effective counter disaster response for our State.

(4) I am unclear as to what the Member for Hinchinbrook is referring to here. I am aware that some concerns have been raised in relation to what was perceived as a failure of the warning system to give adequate notice of the likely impact area and timing of Cyclone Rona. However, it would appear that a combination of the rapid movement of the cyclone which moved at speeds of up to 20KM/HR (twice the "normal" expected speed) and a failure of some residents to heed the warnings led to some complacency. These matters have been brought to the attention of the State Disaster Coordination Group and the Bureau of Meteorology.

85. Education Minister

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Education (4/3/99)—

With reference to the disharmony in the Drillham School community in late 1998 and to his request to me to talk to people in the Drillham community about alleged harassment of the school principal and to my report back to him that goodwill existed and consultation between the P & C and the department could resolve the matter and bearing in mind I spoke to him in late November 1998—

- (1) How can he explain his public outburst against the Drillham community in The Courier Mail in December 1998 after I had reported back to him?
- (2) Did he, or his personal staff, brief The Courier Mail journalist Tony Koch on the issue so he could publish his equally abusive article on the Drillham School community?

Mr WELLS (26/3/99):

1. The Minister for Education is duty bound to support teachers against what he perceives to be unfair criticism.
2. No. A member of the Minister's staff was approached by Mr Koch and simply responded to questions in the normal way.

86. Gold Coast, Silver Bridle Community Centre

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (4/3/99)—

When will funds become available to allow the employment of a youth worker at the Silver Bridle Community Centre on the Gold Coast, bearing in mind that the Gold Coast City Council has spent substantial ratepayers' funds in the building of a youth recreational facility and that a youth worker is urgently needed to staff this facility?

Ms BLIGH (30/3/99): Funding to community organisations by my Department is through advertised funding rounds, which provide a fair, transparent and equitable means of addressing needs identified by communities.

There will, in the near future, be a funding round for outside school hours care. Departmental officers have assisted the President of the Management Committee to prepare a submission which, if successful, would fund a program at the Community Centre to provide safe and supervised activities that cater for young people aged 13—15 years after school and during school holidays.

The outside school hours funding (for 13-15 year olds) is one of a range of initiatives being implemented by this Government to address the needs of young people. These initiatives will also address issues of concern to the community such as youth crime prevention and child protection. Announcement of funding rounds in association with these initiatives will provide an opportunity for community organisations, such as the Silver Bridle Action Group, to seek funding.

I have no doubt that the needs of the Molendinar/Silver Bridle community are significant. Senior members of my Department and Gold Coast Departmental officers have met regularly with the Silver Bridle Action Group to address issues confronting the Molendinar community and to provide the organisation with information and support.

Departmental officers have also participated in several community meetings held at the Community Centre and at the Gold Coast City Council, working with members of other government organisations and community representatives to develop short-term strategies to help the community in dealing with ongoing issues.

The Silver Bridle Community Centre is one of a number of community/neighbourhood Centres across the State which are not funded recurrently. In order to redress this situation, I have identified the issue of unfunded community/neighbourhood

centres as a current priority for funding. The Silver Bridle Community Centre is one of the centres that would be considered for any such funding should it become available.

87. Victims of Crime Support Groups

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (4/3/99)—

With reference to the State Government's decision to seek expressions of interest from victims of crime support groups to access additional funding—

Will he provide a break-down of all those groups who have put forward applications, the details and location for each group, the extent of funding requested, the purpose of the funding request and details of the progress his department has made in relation to each application?

Mr FOLEY (6/4/99):

(1) to (4) Details that you have requested of the applications for funding are given in the attachment to this response. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(5) A panel consisting of representatives from various government departments with experience in funding grants has analysed each application on the basis of:

- (a) whether it focuses on victims of crime
- (b) whether the applicants have a proven track record in relation to financial administration of grants
- (c) whether other sources of funding, such as grants from the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, are available.

The panel will make its recommendations by 31 March 1999.

88. Public Housing

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (4/3/99)—

With reference to public housing, for the period from 1 November 1998 to 28 February 1999—

- (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 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 of (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 (a) 1 December 1997 and 30 November 1998, (b) 1 January 1998 and 31

December 1998, (c) 1 February 1998 and 30 January 1999 and (d) 1 March 1998 and 28 February 1999 in total and by area office?

- (5) How many applicants were allocated public housing during this period?
- (6) How many evictions of public housing tenants have occurred during this period?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/4/99):

(1) As at 28 February 1999, there were a total of 24,011 applicants on the public housing waitlist. See Attachment A for the breakdown of the waiting list by area office for the period 1 November to 30 November 1998, Attachment B for the period 1 January 1999 to 31 January 1999 and Attachment C for the period 1 February to 28 February 1999. I am not able to provide figures for December 1998 as major computer system changes were implemented during this period. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) See Attachment D for the composition of the public housing waitlist by family type from 1 November to 30 November 1998. Attachment E provides the composition of the public housing waitlist by family type from 1 January to 31 January 1999. Attachment F provides the composition of the public housing waitlist by family type from 1 February to 28 February 1999. I am not able to provide figures for December 1998 as major computer system changes were implemented during this period. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) See Attachment G for the number of applicants on the public housing waitlist by wait time in months, and by area office as at 30 November 1998. Statistics for December 1998, January 1999 and February 1999 are not currently available due to the implementation of a new computer system. They should become available over the next few months. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(4) See Attachment H for the number of applicants allocated housing between 1 December 1997 and 30 November 1998, Attachment I for the number of applicants allocated housing between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 1998, Attachment J for the number of applicants allocated housing between 1 February 1998 and 31 January 1999, and Attachment K for the number of applicants allocated housing between 1 March 1998 and 28 February 1999. All attachments show total allocations and a breakdown by area office. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(5) There has been 2,542 applicants allocated public housing between 1 November 1998 and 28 February 1999. See Attachment L for a breakdown of the number of applicants allocated public housing by area office during this period. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(6) The number of public housing tenants evicted from 1 November 1998 to 28 February 1999 are as follows:

November 1998—3
 December 1998—2
 January 1999—2
 February 1999—3.

89. Water Infrastructure, Regional Communities

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (4/3/99)—

With reference to a Press Release under his name on 16 February in which he claims that the Beattie Government has increased the funding for water infrastructure development in regional communities by more than 10 percent to \$92.4m—

- (1) Will he detail this proposed expenditure?
- (2) How much is capital expenditure for new projects, what are these projects that have been budgeted for and how much is to be spent on each of them?
- (3) How much funding is for assessment and planning, what projects have been budgeted for and how much is to be spent on each of them?
- (4) How much is recurrent funding for existing projects, what projects have been budgeted for and how much is to be spent on each of them?

Mr WELFORD (6/4/99):

(1) The Coalition Government's Budget Paper 3 detailed capital outlays for 1998/99 as \$81M (less plant and equipment) for the assessment, planning and development of water infrastructure. In the current Budget Paper 3, my Government has detailed a 1998/1999 capital outlay of \$92.4M for the assessment, planning and construction of water infrastructure, including plant and equipment (\$2.9M).

These funds are the total amounts allocated between two program areas of my Department of Natural Resources—the Regional Infrastructure Development program and the Commercial Water Services program.

Of the total amount of \$92.4M, my Government provided \$28.6M to the Regional Infrastructure Development program. This included:

\$12.8M for land purchases mainly, for future storage developments.

\$14.6M for catchment studies, planning, policy and assessment of proposals.

\$63.8M was provided to the Commercial Water Services program for the construction and refurbishment of water infrastructure.

(2) In response to this part and to part 4 of the question, I can advise that a total of \$56.3M has been provided during 1998/1999 for the construction and refurbishment of existing water infrastructure projects. These projects and amounts allocated to them are as listed on page 127 of Budget Paper 3.

Asset management framework—\$3.5M

Asset renewals—\$10.0M

Burdekin River Irrigation Area—\$5.0M

Fishways and outlet works enhancements—\$1.0M

Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area increased water supplies—\$4.515M

Minor works—\$8.89M

Plant and equipment—\$2.41M

St George Irrigation Area Channel Upgrades—\$3.520M

St George Irrigation Area Offstream Storage—\$13.0M

Walla Weir—\$4.5M

\$7.5M has also been provided for development of new water infrastructure projects approved by Cabinet during the year.

(3) \$14.6M was allocated for water resource planning and assessment studies this year.

These studies are necessary to ensure that any water resource development proposals satisfy critical planning and impact assessment requirements, that is, that they are economically viable and ecologically sustainable.

I can provide the member with a detailed schedule of the studies currently being conducted by my Department including the funding now allocated to each of them. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Additional capital funding has also been provided to progress the development of Water Management Plans and Water Allocation and Management Plans, to improve water resource monitoring and to support various research projects relating to infrastructure development.

(4) Answered in part 2.

90. Rural Development and Drought Services Division

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (4/3/99)—

With reference to his department's Rural Development and Drought Services division and specifically to the Drought Program—

- (1) Will he provide a breakdown of the Drought Program's staffing, including total staff numbers, roles, responsibilities and remuneration levels?
- (2) What is the full range of assistance measures and programs offered by his department through the Drought Program?
- (3) What are the expenditure levels and numbers of producers assisted for each of these measures and programs for each financial year since 1991-92?
- (4) What are the upper and lower claim values and the average claim value?
- (5) What are the administrative and processing costs for each of these measures and

programs, in total and on a per claim basis for each financial year since 1991-92?

- (6) Will he provide a full breakdown of how these administrative and processing costs were arrived at?
- (7) What are the specific terms of reference for the current drought policy review being undertaken by his department?
- (8) When will the current drought review be finalised?
- (9) What parameters has he or his department set for a new drought policy?

Mr PALASZCZUK (1/4/99):

1. The Department's Drought and Natural Disaster unit has been completely restructured in recent months due to improved seasonal conditions across the State and significantly decreased claims for assistance. It has now been amalgamated with the Drought and Exceptional Circumstances Policy Unit into the Risk Management and Drought Unit. The number of positions has been reduced with staff being redeployed or having found other positions.

At the height of the drought in 1995, a large unit was required to manage the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme and to process claims. This unit included a Manager (AO7, \$56194—\$60253), Senior Administration Officer (AO4, \$37769—\$41529), Project Officer (TO4, \$42901—\$45664), Administration Officer (AO3, \$31941—\$35622) and six Administrative Officers (AO2, \$23663—\$29862). This high cost of delivering assistance is one of the issues which will be considered in the current Drought Policy Review.

With the small number of claims now being submitted there are only two officers who work for a proportion of their time on duties related to processing claims—an Administration Officer (AO3, 0.5 time) and an Administration Officer (AO2, 0.3 time).

The Risk Management and Drought unit, within which the Drought program now sits, looks after policy relevant to a broad suite of Government programs including Exceptional Circumstances (EC), Natural Disaster Relief and Risk Management Extension. Drought Policy work represents only a small proportion of the work covered by this unit.

The Risk Management and Drought unit includes a Manager (AO8, \$62259—65847); Principle Policy Officer, Exceptional Circumstances (AO7); Senior Policy Officer, Risk Management (AO6) and Policy Officer, Risk Management (AO5). One policy officer (AO7, \$56194—\$60253) within the Risk Management and Drought unit is currently managing the Queensland Drought Policy review project, with other officers assisting with research, if required.

Duties for staff of the Risk Management and Drought unit include:

The Manager (Risk Management and Drought):

oversees the development and implementation of policy related to Exceptional Circumstances, Natural Disaster Assistance, Drought and Risk Management and negotiating with the Commonwealth and other States on Exceptional Circumstances

works with other areas of the Department to ensure that risk management tools and training are an integral part of the Department's assistance to primary producers

oversees the Department's Risk Management Extension program which promotes risk awareness and self reliance for primary producers in a full range of industries

manages the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme and is accountable for claim processing procedures

liaises with primary producer bodies in providing Queensland Government response to Drought and Exception Circumstances.

The Principal Policy Officer (Exceptional Circumstances) is required to:

assist with development of exceptional circumstances policy with the Commonwealth and other States

coordinate development of EC submissions (including drought EC submissions) in cooperation with affected industries and regions

advise industry on EC criteria and collation of evidence in support of submissions

provide research and analysis relevant to a portfolio of policy areas including natural disaster, exceptional circumstances and drought

develop, implement and monitor Government policy related to risk management and, in particular, Government response to drought and rural adjustment issues

identify the needs of Government and key stakeholders in the areas of risk management preparedness, drought response, drought recovery and rural adjustment

use regional networks and contacts to provide policy advice and feedback on the effectiveness of current policy relative to the needs of primary producers across the State

provide policy advice on major issues, associated with rural adjustment programs at a Federal, State and regional level, which will improve the economic and social sustainability of rural communities throughout Queensland.

The Senior Policy Officer (Risk Management) is required to:

provide strategic direction for the Department's Risk Management and Drought Extension program

work with other areas of the Department to support the development of innovative risk management tools and training opportunities for Queensland's primary producers, tailored to specific regional conditions

develop, implement and monitor Government policy related to risk management and identify the needs of Government and key stakeholders in the areas of risk management preparedness, drought response, drought recovery and rural adjustment

use regional networks and contacts to provide policy advice and feedback on the effectiveness of the current Drought Policy relative to the needs of primary producers across the State

provide policy advice on major issues, associated with rural adjustment programs at a Federal, State and regional level, which will improve the economic and social sustainability of rural communities throughout Queensland.

The Policy Officer (Risk Management) is required to:

monitor, evaluate, interpret and report on developing seasonal trends that may adversely affect agricultural production in Queensland, and ensure that this information is communicated effectively to internal and external clients through liaising with departmental staff

research climate and economic data, as required to support Exceptional Circumstances applications for various Queensland industries or regions

provide press releases, undertake interviews and provide information direct to the media during drought and natural disaster events

provide research support for the development and review of Queensland Government policy related to drought, exceptional circumstances, natural disaster relief and risk management

provide policy support relevant to implementation of existing policy in these areas.

The Administration Officer (AO3) is required to:

provide administration support for the development of EC submissions and other policy research and analysis

contribute to routine policy activities of the Risk Management and Drought unit

verify payment and correct processing of freight subsidy claims and ensure effective operation of the Drought Relief Assistance database

report on the budget and operations of the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme

coordinate budget activities (planning and reporting) for the Risk Management and Drought unit.

The Administration Officer (AO2) is required to:

provide administrative support to the Risk Management and Drought unit and to the Rural Development and Drought Services unit

coordinate all correspondence

provide assistance with publication of reports and papers

establish and maintain an effective file management system for the Risk Management and Drought unit in accordance with audit requirements for the Drought Relief Assistance scheme

process and check claims made under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme and input

data, as required, to ensure the integrity of the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme database

implement approved changes to the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme in accordance with documented work instructions.

2. The DPI administers the State Drought Declaration process and Freight Subsidy Assistance Scheme which only provides assistance to producers within grazing animal industries. Assistance is provided by way of freight rebates for the cost of transporting fodder and water to starving livestock. Freight rebates are also available after the drought for the transport of stock returning from agistment and the transport of animals purchased for restocking.

The Risk Management and Drought Unit provides the main Queensland Government assistance to producers wanting to access State and Commonwealth assistance for drought.

3. Since 1991, the State Government has expended \$49.3 million helping Queensland sheep and beef producers cope with drought conditions. Many of the total 22,405 listed as assisted are the same producers assisted year after year. A detailed list is provided below.

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

4. The amount claimed by each producer varies considerably. Some producers have claimed over \$45 000 in a single claim while others have claimed as little as \$25. The average for claims last year was \$1870. Details are provided below.

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Although the minimum payment is \$25.00 a lower claim subsidy (less than \$25.00) is possible. If a producer has submitted more than one claim and the total of all claims amount to more than \$25.00 then the individual claims can be paid. Similarly, the combined total of a producers' claims may amount to over \$30,000, however, the maximum payment in any year is \$30,000.

5. The cost of delivering drought assistance has been examined as part of the current review of Queensland's Drought Policy. Significant costs are incurred simply in the process of identifying and declaring drought affected areas. The Department of Primary Industries supports 72 local drought committees across the State which allows local producers to be involved in recommendations for drought declarations and revocations. This is an expensive operation but is considered very effective.

The Department's statewide network of Stock Inspectors is also used during drought to help with the declaration of individual properties and processing of claims. The cost of this work alone (based on salaries and operating) was estimated to be around \$2 million per annum at the height of the last drought.

The cost of administering the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) has been calculated on a

\$ per claim basis for a period of heavy drought activity and also for a less intense period.

Administration costs have been calculated on the estimated overall costs of administering the DRAS at field and central processing levels against the actual annual total freight subsidies paid for a peak drought year (1993/94) and a less intense drought year (1996/97).

Preliminary research indicates that the administration costs for 1993/94 were around 19% and for 1996/97 about 40% of the total cost of the scheme.

1993/94

\$16,744,000—paid in subsidies
17,890—claims processed
\$936—average subsidy per claim
19%—administration costs
\$177.83—administration cost per claim

1996/97

\$ 4,037,000—paid in subsidies
2,338—claims processed
\$1,727—average subsidy per claim
40%—administration costs
\$690.67—administration cost per claim

Therefore over the 7 financial years 1991/92 to 1997/98, in which there were 2 years of peak drought activity and 5 years of less intense drought, the average cost of administering a freight subsidy claim amounts to \$544.14. The average subsidy payment for that period was \$910.00.

6. The figures provided here are based on preliminary research which has not yet been finalised. Detail on final figures and methodology for deriving these will be published with the report of the current review.

7. The current review of Queensland's Drought Policy is being conducted in line with a commitment from Government, made in the policy paper Drought—Managing for self-reliance 1992.

The goal of the review is to report to Government on the effectiveness of existing Drought Policy in terms of optimising self-reliance but, at the same time, delivering timely and effective assistance in response to exceptional circumstances.

8. The Drought Policy Review has been finalised, and I expect a report on the findings, by the end of May.

9. No parameters have been set for a new Drought Policy.

91. Local Authorities, Accrual Accounting

Mr **HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (4/3/99)—

With reference to the impractical funding of depreciation of roads, bridges and crossings, under accrual accounting—

Will he absolve local government once and for all from this administrative and costly burden?

Mr **MACKENROTH** (6/4/99): Local governments are not required to fund depreciation

for roads, bridges and crossings, or in fact any assets, under accrual accounting.

Local governments are, however, required to disclose in their policies and financial statements, the value of assets, the depreciation of those assets, and the extent to which depreciation has not been funded.

Local governments are required to report the value and depreciation of their assets in their annual financial statements so the financial performance of local governments is disclosed to ratepayers and communities.

Where local governments use their discretion not to fund (or partially fund) depreciation for any assets, they are also required to disclose this information in their revenue policy so ratepayers and others may be informed about how the council is providing for the continuation of infrastructure and other assets.

92. Second Australian Playground Safety Conference

Mrs **SHELDON** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (4/3/99)—

- (1) Who from her department or portfolio attended the Second Australian Playground Safety Conference held at the Bardon Conference Centre on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 October 1998 and what were their positions?
- (2) What were the details of the cost of each person attending and the total cost of all those in attendance?
- (3) What were the reasons for each person attending the conference?

Ms **BLIGH** (30/3/99):

1. There are over 80 people in the Department working directly in the child care sub-program. This includes officers working in both the Office of Child Care and the Department's five Regional offices. Twenty-six registrations were purchased for the Second Australian Playground Safety Conference for staff across Queensland to attend. To maximise participation and cost effectiveness, registrations were shared between officers. Staff attending were employed in program development positions in the Office of Child Care and community resource officer positions in Regional offices. (see attached table) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2. The cost of (early bird) registration was \$165 per person for the two day conference. Two additional registrations were purchased at the full price of \$195. The total cost for 26 registrations was \$4,350. Supporting equitable access to training, the Department met the travel and accommodation costs of six officers from Central Queensland and Northern Queensland. The total travel and accommodation cost was \$2,960. Purchasing conference registrations was a resource-effective way of providing relevant in-service training opportunities for Community Resource Officers and Program Development Officers working in the Child Care Program.

3. My Department administers the Child Care Act 1991 and related Regulations and is responsible for licensing prescribed child care services. The primary purpose of this legislation is to ensure the safety of children in child care. As part of the core business of the Department, Departmental officers provide advice and assistance to developers and service providers regarding child safety and injury prevention, and monitor compliance with the legislation.

The Second Australian Playground Safety Conference was organised by KIDSAFE Child Accident Prevention Foundation in conjunction with a range of early childhood and related agencies including Brisbane Catholic Education, Creche & Kindergarten Association of Queensland, Queensland Council of Parents & Citizens Association, Department of Paediatric Child Health and Site Safe Health and Safety Risk Management Consultants. A representative from the Office of Child Care was also involved in the planning and organisation of this Conference. Departmental input into the planning and organisation of the conference served to ensure that the conference program was relevant to the needs of Departmental staff. In addition to this involvement, staff from the Office of Child Care and Regional Offices of my Department presented a workshop at the conference. The Conference addressed a range of topics relating to child safety and injury prevention which directly relate to the core business of this Department. Collaboration between related government and non-government agencies enabled a world class conference with knowledgeable and credible speakers.

The Department is committed to meeting the learning and development needs of its staff to ensure they have the competencies and skills required to fulfil their statutory responsibilities. Strategies have been implemented to meet these needs. Attending external conferences is one such strategy.

However, whilst I support conference attendance as a means of ensuring staff development and the provision of high-quality services, I share Mrs Sheldon's (apparent) concern at what appears to be over-representation. Whilst there is value in ensuring that a Department and its officers can share in the knowledge derived from a well-planned and relevant Conference, I believe that 26 officers from the one Department attending a single Conference should be questioned. I have requested my Director-General to institute arrangements which will ensure that this does not occur in future and that conference attendance is coordinated in a controlled way. However, I believe the need for a high number of departmental officers to attend this Conference also reflects the current nature of the child care regulatory framework, which is in parts overly prescriptive and inflexible.

The former Coalition Government did nothing to address these issues, which have been consistently raised by the child care sector as impacting upon their operations. The Beattie Labor Government has, however, moved quickly to address these matters, by setting in place a number of strategies to address the current regulatory framework and examine the

role of government in the provision of child care. These include:

the establishment of a Child Care Forum to exchange information and views from stakeholders about current issues and constraints in child care, establish community expectations of child care and provide input into the development and implementation of child care legislation

a review of the regulatory framework which will include investigation research into national and international models and regulatory frameworks, analysis of the role and effectiveness of the current Queensland regulatory framework and identification of a preferred model or approach that protects the safety and well being of children, and is sustainable within the available Departmental resources

the development of a strategic plan which will articulate a vision for child care in Queensland, outline key priorities and directions, clarify roles of government and other stakeholders and outline a preferred regulatory framework for child care.

93. Public Housing

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (4/3/99)—

With reference to public housing, for the period from 1 November 1998 to 28 February 1999—

- (1) Will he provide a monthly breakdown of 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) How many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/4/99):

(1) See Attachments A, B C and D for the number of public housing rental accounts in arrears in total and as a percentage of the number of accounts as at 30 November 1998, 31 December 1998, 31 January 1999 and 28 February 1999 respectively. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) I am unable to fully answer this question as the department implemented major computer system changes at the end of November 1998. Details of accounts in arrears for less than 4 weeks (a) cannot be provided for December 1998, January 1999 and February 1999 as the information is not reported in the new computer system. See Attachment E 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 as at 30 November 1998. See Attachments F, G and H for the number of accounts in arrears for (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 as at 31 December 1998, 31 January 1999 and 28 February 1999 respectively. (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 November 1998 was 2,834. This represents 5.9 percent of total public rental households in Queensland. Statistics for December 1998, January 1999 and February 1999 are not currently available due to the implementation of a new computer system but should become available within the next few months.

94. Needle Exchange Program

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (4/3/99)—

With reference to my question on notice in November 1998 about needle exchange programs in Queensland—

Why is she abusing the Parliament and flouting ministerial responsibility by refusing to provide the information requested about the growth rates in needle usage from needle exchange programs throughout the State?

Mrs EDMOND (6/4/99): The amount of equipment distributed has increased since the program's inception in 1987 with significant growth over the last three years.

95. Police Resources

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (4/3/99)—

Will he list every police station in Queensland that was below target staffing strength on 1 February and detail the amount of staff by which they were under strength?

Mr BARTON (6/4/99): The information below is the most recent available from the Queensland Police Service and is current as at 1 March 1999.

The current position of the Queensland Police Service is the best it has been for many years. The actual strength of regions, at 1 March 1999 was 5664 police officers, 64 above the current allocated (funded) strength of 5604.

The Queensland Police Service is currently undertaking the largest sustained recruitment drive in Queensland policing history. The planned net increase of 317 police officer numbers in the 1998/99 year is 25 percent greater than the previous financial year under the Coalition, and 99 percent greater than recruitment in the Coalition's first full year of Government (1997/98).

In accordance with a pre-election commitment, the Beattie Labor Government will continue to recruit at these historically high levels (between 300 and 400 yearly) until June 2005.

Police numbers at various stations across Queensland are constantly subject to change through frequent promotion, transfer and attrition. As a result, on any given day, there are stations that are

above strength, and a corresponding number of stations below strength. As shown in the attached tables, currently, there are 148 officers in 'above strength positions' and a shortage in other stations of 132 officers. These figures are likely to change rapidly from week to week. Significantly, the shortage is less than the number of officers which are above strength in other stations.

The procedure followed by the QPS to fill vacancies is not unlike that used for the public service generally, and includes advertising, shortlisting, panel formation, interviewing, recommendation of preferred applicant, any appeals, and appointment. Where an urgent need is indicated at a particular station awaiting appointment of replacement officer/s, relieving officers are utilised.

The attached tables do not include officers currently performing relieving duties at those stations. Thus, some stations (particularly smaller ones) shown on the attached as operating below permanent strength, are in fact operating at full strength with the assistance of relieving officers. These relieving officers are not shown in the actual strength figures. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

An additional 180 first year constables will graduate in April and May. All these officers will be allocated to regional areas.

96. Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (4/3/99)—

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) by month for (a) November 1998, (b) December 1998, (c) January 1999 and (d) February 1999?
- (2) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) by month for (a) November 1998, (b) December 1998, (c) January 1999 and (d) February 1999?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at the end of (a) November 1998, (b) December 1998, (c) January 1999 and (d) February 1999?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for (a) November 1998, (b) December 1998, (c) January 1999 and (d) February 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (29/3/99):

- (1) The total revenue derived from sales (accrual based) by month was:
 - (a) \$3,476,000 for November 1998;
 - (b) \$3,915,000 for December 1998;
 - (c) \$5,061,000 for January 1999; and
 - (d) \$4,301,000 for February 1999.
- (2) The total expenditure (accrual based) by month for the cost of sales was:
 - (b) \$2,631,000 for November 1998;
 - (c) \$2,978,000 for December 1998;
 - (d) \$3,900,000 for January 1999; and
 - (e) \$3,255,000 for February 1999.

The total expenditure (accrual based) by month for operating expenses was:

- (a) \$840,000 for November 1998;
- (b) \$932,000 for December 1998;
- (c) \$831,000 for January 1999; and
- (d) \$826,000 for February 1999.

(3) The value of the inventory on hand was:

- (a) \$6,548,000 at the end of November 1998;
- (b) \$6,537,000 at the end of December 1998;
- (c) \$4,895,000 at the end of January 1999; and
- (d) \$5,142,000 at the end of February 1999.

(4) The net profit achieved by SDS was:

- (a) \$5,000 for November 1998;
- (b) \$5,000 for December 1998;
- (c) \$330,000 for January 1999; and
- (d) \$220,000 for February 1999.

97. Public Housing

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (4/3/99)—

With reference to public housing, for the period from 1 November 1998 to 28 February 1999—

- (1) Will he provide a monthly breakdown of 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 (1/4/99):

1. It is not possible to provide the information in the format sought as the department implemented major computer system changes at the end of November 1998. Details cannot be provided for December 1998 and January 1999 as this was during the development stage of the new computer system. Details can be provided for the end of November 1998 and for the month of February 1999. See Attachments A and B for the number of 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 as at 30 November 1998 and 28 February 1999 respectively. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2. Vacant turnaround times for Queensland are as follows:

November 1998 maintenance: 9.0; allocations: 11.1 (working days)

December 1998 maintenance: 6.8; allocations: 11.4 (working days)

January 1999 maintenance: 7.9; allocations: 12.1 (working days)

February 1999 maintenance: 7.8; allocations: 14.6 (working days)

The increase in allocation time for the months of January and February 1999 can be attributed to two factors: (1) the Christmas/New Year holiday period when a number of clients are not contactable or do not have sufficient funds to move; and (2) the implementation of the new computer system and associated staff training.

98. State Archivist

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (4/3/99)—

With reference to the CJC's public declaration concerning the role of the State Archivist pertaining to the destruction of the Heiner Inquiry documents as given in evidence to a Senate Select Committee in 1995—

Will he assure this House, after checking with State Archives, that the CJC's public statement on the so-called proper archivist's role in the appraisal process of deciding whether to retain or dispose of public records (namely that her sole lawful discretion turns on whether the records represent any "historical value") and how that has been applied by the CJC to the shredding in finding no official misconduct, has not been publicly and completely rejected as wrong by State Archives itself, the Australian Society of Archivists, Records Management Association of Australia and the Society of American Archivists?

Mr SCHWARTEN (29/3/99): If the Member paid more attention in Parliament and to Parliamentary procedure then he would know that I am not the Minister responsible for the Queensland State Archives. I suggest he research issues better before asking questions and wasting taxpayers money in the future.

99. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (4/3/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 731 in which he claimed his employment initiative for the private sector is to focus on providing incentives for industries that have been identified as current or potential skill shortage areas—

- (1) How does he justify making this claim when his Government's financial incentives are available to all employers in all industries and activities where apprenticeships and traineeships exist?
- (2) How does he justify the claim that "the take-up rate is market-driven without specific limitations on individual industries" in view of his contradictory statement?

Mr BRADDY (1/4/99):

(1) Mr Quinn's statement is incorrect. The Government's financial incentives do not apply to all employers in all industries. The private sector incentives focus on industries which have been identified as having a current or potential skill shortage.

(2) The take-up rate is market driven and there are no restrictions or limitations on industries which have been identified as experiencing skill shortage.

100. Home Hill State School

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Education (4/3/99)—

With reference to the Burdekin Shire Council which has issued two letters to the Department of Education seeking permission from the department to help alleviate flooding problems and pooling of water over the children's playground at the Home Hill State Primary School and to their requests which have been flatly refused twice on the grounds that the Education Department does not have any responsibility in this regard and considering Q-Build or local council cannot act without the Education Department's permission—

Who does this responsibility come under?

Mr WELLS (26/3/99): It has been a long held principle that land owners including Education Queensland are responsible for drainage infrastructure within their land holdings and that local councils are responsible for the distribution of storm water drainage once it has been directed to the street drainage system.

The Burdekin Shire Council undertook some improvement to the street drainage system adjacent Home Hill State School some years ago.

More recently the Council has altered the street scape by the provision of a pick up set down zone to assist students and community members to safely access the school grounds. This is properly the responsibility of the Council.

As part of this development the Council is seeking to increase the size of the drainage pipe which was earlier provided by Council to ensure that water from the school grounds and else where in the vicinity can be properly removed from the roadway.

Even though it is accepted that some of the water being carried away originates from the school grounds the base principle of Council being responsible for street drainage systems remains and on this basis it would be improper for this Department to make a contribution.

101. Greyhound Racing Authority

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (4/3/99)—

With reference to his late tabling statement which accompanied the Greyhound Racing Authority Annual Report 1998 which was tabled in the House on 24 December 1998 and, in particular, reference to the paragraph which read "The extension had been requested by the Authority pending the outcome of police investigations concerning certain operational activities during the year which had precluded finalisation of the Authority's statements"—

Will he provide further details of exactly what operational matters required police investigations and what was the outcomes of those investigations?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): Certain expenditure anomalies related to the Authority's operations were identified by the incoming Board. These were referred to the Police and are being investigated.

102. Ms M. Smith

Mr GRICE asked the Premier (4/3/99)—

With reference to a media report that Ms Marion Smith has been employed by the Government to work on some sort of propaganda campaign related to the Government's Native Title policy—

- (1) When was this position advertised and where was it advertised?
- (2) If the position was not advertised, by what process was Ms Smith employed and who were her referees?
- (3) Did he, any Minister or any member of his staff or any member of any Minister's staff interview Ms Smith for this position or act as a referee for her; if so, who were they and what were the circumstances of any such interview or reference?
- (4) What are the position title, the duty statement and the reporting responsibilities of the position?
- (5) What is the salary, other benefits and terms of employment?
- (6) For what period is it envisaged that Ms Smith will be employed in this position?
- (7) Will he table examples of Ms Smith's work to date?
- (8) Is Ms Smith being considered for any permanent public service position; if so, what are the details of any such position?

Mr BEATTIE (31/3/99): The Member is completely mistaken in believing that anyone has been employed 'to work on some sort of propaganda campaign'. When I became Premier in June last year I ensured that the practices of the Borbidge Government in relation to wasting the public's money on propaganda were stopped.

All appointments to positions in the Government are handled within the appropriate guidelines—in contrast to what happened when the National Party had control of the Government when people such as Wendy Armstrong and Meredith Jackson were appointed.

103. Orchestral Services Task Force

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (4/3/99)—

With reference to the Orchestral Services Taskforce—

- (1) What are the terms of reference for this taskforce?
- (2) What progress has been made to date by the taskforce?

- (3) Who are the members of this taskforce, who do they represent and how much are each of them to be paid for their services?
- (4) What are the full details of all instructions/directions he has given to the taskforce (both written and verbal) since coming to Government?
- (5) When will the taskforce be making a decision on the future of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra?

Mr FOLEY (6/4/99):

(1) The Terms of Reference of the Orchestras Task Force were set as follows by previous Minister for the Arts (Ms Sheldon):

To develop such steps and to undertake such actions as may be necessary to give effect to the decision to support the strategic alliance between the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra under a joint venture company with Symphony Australia.

The Task Force is to act with vigour to ensure that all relevant issues are resolved and the newly amalgamated corporate entity may begin operations at the earliest opportunity.

(2) The Task Force presented a Report to me in November 1998 which outlined options for a relationship of the QPO and QSO.

(3) The members of the Task Force are: Mr Kevin Radbourne, Executive Director Arts Queensland (Chair), Mr Rodney Jacobsen, Acting General Manager Queensland Symphony Orchestra (QSO), Mr Ken Poggioli, QSO musician representative, Ms Kay Brear, Acting General Manager Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO), Mr Matthew Farrell, QPO musician representative, Mr Don Munro AM, Deputy Chairman Advisory Council, Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Mr Derek Watt, General Manager, Symphony Australia, Associate Professor Helen Lancaster, Director Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Professor Simone de Haan, Provost and Director Queensland Conservatorium of Music, and Ms Liddy Clark, Ministerial Policy Adviser – Arts.

The members of the Task Force represent the key stakeholders involved in the State's premier orchestras, including the education sector and the interests of regional Queensland. Members of the Task Force have not received payment for their services.

(4) I extended the membership of the Task Force to increase the representation of education interests and regional Queensland through the appointment of Professor De Haan and Associate Professor Lancaster. I have requested that additional research be conducted in line with Task Force recommendations following the presentation of the Task Force Report.

(5) The Task Force's preferred option requires both consideration in the preparation of the 1999/2000 budget and the agreement of third parties (which may be affected by the outcomes of the

Commonwealth Government's Performing Arts Inquiry).

104. Dairy Industry

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (4/3/99)—

With reference to the concern in the dairy industry regarding the increased volume of milk coming into Queensland—

What impact will this move have on Queensland producers, bearing in mind the assurances given by him during the debate on the Dairy Bill in 1998?

Mr PALASZCZUK (1/4/99): I understand Mr Stephan's concern for the Queensland dairy industry that milk coming from interstate could adversely affect the Queensland industry but his concern appears to be misplaced. While milk transfer does have the potential to reduce local producers' income, market milk sales have exceeded entitlement for the first two months since post farm gate deregulation.

The Queensland Dairy Authority has advised that following post farm gate deregulation and the introduction of three litre containers, market milk sales have increased. Despite some transfer of milk from interstate, Queensland's monthly market milk demand was above the level of allocated entitlements for January and February. The farm gate price and supply management arrangements have ensured that producers have received additional payments proportionate to these over entitlement sales.

105. Emergency Services Advisory Council

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (4/3/99)—

With reference to the State Government's decision to establish an Emergency Services Advisory Council—

- (1) What funding allocation has been put aside for the council?
- (2) Who is the council comprised of?
- (3) What has been the total operational costs of the panel to date?
- (4) Will he provide a breakdown of the costs incurred so far?

Mrs ROSE (6/4/99):

(1) A funding allocation of \$50,000 is proposed for a full year operation of the Emergency Services Advisory Council ("the Council")

(2) The composition of the Council has not yet been finalised. I have canvassed a number of organisations with an interest in emergency services issues for suitable nominees for appointment to the Council. I am currently considering these nominees together with a number of other candidates, and will be recommending suitable candidates for appointment to the Governor in Council as soon as possible.

(3) Nil to date.

(4) Nil to date.

106. Coomera River Marine Precinct

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/3/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of the significant investment being made in marine manufacturing and maintenance as part of the Coomera River Marine Precinct?
- (2) As these developments require suitable access to deep water, will he advise what arrangements have been made to ensure that an appropriate dredging program is in place to ensure the viability of these developments?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/4/99):

(1) The Government is aware of the significant investment being made in marine manufacturing and maintenance as part of the Coomera River Marine Precinct.

(2) The Coomera River channels were originally dredged by the developers of Sanctuary Cove and Hope Island Resort.

The originally dredged low water depths were approximately 3.5 metres from the mouth to Sanctuary Cove and 3.0 metres from Sanctuary Cove to Hope Island Resort.

Dredging of a section of the south arm of the river, between its mouth and Coombabah Creek is already in progress by commercial interests under an extractive permit issued by the Department of Environment and Heritage (now the Environmental Protection Agency).

Dredging of the channels upstream of Coombabah creek, as far as the Marine Precinct, is proposed to be undertaken during the 1999/2000 financial year.

Dredging is proposed to be carried out to a depth of 3.50 metres below Low Water Datum.

Further discussions will be required with the Gold Coast City Council regarding the possibility of costs for some sections of the proposed dredging being shared between State and Local Government (as has been the practice in other locations where joint responsibilities have been identified).

107. Queensland Building Tribunal

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (4/3/99)—

With reference to the performance of the Queensland Building Tribunal up until 28 February 1999—

- (1) How many domestic building disputes have been lodged with the Queensland Building Tribunal since 26 June 1998?
- (2) How many domestic building disputes been lodged with the Queensland Building Tribunal since 26 June 1998 have been finalised through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?
- (3) How many domestic building disputes lodged with the Queensland Building Tribunal prior to 26 June 1998 remained unresolved at 26 June 1998?

- (4) How many of the unresolved domestic building disputes lodged with the Queensland Building Tribunal prior to 26 June 1998 have now been finalised through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?
- (5) What was the average cost of each domestic building dispute (a) lodged and finalised by hearing since 26 June 1998 and (b) lodged prior to but finalised by hearing after 26 June 1998?
- (6) What was the average cost of each domestic building dispute (a) lodged and finalised by mediation since 26 June 1998 and (b) lodged prior to but finalised by mediation after 26 June 1998?
- (7) What was the average time taken by the Queensland Building Tribunal to finalise domestic building disputes lodged since 26 June 1998 through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?
- (8) What was the average time taken by the Queensland Building Tribunal to finalise domestic building disputes lodged prior to 26 June 1998 but finalised since 26 June 1998 through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?

Ms SPENCE (30/3/99):

1. 288 domestic building disputes ("dbd") have been lodged between 26 June 1998 and 28 February 1999. In addition, the Tribunal received 168 Review applications and 229 Disciplinary applications within this period.

2.(a) 16 dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 had been finalised by hearing at 28 February 1999.

(b) 128 dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 had been finalised by mediation at 28 February 1999.

In addition, 20 dbd have been withdrawn, settled, etc making a total of 164 finalised within that time.

3. 121 dbd were on hand at 26 June 1998.

4.(a) 58 dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 were finalised by hearing as at 28 February 1999.

(b) 18 dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 were finalised by mediation as at 28 February 1999.

In addition, 19 dbd were withdrawn, settled, etc making a total of 95 finalised by 28 February 1999.

5. The Queensland Building Tribunal does not compile costs for each domestic building dispute determined by hearing. However, an estimated average cost for one day of hearing would be \$1,023.00.

6.(a) Average cost of dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 and finalised by mediation is \$251.28.

(b) Average cost of dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 and finalised by mediation is \$272.90.

(6 (a) and (b) are the average costs paid to mediators and the figures do not include any administrative components).

7.(a) Dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 finalised by hearing in an average of 95 days.

(b) Dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 finalised by mediation in an average of 36 days.

8.(a) Dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 finalised by hearing in an average of 284 days.

(b) Dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 finalised by mediation in an average of 49 days.

108. State Development Department

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (4/3/99)—

With reference to senior management positions (AO8 and above) within the Department of State Development—

(1) Do all senior positions within the department have permanent appointees; if not, which positions are yet to be filled by permanent appointees and what are the names of the acting officers occupying these positions?

(2) Were all the permanent positions advertised and appointments carried out on the recommendation of a selection committee in accordance with the Public Service Guidelines; if not, why not and which positions were not advertised and who occupies these positions?

(3) When does he expect temporary positions to be filled by permanent staff?

Mr ELDER (6/4/99):

1. The Department has advised that there are 19 permanent positions which are presently permanently vacant at the AO8 level and above. Attachment 1 lists the vacant AO8 and above positions and the acting arrangements in place. Of the 19 vacancies, 7 positions do not have officers acting. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2. The Public Service Commissioner Directive 10/98—Exceptions to appointment on merit—details circumstances where appointments do not have to be filled on merit. Public Service Commissioner Directive 8/98—Notification of proposed appointments (advertising vacancies)—details exceptions to the requirement to advertise vacancies. All permanent positions within the Department of State Development have been filled in accordance with the Public Service Act 1996 and the Public Service Commissioner's Directives.

3. Chief Executives have the authority under the Public Service Act 1996 to assign permanent staff to temporary vacancies to meet Departmental requirements when necessary. The Director-General has established a number of taskforces to focus on completing some of the Department's priority projects. Permanent staff have been assigned to these taskforces. These staff will return to their substantive areas at the completion of the projects.

109. Treasurer's Advance Account

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (4/3/99)—

With reference to the \$99.35m allocated to the Treasurer's Advance Account for 1998-99—

(1) What was the balance of this account as at 28 February 1999?

(2) What funds have been outlaid from this account so far in 1998-99?

(3) To which departments and programs have these funds been outlaid?

(4) In respect to each of these outlays, what was the specific purpose to which these funds were applied?

(5) What was the date of each of these outlays?

(6) Have any additional funds been allocated to this Advance Account in 1998-99?

Mr HAMILL (1/4/99):

1. The purpose of the Treasurer's Advance is to offset approved increases in departmental budgets during the year to provide for items which may emerge during the year and/or major items which are not able to be finalised for incorporation into departmental outlays.

2. \$26.509M has been allocated from the Treasurer's Advance as at 28 February 1999.

3. The resultant expenditure of allocations made from the Treasurer's Advance are accounted for in the same manner as other departmental expenditure which is published in the relevant Ministerial Portfolio Statements and departmental annual reports.

4. As per 3 above.

5. As per 3 above.

6. \$13.234M was provided to the Treasurer's Advance for special purposes such as natural disasters.

110. Queensland Building Services Authority, Home Warranty Insurance

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (4/3/99)—

With reference to the Home Warranty Insurance provided to consumers through the Queensland Building Services Authority—

(1) Will she list for each individual claim made against Home Warranty Insurance (a) the total value of the claim, (b) the maximum monetary value of a claim possible at the time and (c) the premium paid in chronological order for following financial years (i) 1993-94, (ii) 1994-95, (iii) 1995-96, (iv) 1996-97, (v) 1997-98 and (vi) from 1 July 1998 until 28 February 1999?

(2) Will she provide (a) the total number of policies taken out, (b) total value of premiums received, (c) total value of claims and (d) total administrative costs for the insurance scheme for the following financial years (i) 1993-94, (ii) 1994-95, (iii) 1995-96, (iv) 1996-97, (v) 1997-98 and (vi) from 1 July 1998 until 28 February 1999?

Ms SPENCE (30/3/99):

1. I am not prepared to advise the Member details of each individual insurance claims because of the

commercial value and amount of data which exceeds 100 pages. I am however prepared to provide the total number of claims approved and rejected, the total estimated value of claims made during each year and the percentage of approved claims that were fully compensated. This data is only available to 31 January 1999 at the present time.

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Also, I wish to advise that the maximum value of a claim from July 1992 to January 1997 was \$50,000. Since January 1997, the maximum value of a claim has risen to \$100,000.

2. The total number of policies issued and premiums collected are:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The total value of claims paid during each year and the total administration costs for each year are:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

111. Electricity Concessions

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (4/3/99)—

With reference to concessions announced by the former Coalition Government in May 1998, for seriously ill people on life support machines by reduction of electricity charges for low income earners who require oxygen support or kidney dialysis in their homes and as the Minister for Mines and Energy has advised that the current Government will proceed with such concessions and has referred the matter to Families, Youth and Community Care—

- (1) Have these concessions come into force to assist with costs of electricity consumed in operating home oxygen life support systems and home kidney dialysis systems?
- (2) How are these concessions accessed?
- (3) What is the dollar benefit to the consumer?

Ms BLIGH (30/3/99):

1. This scheme was announced by the previous Government without first ensuring that recurrent funding to support the concession program was included in the budget papers. Following my discussions with the Treasurer and the Minister for Mines and Energy it has been decided that the Government will proceed with the initiative. Recurrent funding has now been provided by Treasury following the recent mid-year budget review process. The Department is collaborating with Queensland Health and is in the process of developing guidelines, application forms and data systems in preparation for the introduction of the scheme. I anticipate being in a position to make an announcement in the near future regarding its commencement.

2. The scheme will provide a concession to low income, seriously ill people who have been medically assessed in accordance with criteria determined by

Queensland Health. In respect of oxygen concentrators, an applicant must hold an appropriate concession card or allowance (Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card, Health Care Interim Voucher, Child Disability Allowance or Queensland Government Seniors Card) and have been provided with the machine, free of charge, through Queensland Health. Persons issued with a kidney dialysis machine, free of charge, through a Queensland Hospital may also be eligible for the concession. Persons wishing to apply for the concessions will be required to lodge an application form with the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. Details disclosed by the applicant will be verified with Queensland Health to determine the authenticity of the information prior to payment of any concession.

3. The scheme will provide a concession of up to \$48 per quarter per machine for eligible users of an oxygen concentrator and up to \$32.25 per quarter for eligible users of a kidney dialysis machine. It is proposed that the concession will be made retrospective and payable to eligible applicants from 1 July 1998. It is also expected that the concession will be paid directly to eligible applicants by electronic funds transfer to their nominated bank account rather than appear as a rebate on electricity accounts.

112. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, VERs

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (4/3/99)—

- (1) Will he list, by institute, the number of voluntary early retirements (VERs) offered to TAFE staff between 1 July 1998 and 1 March 1999?
- (2) Will he give an unqualified assurance that no staff have been pressured into accepting these VERs?
- (3) Will he give an unqualified assurance that no existing staff will be pressured into accepting VERs currently being formulated?

Mr BRADY (1/4/99):

(1) A list, by institute of the number of voluntary early retirements (VERs) offered to TAFE staff between 1 July 1998 and 1 March 1999 is attached.

(2) I have been advised that no staff have been pressured into accepting VERs.

(3) The department has assured me that no existing staff will be pressured into accepting VERs.

NUMBER OF VERs OFFERED TO TAFE STAFF BETWEEN 1 JULY 1998 AND 1 MARCH 1999

TAFE INSTITUTE—TOTAL

Barrier Reef—2
 Bremer—1
 Brisbane—5
 CQIT—4
 GCIT—2
 Logan—1
 Southbank—6
 TAFE Qld—1
 WBIT—5
 Total—27

113. Tilt Train

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/3/99)—

With reference to a number of questions I asked him at the Estimates Committee hearings about the Billion Dollar Labor Tilt Train project to Cairns—

- (1) Will he now confirm that, in addition to his admission that a contract has been let without public tender, that he has now been forced to retract his answers and admit (a) the tilt train will not have the capacity to even replace current services and will not provide any sleeper accommodation, (b) the tilt train will only run four round trips a week and not double the existing services, as promised, because of the state of the track north of Rockhampton and (c) that it will be necessary to keep the Sunlander running as a result?
- (2) Do these admissions now call into question the feasibility of the scheme, particularly as he could not inform the committee what safety upgrades would be necessary, how much they would cost and that, in any case, no budget allocations had been made for them?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/4/99): There is no billion dollar tilt train project to Cairns.

114. Patient Transit Scheme

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (4/3/99)—

With reference to the Patient Transfer Scheme's new guidelines which now allow for people, who wish to travel by car, to have the cost of their trip subsidised at a rate of 10 cents per kilometre calculated by road from the post office near the patient's local hospital to the post office (or general post office) near the medical facility the patient will attend—

- (1) What does she plan to advise the residents of rural townships, such as Greenvale, Balfes Creek and all the other small rural towns in the Electorate of Charters Towers and the other rural electorates, about this new policy?
- (2) Does she agree this new guideline is discriminatory to the people who choose to live in rural Queensland?
- (3) Will she confirm that patients, who previously received PTS subsidy from RFDS Clinic to medical facility will now only receive PTS subsidy from closest public hospital to medical facility?

Mrs EDMOND (6/4/99):

- (1) The new guidelines assist people who have to travel more than 50 kilometres from their nearest health facility to the specialist facility to which they are referred.
- (2) The guidelines discriminate positively for rural Queenslanders.
- (3) All patients in rural Queensland who received a subsidy from the RFDS clinic sites to specialist facilities previously will continue to receive assistance.

115. Suncorp Insurance

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (4/3/99)—

- (1) Is she aware of any activity by Suncorp Insurance to force insured customers who are disputing the repair procedure to accept cash settlements to an amount that is insufficient to repair their vehicle?
- (2) Are the insured customers who accept cash settlements from Suncorp able to renew their insurance with that company?

Ms SPENCE (30/3/99): I have been advised that the Office of Fair Trading is not aware of any activity by Suncorp Insurance as described by Mr Mickel. There is no record that any such complaints have been received at that Office.

Suncorp Insurance has been contacted in relation to the issues and have advised they will provide a formal written response to you if requested in writing by your Office. I understand that Suncorp Insurance intends to contact your Office directly to clarify the issues.

116. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, VERs

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (4/3/99)—

What was the total annual salary and on-costs of the 500 staff indicated in his response to Question on Notice No. 742 as having accepted VERs during 1997-98?

Mr BRADY (1/4/99): \$21,432,285.26

117. Genetically Modified Food

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (4/3/99)—

If Queensland is to allow the sale of genetically modified food, will she give an undertaking to the community that any food accepted will be clearly and specifically marked to ensure consumers are fully informed?

Mrs EDMOND (6/4/99): Standard A18 of the Food Standards Code (Food Produced Using Gene Technology) was gazetted on 13 August 1998 and will commence on 13 May 1999. This standard requires genetically modified foods and food ingredients that are not substantially equivalent in any characteristic or property of the normal counterpart to be labelled with the origin and nature of the characteristic or property modified. In addition there is a legal obligation for the Australia New Zealand Food Authority to assess the safety for human consumption of food produced using gene technology prior to release onto the market. Genetically modified food will be prohibited from sale where approved safety assessment criteria are not satisfied.

At a meeting of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council on 17 December 1998 it was decided to request the Australia New Zealand Food Authority to develop a draft amendment to Standard A18 of the Food Standards Code to require labelling of genetically modified food even where it is substantially equivalent to the normal counterpart. Health Ministers agreed that consumers had a right to choose whether or not they purchase genetically modified foods.

118. Wondai, Student Travel Concession

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/3/99)—

- (1) Is he aware that Wondai senior secondary students are ineligible for Government funded travel to their nearest high school, Murgon State High School, a distance of 12 kilometres and, given that the ruling that these students will only be funded for travel to Kingaroy State High School, a distance of 32 kilometres appears to be in breach of the Department of Transport's own ruling as published in Student Travel Information Statement No. 2/95 page 4?
- (2) How does he intend to resolve a situation that imposes the above?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/4/99): The most common form of travel assistance in rural areas is the provision of Government funded kilometre-based school bus services.

In some areas, local circumstances which may be related to geographical or historical reasons dictate that these services travel to other than the nearest school. This is provided for in current Queensland Transport school transport policy guidelines.

In the case of Wondai, the nearest State education facility for Years 11 and 12 is located at Murgon. However, a Government funded kilometre-based school transport service is the designated service provided to convey Year 11 and 12 students residing in the Wondai area to Kingaroy State High School. This service has existed since the late 1950s.

Late last year, a petition was arranged by the Deputy Principal of Murgon State High School among year 10 students at Wondai seeking to indicate a preference to attend Murgon High at Year 11 level and resulted in only one respondent showing interest.

It is not proposed to alter service arrangements for the present.

119. Prawn Aquaculture Farming

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (4/3/99)—

Which legislation governs (a) the treatment required of pond water in prawn aquaculture farming before it is permitted to be discharged into the environment, (b) the measures taken to ensure prawn viruses are prevented from going from pond to pond, (c) the measures taken to ensure infected prawns do not enter the market place, (d) the measures taken to

ensure that aquaculture feed is safe for the Australian environment as most aquaculture feed is imported, (e) the compulsory obligation for an aquaculture farmer to advise the authorities when disease is discovered in his stock, if any and (f) which department polices prawn farms and what is the extent of their authority?

Mr PALASZCZUK (1/4/99):

- (a) The Environmental Protection Act 1994.
- (b) The Fisheries Act 1994 and Fisheries Regulations 1995.
- (c) The Fisheries Act 1994 and Fisheries Regulations 1995.
- (d) The Quarantine Proclamation 1998 under the Quarantine Act 1908.
- (e) The Fisheries Act 1994 and Fisheries Regulations 1995, and the Environmental Protection Act 1994.
- (f) The Department of Primary Industries under the Fisheries Act 1994 and Fisheries Regulations 1995. The Environmental Protection Agency under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

120. Bruce Highway, Gungalda Range Road

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/3/99)—

With reference to the loss of life and devastation due to motor vehicle accidents which occur travelling over the Gungalda range—

- (1) What are his plans for the upgrading of this notorious section of road?
- (2) When does he intend to commence the improvements that are so urgently required on this section of the Bruce Highway?
- (3) If the intention is to construct a new section of highway, will it be following the same route; if not, will he please outline the alternative route?
- (4) Does he have a final completion date should such roadworks be carried out?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/4/99): (1-4) A new crossing of the Gungalda Range is to be constructed. As this is a National Highway, the Federal Government has approved the location and scope of the work and the required funding. The route selected for the new crossing of the Gungalda Range was agreed to by the Federal Government in November 1997 to enable detailed planning of environmental, geotechnical and alignment matters to be progressed. Also, in November 1998, the Queensland Department of Environment accepted the Environmental Studies for the project, thereby allowing the detailed design on the project to commence.

It is anticipated that the project would be completed approximately 15 months after the calling of tenders.

121. Radioactive Waste Disposal

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (9/3/99)—

With reference to the call by the International Community that Australia "make a contribution" by accepting the dumping of the world's radioactive waste in our soil—

Will he confirm Queensland's strident opposition to such a proposal?

Mr WELFORD (8/4/99): I am unaware of any project proposed to the Government to dump the world's radio active waste in Queensland, and am thus unable to comment on any specific proposal.

Nevertheless, I can assure the Honourable Member that this Government is strongly opposed to receiving other nations' garbage, particularly nuclear waste.

122. Sporting Club Firearm Ranges

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (9/3/99)—

With reference to sporting club firearm ranges—

- (1) What guidelines do the Weapons Licensing Branch use in relation to the approval for firearm range buffer zones?
- (2) If they do use the military standards as a guide, do they allow for the differences in cartridge loads that sporting shooters use, this in relation particularly to pistol ranges?
- (3) What other latitude and discretions do they use, particularly on ranges that have natural buffers eg. bushland?
- (4) If indeed no guidelines exist, what is his department doing in relation to the establishment of guidelines and what public consultation will take place?

Mr BARTON (8/4/99):

(1) The Queensland Police Service, Weapons Licensing Branch has used guidelines belonging to the Department of Defence.

(2) The Weapons Licensing Branch is aware of possible dispensation depending upon cartridge loads, however does not at this time have the Ballistic expertise or scientific capability to provide such dispensations for target shooters using target loads on shooting ranges.

(3) The standards used by Weapons Licensing Branch contain a number of options relating to all types of shooting ranges, including dispensations for hill heights, baffled ranges, mound heights for ranges with no land for a Danger Area.

The use of natural buffers such as bushland is considered if the club owns, leases, or has firing rights over the relevant area of land. This again depends upon the calibre, type of firearm, and type of competition, shot on the shooting range.

All factors are taken into account when approving a range. The legislation requires that the Queensland Police Service must be satisfied that the location, construction, equipment and maintenance of the range is appropriate having regard to the need to protect persons from death or injury and property from unlawful destruction or damage.

(4) Weapons Licensing Branch presently uses guidelines provided by the Department of Defence in relation to the approval of Shooting Ranges.

123. Tourism, Sport and Racing Portfolio; Ipswich West Electorate

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (9/3/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Ipswich West Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Ipswich West Electorate or which cater for the Ipswich West Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Ipswich West, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7), (8) and (9) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government agencies and the election commitments of this Government. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would expect the Honourable Member to involve himself in the activities of his own constituency in the usual manner of an elected representative.

124. Industrial Relations Task Force

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/3/99)—

With reference to the Industrial Relations Taskforce's Report on industrial relations legislation in Queensland which, according to media reports, has been adopted by State Cabinet—

- (1) Will the report of the taskforce form the basis of a Bill, either for new industrial relations legislation or as amendments to the Workplace Relations Act 1997?
- (2) If a replacement or substantial amendments to the Workplace Relations Act 1997 are being considered by the Beattie Labor Government, will he give an assurance that, unlike the Workplace Relations Amendment Act 1998 (No 32 of 1998) which was rushed through in 1998 with indecent haste, there will be the fullest possible consultation with all industrial relations stakeholders in Queensland before the Bill is tabled in the Queensland Parliament?

Mr BRADY (8/4/99):

(1) The Industrial Relations Taskforce Report on the Review of Industrial Relations Legislation in Queensland will provide valuable input into the Government's industrial relations legislation.

(2) There will be appropriate consultation that will build on the work already undertaken by the Taskforce.

125. Health Districts, Entertainment Expenses

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

How much has been spent on entertainment expenses by each of the health districts so far this year?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): As at 28 February 1999, \$23,317 had been expended across all 39 Districts in the 1998/1999 financial year on providing refreshments (tea and sandwiches) for local community members who attend public functions such as the opening of the Barcaldine Hospital in Mr Johnson's electorate. (See Hansard 25 May 1999)

126. Maryborough Mental Health Unit

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

What was the final construction cost of the new Maryborough mental health unit and will she detail whether this figure includes furniture and equipment; if so, how much?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): The construction cost exclusive of professional fees, external services and the central energy plant but inclusive of furniture and equipment is \$2.3 million.

Furniture and equipment costs within the construction budget outlined amounted to approximately \$200,000.

127. Needle Exchange Program

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) When will she launch an independent audit of the needle exchange program and make it subject to public scrutiny?
- (2) In particular, what are the statistics eg. usage, cost etc., for the last five years and what are the projected statistics for the next five years?
- (3) What is the breakdown regionally of these statistics, in particular, the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Cairns?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

(1) An internal review of the program, which was introduced in 1987, occurred in January 1997.

(2) The amount of equipment distributed increased since the program's inception with significant growth over the last 3 years. The cost of maintaining the program has been able to be achieved despite the increases, primarily through productivity savings.

(3) There have been increases in distribution of equipment in these areas.

128. Toowoomba, Alcohol and Drug Services

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

Why has the Government closed the State's only drug and alcohol rehab at Toowoomba for the State's emergency service personnel?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): The service has not been closed. The Toowoomba Health Service District will provide an Alcohol and Drug Service that is a comprehensive, equitable, accessible service to meet the needs of the client group. The service would target all major classes of commonly abused drugs. The service is available to all members of the community whether they are emergency services personnel or not.

129. Public Hospitals, Budgets

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

What has been the approved final budget for each Queensland public hospital in 1997-98?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): District Health Services are not allocated discrete hospital budgets. District Health Services are allocated global budgets. Districts allocate individual hospitals' budgets from within this global allocation.

Attached is a table showing the original and final budgets for 1997/98 for each District Health Service. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

130. Public Hospitals, Budgets

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

Does she plan any more budget supplementation to any of the State's hospitals over and above the service contracts?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): District Health Services are not allocated discrete hospital budgets.

District Health Services are allocated global budgets. Districts allocate individual hospitals' budgets from within this global allocation. Corporate Office is continually updating District budgets as a result of negotiations undertaken with various units of the Commonwealth to finalise Commonwealth Budget allocations. In addition, further distribution of unallocated/unfinalised State funded initiatives will be occurring as various programs are finalised.

131. Public Hospitals, Linear Accelerators

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

What is the wait time for access to the public hospital linear accelerators for treatment and when will the Government fund one on the Sunshine Coast?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): There are three public hospitals in Queensland providing radiotherapy using linear accelerators—Townsville, the Mater Public Hospital and the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

In all centres urgent patients are seen as a priority on the basis of clinical need.

In Townsville, the average time for patients to commence treatment is 4.3 days following booking.

At the Royal Brisbane Hospital the current waiting time to commence treatment is 7 working days down from 21 in 1998 and the waiting time at the Mater Centre is 11 working days also down from 23 in 1998. These times fluctuate slightly depending on demand and were down to 1 day delay at the Royal Brisbane Hospital in the first week of March 1999.

A new linear accelerator has been installed at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and this has had a positive impact on the waiting times for radiotherapy treatment.

The plan for expansion of radiotherapy services has been developed by the Queensland Health Oncology Advisory Panel. Queensland Health recognises the future need to provide radiotherapy services at Nambour Hospital, when it is projected that the clinical demand on the Sunshine Coast will warrant a linear accelerator. Space for this service is being allocated in the current capital works program.

132. Health Department; Dr J. Youngman

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) What is the new job title and description for former Deputy Director, John Youngman, and the reason for the change of status?
- (2) Which section of the Queensland Health Department is paying his salary package?
- (3) What salary package was provided to him in the previous position?
- (4) What is the new salary package?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

(1) The new job title is General Manager (Health Services). There is no change in role description. Given the position is responsible for the operational

aspects of Queensland Health, it was considered more appropriate for the position to be a public sector district executive position so that there was consistency across all management positions addressing operational services. Contracts and terms of conditions of employment would then be the same for all managers in the Health Services Division.

(2) Office of Director-General will continue paying the salary.

(3) The Officer was employed as a SES4.2 officer with salary consistent with that level. Normal superannuation arrangements and a car at one level below entitlement formed the remaining aspects of the salary package.

(4) Unchanged.

133. Patient Transit Scheme

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

What is the estimated total cost per district of the Patient Transit Scheme for 1998-99 and what was the actual cost per district in 1997-98?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): As at 28 February 1999, \$9.170 million has been spent on Queensland's Patient Transit Subsidy Scheme. The actual expenditure for the year ended June 1998 was \$13.3 Million.

134. Health Districts, Budgets

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) Will she provide details of the allocation of the health budget to individual district health services in 1998-99?
- (2) How does this compare with the individual district budgets and actual funding provided in 1997-98?
- (3) Will she provide a copy of the district health service's budgets which are prepared by the Finance Unit in Queensland Health each financial year?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

(1) Corporate Office is continually updating District budgets as a result of negotiations undertaken with various units of the Commonwealth to finalise Commonwealth Budget allocations. In addition, further distribution of unallocated/unfinalised State funded initiatives will be occurring as various programs are finalised. It is not meaningful to provide details of the current budget allocation for Districts for 1998/99 until all the State and Commonwealth funding distributions are finalised.

(2) All Districts received an increase in the September 1998/99 Budget, however this was not the case in the Coalition's May 1998/99 Budget.

(3) Attached is a table showing the original and final budgets for 1997/98. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

135. Wide Bay Linen Service

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) What does the Government-owned Wide Bay Linen Service cost to operate on an annual basis?
- (2) How much does the service charge each of its public health clients per kilogram of laundry?
- (3) How much per kilogram do the public health clients pay to transport their laundry to and from the linen service?
- (4) What is the linen service's annual cost of running the transport system to and from its public health clients?
- (5) What is the total amount of capital expended by Government on the Wide Bay Linen Service?
- (6) Has the capital cost been factored into the price paid by clients; if so, how much?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

(1) Wide Bay Group Linen Service cost \$1,971,976 to operate in 1997/98. The Linen Service operates on a cost recovery basis including the cost of delivery and collection.

(2) (3) & (4) The WBGLS provides linen services to 23 public facilities. Many of these facilities did not meet minimum Australian standards with unsafe infrastructure and delivered an unsatisfactory quality product. The WBGLS offers Australian Standard product to each of the facilities for a common cost. Patient services at these hospitals have been improved by the development of the WBGLS. The service contributes to cost efficiencies in the public sector. Recent increases in capacity have optimised efficiencies and enabled a decrease in the unit cost to participating public health facilities.

Consolidation of these linen services has allowed for improved environmental conditions with efficiencies in water usage and the introduction of LPG as a replacement for fossil fuels.

(5) The total cost of establishing the Wide Bay Group Linen Service was \$5.4 million. Expansion in 1998 cost an additional \$400,000.

(6) The Linen Service is not required to repay capital.

136. Public Hospitals, Spectacle Program

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

Will she guarantee that qualified people will still have access to the free hospital spectacle program throughout Queensland?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): A review of the scheme started in April 1998. Queensland Health is continuing to negotiate with representatives of the professional association for the support of the private sector.

137. Queensland Health, Director-General

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

With reference to her claims that there were budget overruns carried into 1998-99 despite her Budget papers stating "As expenditure was within the approved budget no budget supplementation was necessary"—

Did she pay her Director-General his \$60,000 performance dividend under the terms of the contract negotiated by Mr Beattie?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): A performance dividend for 1997/98 was paid to the Director-General under the terms of his Employment Contract signed by the then Premier, the Honourable R E Borbidge MLA on 15 November 1996 and in accord with a performance agreement signed by the then Minister, Mr M Horan MLA on 11 August 1997.

138. Maryborough Hospital, Redevelopment

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) When will the final plan for the Maryborough Hospital redevelopment be released to the public?
- (2) When will this long-delayed project start?
- (3) What will the redevelopment finally include and at what cost?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

(1) Following endorsement by the Maryborough Consultative Committee, completion of the Project Definition Plan with Block Plans will occur in April 1999, followed by design development of Block B and the Kitchen by the end of May 1999 and Block A by late July 1999.

(2) The project, which was delayed under the coalition government, has started.

(3) Remaining construction works outside of three construction packages completed, including the new mental health unit, will comprise:

Addressing all Building Code of Australia requirements in both Blocks A and B

Construction of new air-conditioned theatres and recovery area, plus procedures room

Air-conditioning of Block B

Provision of new triage to accident and emergency, new space for administration, additional medical records storage space, upgraded front entrance with disabled access, improved areas for pharmacy and admissions, relocation of allied health services, new morgue and minor upgrade of kitchen plus essential engineering services.

The final cost of all works will be \$17.98 million as it was with the previous Government.

139. Patient Transit Scheme

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) How much has been spent on Queensland's Patient Transit Scheme so far in 1998-99?
- (2) How much is estimated to be spent by the end of 1998-99?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): (1) & (2) As at 28 February 1999, \$9.170 million has been spent on Queensland's Patient Transit Subsidy Scheme. This compares with \$13.3 million spent on the scheme in 1997/98.

140. Public Hospitals, Accident and Emergency Waiting Times

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

In the 1998-99 Budget, will she list the individual funding allocations for each Queensland public hospital for the reduction of accident and emergency waiting times?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): The individual funding allocations for each Queensland public hospital for the reduction of accident and emergency waiting times are as follows—

Bundaberg Hospital—\$80,000
Gold Coast Hospital—\$140,000
Mackay—\$100,000
Mount Isa—\$200,000 ***
Rockhampton—\$170,000
Toowoomba—\$276,010 *
Cairns Hospital—\$242,000 *
Ipswich Hospital—\$70,000
Logan Hospital—\$70,000
Nambour Hospital—\$70,000
Princess Alexandra Hospital—\$70,000
Redcliffe Hospital—\$294,600 *
Royal Brisbane Hospital—\$172,000 **
Royal Children's Hospital—\$70,000
Townsville Hospital—\$70,000

*Includes the implementation of an Emergency Department Information System.

**Includes funding for a bed management project.

***Includes capital funding of \$100,000 for emergency department equipment.

All other funding outlined has been provided for additional emergency department staffing.

141. Queensland Health, Capital Works Projects

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) What does the Government estimate the Queensland Health Department will underspend on capital works in 1998-99?
- (2) What is the actual spending on capital works for each of the first two quarters of 1998-99?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

- (1) There will be no underspending as this Government's estimates are realistic and achievable.

(2) Actual spending for each of the first two quarters for 1998-99 is:

September 98 Quarter—\$94.081 million

December 98 Quarter—\$145.872 million.

142. Mental Health Patients

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

How many involuntary mental health patients with a history of violence are currently absent without leave from mental health institutions in Queensland?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): A total of 48 patients are registered as "absent without leave". This figure spans the period 1989 to 1999. Some of these may have committed serious offences although 80 per cent of outstanding warrants relate to individuals on approved extended leave, i.e. people who are already living in the community. These patients have been determined (by an entity authorised to make the decision) not to represent a danger to others if given leave in the community.

Warrants are followed up by Police and most of those "absent without leave" are linked back to treatment within 12 months. There is no indication that any of the patients presently "absent without leave" have come to the attention of authorities by committing further offences. Some of those currently absent are believed to be living in other States and are outside Queensland's jurisdiction.

The government is aware of a number of shortcomings in the existing Mental Health Act 1974 as it relates to this area. This is why it is so disappointing that the review of the act stalled under the coalition government. This review is now back on track as demonstrated with the tabling and release of a discussion paper, Victims of Crime and the Mental Health Act, on 23 March.

Issues such as problems with interstate jurisdiction, granting of leave etc are well canvassed in the discussion paper and will be addressed when the legislation is brought before Parliament after extensive public consultation.

143. Nambour Hospital, Ophthalmologist

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

As she told Estimates Committee E (Health) on 6 October 1998 that Nambour Hospital did not need another ophthalmologist and as the wait time for outpatient appointments is approximately 18 months, when is she going to change her mind and provide additional eye specialist support to the hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): The statement attributed to me is not correct, however the Ophthalmologist position will be filled in the near future.

Currently two locum Ophthalmologists are providing services to the Hospital and the normal number of outpatient and surgery sessions have been maintained.

144. Public Hospitals, Elective Surgery

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) Which hospitals have not met elective surgery targets?
- (2) Has this Government penalised any hospitals for not meeting these targets; if so, which ones and how much?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

- (1) The information is published quarterly in accordance with Government policy.
- (2) No hospitals have been penalised for not meeting these targets.

145. Wide Bay Linen Service

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

Will she table the annual profit and loss statement for the Wide Bay Linen Service since its inception?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): The Wide Bay Group Linen Service is a public sector entity which is part of the Fraser Coast District Health Service within Queensland Health.

Queensland Health has one set of financial statements and does not individualise Profit and Loss statements for discrete parts of a District. Based on this financial arrangement, the Wide Bay Group Linen Service, like any other District unit is simply one cost centre among many that cumulatively make up the Fraser Coast District.

146. Beaudesert Hospital, Dental Services

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

Will the Government be funding public dental services at the Beaudesert Hospital in the 1999-2000 Budget; if so, how much?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): Details of the 1999-2000 budget will be provided at the appropriate time when the budget is presented to Parliament.

147. Public Outpatients, Specialist Appointments

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) Giving a break-down specialty by specialty, how many people are currently waiting for public outpatient appointments to see a specialist in each of the Queensland health districts?
- (2) Giving a break-down specialty by specialty, how long are these people waiting for public outpatient appointments to see a specialist in each of the Queensland health districts?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

- (1) There are up to 80 or more specialties and sub-specialties on offer in Queensland hospitals.

(2) The data indicates that the waiting time for an appointment varies considerably from less than one week in some specialties in some hospitals to greater than two years, and is dependent on a number of factors such as how many doctors are available within a particular specialty.

148. Health Districts, Service Contracts

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

Will she provide details of all the health district service contracts, including amounts to be paid and service targets and the dates of the contracts being signed for each health district?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): The Health District Service agreements are operational documents which are subject to change during the financial year as additional funds for New Initiatives or other specific purposes are allocated.

The final document is therefore not available until after year end.

149. Health Districts, Dentists

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent dentist positions are there in the Queensland Health Department?
- (2) Where are they on a district by district basis?
- (3) How many of the positions are not filled?
- (4) How many of the positions have not been advertised?
- (5) Where are these unfilled positions on a district by district basis?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

- (1) As at 30 June 1998, 279.4 full-time equivalent dentist positions existed in Queensland Health.
- (2) Public Oral Health Services are delivered to all areas of the state in keeping with the Government's commitment to take services to the population.
- (3) Less than 5% of dentist positions are unfilled.
- (4) There are no vacant dentist positions which have not or are not in the process of being advertised and filled.
- (5) Currently unfilled dentist positions exist in 10 Districts.

150. Public Hospitals, Expenditure

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

What has been the actual total spending for each Queensland public hospital in 1997-98?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): District Health Services are not allocated discrete hospital budgets. District Health Services are allocated global budgets. Districts allocate individual hospitals' budgets from within this global allocation.

151. Disability Support Workers Award; Sunnybank Family Support Inc.

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

With reference to organisations funded through the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care which are receiving supplementation to implement the Disability Support Workers Award but she will not do the same for similarly affected organisations whose funding comes through the Health Department—

Why does the Government not have an equitable approach to this funding question and will she provide the Sunnybank Family Support Inc. with the \$50,000 they need to make up the extra costs under this award?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): Many of the services funded by Department of Families Youth and Community Care operate on a 24 hour, seven days per week basis—so the impact of the award is more significant.

Queensland Health through the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program provides additional funding in the form of cost supplementation to organisations to specifically address increased costs associated with service delivery. Cost supplementation is paid annually to all organisations funded by the HACC Program.

Queensland Health is liaising with Sunnybank Family Support project (funded through the HACC Program) to examine the impact of the Award given that the organisation is only funded to provide out of hours services and is not funded to provide a 24 hour per day service.

152. Caboolture-Redcliffe Health District, Budget

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) As the Caboolture-Redcliffe Health District has a budget overrun of approximately \$2m, what are all the service reductions the hospitals in this district are implementing to rein in their costs?
- (2) How many full-time equivalent permanent positions do the hospitals currently not have filled and how many of these positions are the hospitals not seeking to fill at this time due to budgetary overruns?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

(1) There has been no reduction in patients' access to facilities or services within the District.

(2) There are currently no unfilled full-time equivalent permanent positions in the District due to budgetary factors.

153. Public Hospitals, Elective Surgery

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

For 1998-99 will she list the funding allocations to date for each of the 32 major public hospitals in

Queensland for the reduction of elective surgery waiting lists and outline the elective surgery moneys yet to be distributed?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99): An additional \$14.1M in recurrent funding has been allocated this year, and \$17.9M next year in recognition of the ongoing demand for elective surgery activity. The major difference in this Government's approach is the emphasis on recurrent funding rather than a one-off injection of funds to attempt a quick fix.

154. Education Portfolio; Caboolture Electorate

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Education (9/3/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Caboolture Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Caboolture Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Caboolture Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Caboolture Electorate or which cater for the Caboolture Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Caboolture Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Caboolture, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr WELLS (7/4/99):

(1),(2),(3),(4),(5)& (6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7),(8) & (9) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government agencies, and the election commitments of this Government. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would expect the Honourable Member to involve himself in the activities of his own constituency in the usual manner of an elected representative.

155. Health Districts, Year 2000 Compliance

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

- (1) What additional financial support will the Government provide to each of the health districts in order to be Year 2000 compliant with their technology?
- (2) Have all of the health districts passed their audits for Year 2000 compliance?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

- (1) Queensland Health has a comprehensive Year 2000 program. This program has identified those high-risk items (danger to health or major business disruption) requiring rectification and is progressing these in order of priority.
- (2) The whole-of-government Year 2000 Office has set milestones for the program. These milestones are reported to Cabinet on a monthly basis. Queensland Health is complying with these milestones and the project is progressing to plan.

156. Fibre Optic Cabling in Schools

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Education (9/3/99)—

With reference to the Leading Schools Program initiated by the previous Government, Phase 2 Leading Schools were to receive funding to install fibre optic cabling by October 1998 to enable these schools to be networked and with the abandonment of the Leading Schools Program, this has not occurred and students in these schools are continuing to be disadvantaged in comparison to those funded as Phase 1 Leading Schools—

When can schools expect that this inequity will be redressed?

Mr WELLS (7/4/99): In 1997/98, Education Queensland expended \$10M to establish local area networks (LANs) in 104 Phase 1 "Leading Schools". Installation of cabling and network equipment was completed in all 104 schools by 15 June 1998.

The FY 98/99 State budget has allocated \$13.3M to the School LANs project to install a standard local area network starter kit in an additional 402 state schools throughout Queensland by 30 June 1999.

The establishment of these local area networks (LANs) will extend access to the Internet and departmental Intranet provided through the Connect-ED Project from the "school gate" across the school campus to classroom blocks.

With reference to the previous Government's "Leading School" program, the installation of fibre optic cabling in 300 Phase 2 Leading Schools was not scheduled to be completed until July 2000.

The current School LAN project is installing a standard network starter kit in all Government primary, secondary, special schools, environmental education centres and outdoor education centres, not just "Leading Schools". It is expected that all schools will have fibre optic cabling installed by 2001.

The network starter kit will provide a fibre optic backbone between the administration block and two curriculum blocks for Bands 6-11 schools, and between the administration block and one curriculum block for some larger Bands 4-5 schools. Internal copper cabling will be installed in three blocks for Bands 6-11 schools and in one or two blocks for Bands 4-5 schools.

All schools will be provided with a complete solution when the cabling and network equipment is installed so that they can immediately access the Internet and the departmental Intranet from connected computers.

The local area network infrastructure has been designed to be flexible and scalable so that it allows schools to incrementally extend their networks to meet school requirements over time.

157. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio; Whitsunday Electorate

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Whitsunday Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Whitsunday Electorate or which cater for the Whitsunday Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Whitsunday, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5) & (6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required by my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7), (8) & (9) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government agencies, and the election commitments of this Government. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would expect the Honourable Member to involve himself in the activities of his own constituency in the usual manner of an elected representative.

158. Transport and Main Roads Portfolio; Lockyer Electorate

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/3/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Lockyer Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Lockyer Electorate or which cater for the Lockyer Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Lockyer, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/4/99):

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5) & (6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7), (8) & (9) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government agencies, and the election commitments of this Government. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would expect the Honourable Member to involve himself in the activities of his own constituency in the usual manner of an elected representative.

159. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio; Ipswich West Electorate

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/3/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Ipswich West Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Ipswich West Electorate or which cater for the Ipswich West Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Ipswich West, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr BARTON (9/4/99):

QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

- (1) It is not possible to calculate on electorate boundaries.
- (2) There are no funding grants provided by the Queensland Police service to other organisations or groups in the Ipswich West Electorate.
- (3) There are no funding grants provided by the Queensland Police Service.
- (4) The Queensland Police Service does not generally provide funding grants.
- (5) The following police establishments are located within the boundaries of the Ipswich West Electorate; Leichhardt Police Beat—Toongarra Road, Leichhardt; Marburg Police Station—Queens Street, Marburg; Rosewood Police Station—John Street, Rosewood.

However some areas of Ipswich West Electorate are covered by the Ipswich Police Division, Karana Downs Police Division and Lowood Police Division. The Ipswich Criminal Investigations Branch and Juvenile Aid Bureau also investigate criminal matters within the Ipswich West Electorate. The location for these Divisions/Sections are as follows: Ipswich

Police Station—81-85 East Street, Ipswich; Karana Downs Police Station—6-8 College Road, Karana Downs; Ipswich District Criminal Investigations Branch—81-85 East Street, Ipswich; Ipswich District Juvenile Aid Bureau—12-14 Church Street, North Ipswich. The function of the Queensland Police Service and officers at the above facilities is to provide a policing service to the community. Queries relating to the Queensland Police Service operation in the Ipswich West electorate may be directed to Superintendent Irwin at the Ipswich District Headquarters.

(6) Levels of crime, traffic and population are among the indicators used, as evidence of community policing needs in the member's electorate.

(7 & 8) The current position of the Queensland Police Service is the best it has been for many years.

The Queensland Police Service is currently undertaking the largest sustained recruitment drive in Queensland policing history, with a planned net increase of 317 police officers in the 1998/99 year, and 387 in 1999/2000.

In accordance with a pre-election commitment, the Beattie Labor Government will continue to recruit at these historically high levels (between 300 and 400 yearly) until June 2005. Ipswich will receive a significant number of the new officers. The exact number will be determined by the executive of the Queensland Police Service in consultation with the Regional Assistant Commissioner.

QUEENSLAND CORRECTIVE SERVICES COMMISSION

(1) It is not possible to calculate on electorate boundaries.

(2,3,4) The Queensland Corrective Services Commission currently provides funding grants to a number of organisations that provide a service to Mr Paff's constituents located in the Ipswich West Electorate, along with other electorates in the area. These organisations are:

ACRO—Australian Community & Research Organisation Incorporated – This organisation provides a Family Support Program located at Wacol, as well as the provision of shuttle bus services to families of prisoners from the Wacol Station to a number of Correctional Centres in the Wacol precinct. ACRO received a grant of \$80,000 from QCSC for the 1998/99 financial year.

Ipswich Regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Legal Services—This organisation provides support programs for the reintegration of newly released Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from Correctional Centres. Ipswich ATSI Corporation received a grant for \$10,000 from QCSC for the 1998/99 financial year.

Operation Kinder Community Association Incorporated—This organisation provides a number of support services, including counselling and assistance with accommodation and relocation of newly released prisoners and their families. Operation Kinder Community Association received a grant

of \$5,000 from QCSC for the 1998/99 financial year.

Prison Transport Group—This organisation provides bus services to families living in Brisbane, including the Ipswich area who may wish to visit prisoners at a number of Correctional Centres throughout South East Queensland. Prison Transport Group received a grant of \$35,000 from QCSC for the 1998/99 financial year.

A detailed review of the Grants Program is currently being undertaken. This review will include consultation with major funded organisations and key stake holders. It is anticipated that this review will be completed in the near future. At that time, the proposals for the 1999/2000 funding round will be indicated.

(5) The Borallon Correctional Centre at Ivan Lane, Borallon, is positioned in the Ipswich West Electorate. This centre, although constructed to high security standards, currently operates as a medium security facility. The Ipswich Community Corrections office has operated in Ipswich for a period of more than 20 years. In January 1997 it was relocated to new premises at 285 Brisbane Road, Ipswich. It is located in the Hon David Hamill's electorate of Ipswich, however, also caters for the entire Ipswich West Electorate. There are fourteen staff members comprising both full-time and part-time members. The primary role of the service is the supervision of offenders placed on community based orders. Queries relating to the operation of QCSC facilities in the Ipswich West electorate may be directed to either my own office or the office of the Director-General.

Currently the Ipswich Community Corrections office services the entire Ipswich area.

(6) In respect to the question of continued service, the future of the Ipswich Community Corrections office will be determined by the needs as indicated from time to time.

(7) The Ipswich office is continually seeking new community service projects for placement of offenders subject to orders containing a community service component. It is always advantageous to the operations of the office to acquire additional projects.

(8) In respect to your offer of assistance in the implementation of proposed plans, there are benefits to be gained in the provision of offers of encouragement to community groups/organisations to consider applying to become community service projects. Once a project is approved, offenders are assigned to the project to perform a required number of unpaid community service hours.

QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE AND QUEENSLAND CORRECTIVE SERVICES COMMISSION

(9) As Minister, I frequently provide advice publicly on police and corrective services activities in your region and electorate. You may assist in one of two ways, either by passing this information on to your constituents, or by raising specific issues on behalf of your constituents with me in writing, or exercising your right to ask me questions in the Parliament.

160. Criminal Justice Commission, Comments on Police Investigation

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (10/3/99)—

With reference to a finding in a Magistrates Court hearing as fact in the matter of R v Doring, that the investigating police have physically moved evidence (property), placing that property in a position which was a breach of an Act and as this property was then photographed in this position other than where it was originally located to support a possible charge or the revocation of a licence—

How can the CJC say in a letter that this does not provide a reasonable basis for suspicion of official misconduct?

Mr BEATTIE (31/3/99): Matters relating to the operational activities of the Criminal Justice Commission are not within my Ministerial control. The Criminal Justice Commission reports to the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee, and the Honourable Member may therefore wish to refer his question to that Committee.

161. Firearms Buyback; Mr T. Cleaver; Nioa Trading

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/3/99)—

- (1) Were the computers containing the Government firearm buy back records auctioned on or about January 1998?
- (2) Have the Government's records of the buy back gone missing?
- (3) Did the CJC subpoena Tony Cleaver and the electronic computer records?
- (4) Was compensation under the buy back only payable for Category C and D weapons?
- (5) Was Nioa Trading paid \$500 for a Ruger 44 calibre lever action, serial number 102-33511 on 23 December 1996?

Mr BARTON (9/4/99):

(1) The buy Back program contractor, DAS Distribution, sold a quantity of computers at auction in December 1997. The contract with the Queensland Police Service stipulated that all information was to be removed from computers before sale. It has been alleged that some information was left on one computer. This matter is under investigation by the Police and CJC. It is inappropriate for me to comment further.

(2) No.

(3) As you would be aware, this matter is currently being investigated by the CJC. It is inappropriate for anyone other than the CJC and affected parties to be privy to the information that you requested.

(4) No. Compensation was also paid for Category R weapons, dealers' parts relating to C, D and R weapons, and private-for-owner accessories unique to surrendered weapons. Further compensation is being paid to dealers for loss of business. Also, where a business is judged to have been rendered not viable by the APMC resolutions, dealers are being compensated at cost price for all firearms

related stock, including categories A, B and H weapons and their parts, accessories, and manuals.

(5) I do not believe it is appropriate for me to release information relating to individual compensation payments.

162. D'Aguilar Suncoast Processing Plant

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (10/3/99)—

With reference to concerns of the recent disaster caused by rains at the D'Aguilar Suncoast Processing Plant—

- (1) What were/are the previous current and future standards of operation of the site?
- (2) What is the situation regarding heavy metals and cyanide in open pit (freely open to ground water)?
- (3) Who is responsible for the current problem and have they been approached to rectify the situation to an appropriate environmental standard?
- (4) Who is accountable for this and future disasters when this company ceases to exist?
- (5) Will he give assurances that this situation will be fixed at the end of production and all possible steps will be taken to ensure that it will not happen again?

Mr McGRADY (9/4/99): Before responding to specific questions made by Mrs Pratt, I can advise that there was no disaster caused by the recent rain at the D'Aguilar Suncoast Processing Plant which is also known as the Shamrock Mine, Kilkivan.

(1) The standards of operation at this site are controlled by Department of Mines and Energy (DME) Environmental Management Overview Strategy (EMOS) Conditions, Environmental Protection Act (EPA) Environmental Licence Conditions and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Tailings Dam Licence Conditions. DME and DNR are currently working with D'Aguilar Gold to better manage a range of environmental issues that were inherited from the past. A detailed environmental compliance assessment audit of the site has been conducted by two senior departmental Environmental Officers. As a result of this audit, a number of Orders to Comply will be issued to D'Aguilar Gold in the near future and the DME will ensure that these Orders are closed out within the given time limit.

(2) Freeboard in the open pit currently stands at approximately nine metres. This water is being treated with hydrogen peroxide to destroy any cyanide. This treatment will continue until the Department of Mines and Energy is satisfied that cyanide levels are below one part per million throughout the pit. The water then will be used for processing gold ore while the heavy metals will be pumped back through the plant and into the tailings dam. Monitoring of water in the open pit and in nearby Collins Creek is being maintained.

(3) D'Aguilar Gold management has failed to meet a number of environmental and mandatory reporting standards. Operations at the processing plant have been shut down until such time as the company can demonstrate (a) that all cyanide levels have been reduced below one part per million and (b) that the level of water in the tailings dam is below a new mandatory reporting level to be established by DNR's Dam Safety Unit. DNR will be gazetting the open pit as a Referable Dam in respect to control of contaminated waters that it may contain.

(4) It is not expected that the company will cease to exist. Nevertheless, the DME holds a substantial security deposit which is being further reviewed as part of the recent Environmental Audit. In addition, D'Aguilar Gold has reported good gold reserves at the nearby Tablelands Prospect over which a mining lease will soon be granted.

(5) There is currently no planned life-of-mine for the site. Eventual surrender of the mining leases in this project will not be accepted until all environmental conditions have been met. The recent significant increase in the number of Environmental Officers in the DME will ensure that increased environmental regulation of this and other mine sites will be possible.

163. Ravenshoe Swimming Pool

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (10/3/99)—

With reference to the swimming pool at Ravenshoe—

Why can't his office find \$16,000 to upgrade this much needed facility in a small country town?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99): The member has suggested a cost of \$16,000 to repair the pool site. The Herberton Shire Council has not verified this cost. The Council is unwilling to develop a facility which would cost ratepayers in maintenance, management and supervision costs.

In the last round of my Department's Minor Facilities Program, over \$540,000 was spent on building or improving sport and recreation facilities in Far North Queensland, and over \$106,000 on facilities in the Tablelands area, including \$50,000 for a multi-purpose sport and recreation facility in Ravenshoe.

164. Miles, Bank Closures

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (10/3/99)—

With reference to the announcements by CBA and Westpac that they intend to close their Miles branches and as there are allegations that at least one of these banks has recently renegotiated loans with some customers for up to 5 years and these customers, if they now choose to move their accounts to another bank, face severe penalty charges if they break their arrangements with the bank and bearing in mind the bank could well have known it intended to close the Miles branch when it renegotiated these loans—

Are there legal grounds for the customers concerned to sue for breach of contract by the bank involved?

Mr FOLEY (9/4/99): Standing Order 68(c)(ii) provides that questions shall not ask for a legal opinion so I will confine my answer to providing your constituents with information as to possible avenues of assistance.

Bank customers in the Miles area could contact the Farm Finance Service operated by Legal Aid Queensland. This service specialises in providing advice to people living in rural communities throughout Queensland. Its personnel has particular expertise in banking law. Contact details for its head office are:

C/- Legal Aid Office
6th Floor
QIDC Building
34 East Street
Rockhampton

Ph: 0408 983 916

Fax: (07) 49224 978

Any persons adversely affected by a bank's actions in this way may also seek advice from, or make complaints to, the Banking Ombudsman whose contact details are:

GPO Box 3A
Melbourne Vic 3001

Freecall: 1800 337 444

Ph: (03) 9613 7344.

165. Apprentices and Trainees

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

Will he provide details of the number of apprentices and trainees employed in (a) December 1998, (b) January 1999 and (c) February 1999 as a direct consequence of the introduction of the Portable Long Service Leave Training Levy to boost training in the building and construction industry?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): The Building and Construction Industry Training Fund (Qld) came into effect 1 January 1999. As a result (a), (b), and (c) are nil.

166. Apprentices and Trainees

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to his Question Time Brief ET14, obtained under FOI, which consists of a list of industries and occupations which the Government's Jobs Policy Council on 23 September endorsed as areas of skill shortage and areas vital to the continued economic growth of Queensland and which also states the Government's aim to employ over 3 years an additional 7,500 apprentices and trainees in the industries and occupations listed—

Will he indicate, against each industry and occupation listed (a) the number of (i) apprentices

and (ii) trainees employed in 1997-98, (b) the number of additional public sector apprentices and trainees now employed in each of the listed industries and occupations as a direct consequence of the Beattie Government's employment initiatives and (c) the number of additional private sector apprentices and trainees now employed in each of the listed industries and occupations as a direct consequence of the Beattie Government's employment initiatives?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

(a) The list of apprentices and trainees employed in 1997-98 against each industry and occupation listed as endorsed by the Jobs Policy Council as areas of skill shortages is attached.

(b) & (c) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

167. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 664 in which he indicated that "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"—

As the same situation would apply to private enterprise employers, why was his major advertising campaign conducted in October?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): The timing corresponds with the end of the academic year when students who are considering leaving school begin to approach employers seeking jobs. As a result, many employers make decisions at the end of a calendar year for employment to commence after the Christmas/New Year period.

A second advertising campaign was conducted throughout the State in January/February to coincide with the peak period when school leavers and graduates are entering the labour market.

168. Trainees

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

- (1) As his department's policy of not allowing existing workers to be signed up as trainees was not to be instituted until 1999, why was the purchasing branch attempting in 1998 to penalise training providers for breaching his new policy?
- (2) Including those in the Departments of Health and Education, how many already employed trainees have been signed up by his department so far in 1999 in contradiction to his brand new "no existing workers" policy?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

- (1) The 1999 Policy for Existing Workers in Apprenticeships and Traineeships was not applied

by the Purchasing Branch to training delivered and paid for under the 1998 User Choice Contract.

(2) The Department has been assured by other departments that the guidelines of the Existing Workers Policy 1999 are being adhered to. The Department is checking that the policy has been applied correctly to all training agreements.

169. Labour Adjustment Fund

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 678 of Tuesday, 20 October 1998, in which he indicated that "the guidelines for the adjustment fund are currently being developed for consideration by government" and as considerable time has elapsed since this question was asked and even more has elapsed since the scheme was first promised—

- (1) Have the guidelines been finalised; if so, will he table them?
- (2) Will he now answer the actual question that was asked on 20 October 1998 and indicate precisely where in the budget documents, funding to cover this promise is allocated?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): (1) & (2) This issue is still under consideration by Government for introduction in 1999/2000.

170. Trainees

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to Employment Taskforce Brief ET 9, obtained under FOI, which indicates, under the heading "Public Sector", the Government's target of 6,000 public sector traineeships per annum and also indicates that "Traineeships available include hospitality, clerical, advanced engineering, childcare, correctional practice and construction"—

Will he indicate how many public sector trainees have to date commenced their training in each of the six traineeship areas listed?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): The document to which the Member refers was a draft and is wrong. The government's target is the employment of 6,000 trainees in the public sector over three years. As at 17 March 1999: Hospitality—4; Clerical—402; Advanced Engineering—3; Child Care—1; Correctional Practice—0; Construction—1.

171. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to Schedule 1—Quotas, which was attached to his response to Question on Notice No. 714—

Will he table the completed schedule for each department or Government agency, together with

the number of (a) apprentices and (b) trainees employed within each department or agency as at 1 March?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): As at 1 March, complete figures for state government departments and government agencies were not available. This data will be available by the end of April 1999 at which time I will provide the Member with the information requested.

172. Community Jobs Plan

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to Document ET10 obtained under FOI and which states, "Where the applicant intends to recruit some of the participants for a project from a Flex 3 provider, the applicant will also need to specify in their submission the portion of the Flex 3 provider's fee or an in-kind contribution which will be made to the project" and whilst he may feel that he has an ethical obligation to ensure that community jobs plan funds are not used to generate increased profits for job network service providers—

As a lawyer, will he specify the legal basis for his policy which requires a significant financial or in-kind kickback from community jobs plan applications?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): While the question is unclear, there are no in kind kickbacks from community jobs plan applications. The procedure is allowable under Commonwealth Government guidelines.

173. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 665 which seems to imply that the Beattie Government over the next three years will count the first 9,000 apprenticeships and traineeships to be filled by school-leavers and other unemployed, then announce that the Government has met its promised target, ignoring the fact that these 9,000 would have been employed anyway, particularly as Dr Kemp's Federal initiative will create more than 50,000 apprenticeships and traineeships in Queensland over the next years at a cost of \$126m—

If the Beattie Government is not intending to fudge the figures in this way, how will he distinguish those apprentices and trainees filling "additional job opportunities" he has created through his specific initiatives from those filling all other job opportunities, particularly those job opportunities arising from normal economic growth?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): The public sector and construction industry initiatives are new and apprentices and trainees employed under these initiatives will be additional. In relation to the private sector, the additionality is calculated from 30 September 1998 and is applied after the probationary period has been completed and continued employment has been verified.

174. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 896 which was based on the NCVET document entitled "Number of Clients for the 1996-97 Annual Statistics (1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997) by State/Territory by Contract Status" and to the data in this document which is most comprehensive and not limited to new commencements as indicated in his response—

Will he quote directly from these statistics those which validate Dr Smith's statement which was referred to in Question on Notice No. 896?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): Dr Smith's report is quoting 1998 figures. Trainees in training increased from 14,156 in 1996/97 to 26,946 in 1997/98. Interstate comparisons for 1996-97 provide little assistance for training policy in Queensland in the light of that growth.

Irrespective of what is happening in other states, the issue for Queensland is whether it is appropriate for our future workforce to have such a dramatic escalation in trainee numbers in progress given that a significant proportion of that growth was existing workers and the existence of low completion rates, while traditional apprenticeship numbers were falling. That is the policy issue, including the possible transfer of training costs from the private to the public sector that is being investigated by my Department.

175. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, VERs

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 742—

- (1) Will he table the document from which he obtained the information that TAFE institutes "lost \$31m as a result of the haste to introduce user choice and competitively funded training"?
- (2) If the original source document does not provide (a) the breakdown of this alleged loss on an institute by institute basis and (b) the number and costs of staff "surplus to requirements" at each TAFE institute, will he provide this information?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

(1) The documents in which the consultant obtained the information were the 1997/98 Ministerial Program Statement and the 1998/99 Ministerial Portfolio Statement. The amount "in the order of \$31m over two years" was estimated on the information disclosed within these documents. The amount was increased to \$34m in the Bannikoff Report after further information indicated that the loss was higher than initially estimated.

(2) As the estimated loss was based upon totals for all sixteen TAFE institutes, a breakdown is not available.

176. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Purchasing Branch

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to claims he made at the Estimates Committee meeting on 7 October 1998 to the effect that private providers were impressed with the efficiency of his administration in paying their claims, however, as my office has information to the contrary, including two departmental documents—

Will he table the monthly statistics from Purchasing Branch relating to claim processing times from 30 June 1998 to 1 March 1999?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

Claim Processing Times for Competitive Tendering and User Choice

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In the majority of cases where claims were processed outside the 20 working day benchmark, Registered Training Providers did not provide full and correct information in accordance with contractual requirements.

177. Registered Training Organisations and TAFE Training Contracts, Audits

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to departmental audits of registered training organisations—

- (1) From 1 July 1998 to 28 February 1999, how many audits per month were conducted in each region of the State?
- (2) In that period how many RTOs in each region were audited (a) twice, (b) three times and (c) more than three times?
- (3) In that period how many TAFE training contracts were subject to similar audits (per month, per institute)?
- (4) How many of the audits conducted in January and February related to training contracts which had expired in 1998?
- (5) Why were these audits not conducted prior to the completion of the contracts to which the audits related?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

(1) Attachment A depicts the number of registration and contractual audits conducted in each region of the State for the period 1 July 1998 to 28 February 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) Attachment B details the number of Registered Training Organisations that were audited twice, three times and more than three times for the period 1 July 1998 to 28 February 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) Nil

(4) 16

(5) All reasonable efforts were made to conduct audits during the term of the contract. However, there will always be instances where the Department will audit prior to the awarding of a new contract. This awarding is a risk management issue to ensure accountability for the allocation of public funds.

178. Industry Task Forces

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to his establishment of the Construction Industry Task Force to address skills shortages in that industry and given that he has also identified the engineering, tourism, hospitality and furnishing industries as industries of skill shortage—

Why have task forces not been established to assist these industries?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): The circumstances and strategies for each industry are different.

179. Bannikoff Report

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

- (1) Will he advise the cost of (a) printing and (b) distributing the Bannikoff Report?
- (2) Was the printing outsourced; if so, (a) which firm/individual won the tender and (b) were the requirements of the State Purchasing Policy fully adhered to?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

- (1) (a) \$6133.02; (b) The only costs involved related to postage for which no detailed cost was kept.
- (2) No. (a) not applicable; (b) not applicable.

180. Apprentices and Trainees; Smith Report

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

As the glossary in the Smith Report does not include key terms such as "traineeship" or "new apprenticeship", will he quote from the glossary those terms and definitions which he believes flow Question on Notice No. 896?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): Question on Notice No. 896 was flawed for two reasons.

First, your question cited commencement figures, when Dr Smith referred to apprentices and trainees in training. The difference between these statistics—which can be found in the Glossary to the Smith Report—is very important, given that apprenticeship programs generally are for four years while traineeships generally are for one year or less.

Second, you cite 1996-97 statistics when Dr Smith, in relation to the issue, cites best available figures for 1 July 1998. The situation in Queensland changed

dramatically in that one year, with trainee numbers almost doubling and exceeding apprentice numbers.

181. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 754, the memorandum referred to states "Workplace Services (Business Development Division) is currently working to determine the number of staff involved" and to his indication that he believes that this process did not involve any survey of staff—

Will he indicate the number of displaced staff determined by Workplace Services (Business Development Division) by whatever data collection processes the division used?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): No staff have been displaced as at 9 April 1999.

182. Bannikoff Review; Workplace Consulting Queensland

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

- (1) How much was paid to Workplace Consulting Queensland for its strategic review of employee and industrial relations which provided source material for the Bannikoff Review?
- (2) Did the granting of this consultancy fully comply with the requirements of the State Purchasing policy?
- (3) On what date did this consultancy commence?
- (4) On what date was the consultancy contract signed and by whom was it signed?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

- (1) \$30,284.
- (2) The granting of this contract satisfies all relevant requirements of the Queensland Government State Purchasing Policy.

In this case the use of the standard formal Consultancy Agreement was unnecessary as the Director-General of DETIR is the accountable person for both TAFE and Workplace Consulting Queensland. Acceptance of this contract was simply an administrative arrangement between two sections of the one Department.

The parties in this case exchanged letters to confirm details of the arrangements between them. (refer to the answer to Question 4).

- (3) 7 August 1998.
- (4) Letter signed by W. Lee, Director, Workplace Consulting Queensland on 6 August 1998.

Letter signed by K. Bannikoff, Principal Consultant, TAFE Queensland Review Team on 7 August 1998.

183. Trainees and Apprentices

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to the following statement in his Employment Taskforce Brief ET 9 and obtained under FOI "An additional 6,000 public sector traineeships per annum and 500 Public Sector apprenticeships over three years will ensure that Government Departments make a significant contribution to the Government's employment initiatives" and to his Employment Taskforce Brief ET 15 which claims, "One feature of the Breaking the Unemployment cycle initiatives is the employment of 6,000 additional trainees within the public sector over three years. The State Government Departments have an existing recruitment benchmark of 400 trainees and will employ an additional 1,400 trainees per year. This equates to the employment of 1,800 trainees in State Government departments each year for the next three years"—

Of the above three differing sets of information concerning public sector traineeships (a) 6,000 per annum, (b) 6,000 over 3 years and (c) 1,800 per annum for 3 years, which, if any, is the Government's target?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): The document to which the Member refers was a draft copy and is wrong. The government's target is the employment of 6000 trainees in the public sector over three years.

184. Professor Viviani

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to his brief ESU 1, obtained under FOI, and to the contract signed by his director-general in relation to the consultancy entered into with Professor Viviani—

- (1) Why was this agreement signed so long after the date advised to him in ESU1?
- (2) When the contract simply agreed to pay \$1000 per day, plus expenses and indicated no limit, on what evidence was the expectation of a total cost of \$16,000 based?
- (3) What was the total cost, including expenses and the value of departmental in-kind contributions (eg. support staff salary or wages costs)?
- (4) Prior to commencing the project, what evidence did the consultant provide in relation to the required (a) public liability insurance cover and (b) professional indemnity insurance cover?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

- (1) The exception to the requirements of the State Purchasing Policy was approved on 4 August 1998. The contract was signed on 4 September 1998. ESU 1 was in error.
- (2) The experience of the Project Team.

The final cost was \$11,000.

(3) Nil.

(4) The contract at Clause 19.2 and 19.4 provides for public liability insurance and professional indemnity.

185. Coorparoo TAFE Campus; Queen Alexandra Home

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to his responses to Questions on Notice Nos. 545 and 712 which indicate difficulty in understanding the original question—

Has the Member for Greenslopes sent him any form of written communication concerning the Coorparoo TAFE Campus and/or the Queen Alexandra Home; if so, will he table the communication(s) and his response(s)?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): The Member for Greenslopes wrote to me on 14 August 1998 to outline the pre-election commitment given in respect on the Coorparoo-Queen Alexandra precinct and to request advice on what action could be taken to advance the matter. This communication is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In lieu of a written response, a preliminary meeting was held between relevant Departments and stakeholders.

186. Youth Jobs Day '98

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to a Question Time Brief of 9 September 1998 and Matters for the Minister's Attention of 24 August and 28 September, obtained under FOI, which refer to "Youth Jobs Day '98"—

With almost two months to plan, and with the Government's avowed commitment to jobs, jobs, jobs, why was his department unable to devote sufficient resources (as planned) to enable it to phone each of the 275 young unemployed people who applied for the 115 mainly casual or part-time positions on offer?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): The vacant positions that were available at the Youth Jobs Day were primarily low-skilled hospitality and retail jobs where personal presentation was one of the prime requirements. Shortlisting by means of phone interviews would have been inappropriate given the nature of these positions. DETIR therefore assessed applications on the basis of the written information provided by attendees to Morgan and Banks. Each applicant's details were provided to at least one of the employers, who were to contact the applicants if they considered them suitable for interview.

187. Southbank Institute of TAFE

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

(1) How advanced are plans to allocate to other institutes the management of several training areas currently based at Southbank Institute of TAFE?

(2) What cost savings could be achieved if such an option is implemented?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): (1) & (2) The Southbank Institute of TAFE has no plans to allocate the management of any training area to other institutes.

188. TAFE

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

(1) What was the gross value and comparative percentage of contestable funds won by TAFE in January and February 1998?

(2) What are the figures for January and February 1999?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

(1) The total value of contestable funds contracted to TAFE in the months of January and February 1998 was \$12,542,402. This is compared to the percentage of the total contract value awarded to non-TAFE providers in the same period. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) In comparison the total amount of contestable funds contracted to TAFE in January and February 1999 was \$48,217,285. This is compared to the percentage of the total contract value awarded to non-TAFE providers in the same period. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

189. Capital Development Plan

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to part 4 of his response to Question on Notice No. 578 in which he states "The ANTA mid-year review of the Capital Development Plan was endorsed on 5 August 1998" and to Question on Notice No. 500 which was asked on 6 August 1998 and to his response which was dated 3 September 1998—

Why did his response to this question indicate that negotiations (in relation to the Capital Development Plan) were "not yet finalised" when they had already been endorsed?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): The mid-year review of the 1998 Capital Development Plan was completed and subsequently endorsed by ANTA on 20th August 1998.

This review was to report progress on existing projects to ANTA to enable funds to continue. The revised priorities of the Government were reflected in the State Budget in September 1998 and in two important reviews, the review of the TAFE information technology projects in September and the Bannikoff review of TAFE in December. These

reports led to further changes in the 1998 Capital Development Plan.

190. TAFE Institutes, Council Directors

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

- (1) Will he table any administrative instructions which have been sent to the chairpersons of TAFE institute councils in relation to their approving of institute director's leave applications?
- (2) Are such chairpersons provided with access to the Department's HRM system to enable them to ascertain departmental officers' leave balances?
- (3) What legal liabilities could chairpersons incur if the department's director-general or the institute director's union subsequently disagrees with a decision the chairperson makes, either to grant leave or refuse leave?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

- (1) Yes, see attached papers. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The legal liability or consequence where the department's director-general disagrees with the decision the chairperson makes, either to grant leave or refuse leave is that the director-general may revoke wholly or partly the chairperson's power to grant or refuse leave.

191. Southbank Institute of TAFE

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

- (1) Will he detail corrective action he implemented after reading in Attachment 4 of the Strategic Review of Employee and Industrial Relations conducted as part of the TAFE Queensland Review, that Southbank Institute did not have systems in place to monitor teacher hours?
- (2) What corrective action did he take after reading on page 20 of the same report that a number of institutes are encountering difficulty in getting individual teachers to apply for sick leave where absences occur?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

- (1) The Institute is now implementing the use of CAP, the College Administrative Program, to collect the details which enable the monitoring of teacher and tutor hours.

CAP is a system used extensively throughout Institutes to monitor teacher and tutor hours, in particular for annualisation purposes under the TAFE Queensland Certified Agreement, and has been implemented for this purpose at Southbank Institute at minimal cost and disruption to normal operational processes.

(2) The responsibility for managing absenteeism lies with Institute Directors, managers and individual staff. Individual responsibilities in managing sick leave are clearly identified in DETIR Policy Statement 19—Managing Absenteeism. The introduction of Aurion (the new Human Resource Information System) will enable online entry and verification of sick leave. This coupled with the proposed interface with CAP (College Administrative Program), annualisation of hours and the recording of teacher timetables, and attendance will ensure that all leave is captured.

192. Apprentices; Pastrycooks and Hairdressers

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to his Question Time Brief ET 18, obtained under FOI, and its attachments, together with Question Time Brief ET 14 and as the latter document, together with Attachment 1 of ET 18, lists the occupations of pastry cook and hairdresser as areas of skills shortage however they are not included in Attachment 2 which also claims to list skill shortages and to Brief ET 18 which states in part, "a list of the entire range of industries eligible for subsidies is located in Attachment 2"—

Does absence of skill shortage areas of pastry cook and hairdresser from Attachment 2 indicate that employers of additional apprentices in these trade areas will not receive State Government subsidy or is it the case that the information in the above documents is unreliable?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): The employers of Pastry Cooking apprentices are eligible to receive the State Government private sector apprenticeship and traineeship employment subsidy. The employers of Hairdressing apprentices are not.

193. Professor Viviani

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

- (1) As the contract for the Viviani consultancy was expected to be worth over \$10,000, were "Invitations to Offer" sent to at least three genuine competitors as required by State purchasing policy and set out in the department's own administrative instructions; if not, why not?
- (2) If the answer to the above refers to aspects relating to urgency, does that urgency reflect factors other than poor administrative planning; if so, what are those other factors?
- (3) Why wasn't the contract for this consultancy signed until the consultancy was well advanced?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99):

- (1) No, the consultancy was regarded as a sole or limited supplier and it was therefore deemed unnecessary for offers to be sent to other competitors.

(2) Urgency was not a consideration. The contract was awarded on recognised industry experience and availability.

(3) Refer to question on notice 184.

194. Apprentices

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/3/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 731 in which he states, "In respect to the Public Sector, apprenticeships will be aligned to the occupational grouping of individual departments and agencies"—

Will he list all departments and agencies and, beside each, signify its 'occupational grouping' and the apprenticeships aligned with that 'occupational grouping'?

Mr BRADY (9/4/99): Departments recruit apprentices in the fields or occupational groupings where they are capable of providing supervised training. The list is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

195. Political Parties, Parliamentary Entitlements

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier (10/3/99)—

What are the currently adopted guidelines for this Parliament to recognise a bona fide political party and what recognition, remuneration and other entitlements are currently afforded the Liberal Party in Queensland?

Mr BEATTIE (31/3/99): Section 5(2) of the Parliamentary Members' Salaries Act 1988 (the Act) currently defines a recognised political party as "one of which 10 members at least are members of the Legislative Assembly and none of such members is a Minister".

The Parliamentary Liberal Party currently has nine members in the Legislative Assembly and therefore does not qualify as a recognised political party. While the Party is not entitled to the benefits afforded a recognised political party under the Members' Entitlements Handbook (the Handbook), the Handbook makes provision for the leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party. The Leader is currently entitled to an office allowance of \$3,118 per annum; an additional 10 days travel allowance and 10 return flights within Queensland per annum to attend to parliamentary business; and additional home telephone reimbursement.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet provides resources to the Leader of the Liberal Party by virtue of it being part of the official Opposition. The budget for 1998-99 is \$1.836m including an original budget of \$1.761m plus up to \$75,000 for upgrading office computers in 1999. The Leader of the Opposition is responsible for allocation of these resources between the Coalition parties. Resources provided to the Opposition coalition are: 19 full time and 1 part

time staff members; computer equipment and associated office equipment; chauffeur-driven cars for the Leader of the Opposition and for the Leader of the Liberal Party, a car for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and 4 office cars; and office accommodation at Parliament House and 80 Albert Street.

196. Housing, Effect of GST; Logan Electorate, Public Housing

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/3/99)—

(1) What impact will the Federal Government's GST have on housing in Queensland?

(2) What effects will this have on the Government's ability to upgrade security screens and the ongoing maintenance program in the Logan electorate?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/4/99):

(1) If the proposed GST legislation proceeds, I am greatly concerned about the impact in Queensland on the private sector home purchase and rental markets and the department's social housing programs. While it is difficult to predict potential amendments or changes to the proposed GST legislation, my departmental officers have undertaken some preliminary costings of the financial impact of the GST on the department's programs. The initial estimates, using the 1998/99 departmental budget as a base, indicate that the financial impact upon the department is in the order of \$30M per annum. The financial impact of the GST on housing will be the subject of ongoing analysis by my departmental officers. This analysis, together with clarification of a number of issues likely to affect the department, should over time result in a more robust estimate of the financial impact of the GST.

(2) Such a financial impact on the department will have a significant effect on its ability to deliver housing assistance, including an adverse impact on its on-going maintenance and upgrade programs. The level of activity under these programs will be reduced unless the department is compensated for increased costs caused by the GST.

197. Remote Area Power Supply Rebate Scheme

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (11/3/99)—

With reference to a rebate under the remote area power supply rebate scheme of up to 75 percent or \$7,500, whichever is the lesser, provided a person satisfies the conditions—

(1) Why does this rebate not apply to rental properties or retail outlets?

(2) Is there any intention to change the rebate scheme to encompass rental properties or retail outlets?

(3) If a retail outlet also provides power supply to community and emergency services, are they then entitled to the rebate?

Mr McGRADY (30/3/99):

(1) The Remote Area Power Supply (RAPS) Rebate Scheme is designed to provide assistance to householders in remote locations without access to the electricity grid, in meeting their power requirements.

The intent of the RAPS is to provide a public rather than a private good in keeping with the best principles of equity and justice. In providing such it is not the intention of this Government to underwrite private investment opportunities, but rather to aid homeowners provide power to their principal place of residence.

(2) There is no intention to change the rebate scheme to encompass rental properties or retail outlets.

(3) No retail outlet is entitled to a rebate.

198. Premier and Cabinet Portfolio; Ipswich West Electorate

Mr PAFF asked the Premier (11/3/99)—

(1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Ipswich West Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?

(2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?

(3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?

(4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?

(5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Ipswich West Electorate or which cater for the Ipswich West Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?

(6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?

(7) What is planned for the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?

(8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?

(9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Ipswich West, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr BEATTIE (31/3/99):

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), & (6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7), (8) & (9) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government agencies, and the election commitments of this Government. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would expect the Honourable Member to involve himself in the activities of his own constituency in the usual manner of an elected representative.

199. Environment and Heritage and Natural Resources Portfolio; Whitsunday Electorate

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

(1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Whitsunday Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?

(2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?

(3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?

(4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?

(5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Whitsunday Electorate or which cater for the Whitsunday Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?

(6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?

(7) What is planned for the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?

(8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?

(9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Whitsunday, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99):

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5) & (6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7), (8) & (9) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government agencies, and the election commitments of this Government. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would expect the Honourable Member to involve himself in the activities of his own constituency in the usual manner of an elected representative.

200. Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities Portfolio; Lockyer Electorate

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (11/3/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Lockyer Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Lockyer Electorate or which cater for the Lockyer Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Lockyer, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr MACKENROTH (9/4/99): With regards to parts (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) of his Question, I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

With regard to parts (7), (8) and (9) of the Question, I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government agencies, and the election commitments of this Government. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would expect the Honourable Member to involve himself in the activities of his own constituency in the usual manner of an elected representative.

201. Complete Riding School, Accident

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/3/99)—

With reference to his promised reply within 10 days to Mrs Kathy Kendall given at the Community Cabinet meeting at Caboolture on 14 February—

- (1) Does he intend to establish an accident inquiry tribunal, which he has the legislative power to do, to investigate the accident at the Complete Riding School, Ningi, in which Mrs Kendall's son, Ben, 8 years, was seriously injured on 19 April 1997?
- (2) As the files on the incident reveal at best, a very shoddy investigation or a mindset on a predetermined outcome, what is his intention in this matter?

Mr BRADY (12/4/99): (1) and (2) Following my meeting with Mrs Kathy Kendall at Caboolture, I arranged a meeting between Mrs Kendall and the General Manager of the Division of Workplace Health and Safety, and the Director, Workplace Health and Safety. I am considering a report of the meeting in order to respond to Mrs Kendall's request for a Board of Inquiry.

202. Kilcoy State School

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Education (11/3/99)—

With reference to the students of Kilcoy State School who are exposed to danger every time they enter their science class room and the home economics room as in the science room, the storage room is such that the storage of chemicals poses a threat to the students with the situation at its worst with the possibility of accidental combining of chemicals which would result in an explosion and as funding had been allocated to the school for a modern toilet block but the needs to address the safety issue raised by the above situation has not been addressed, even though an extensive submission was submitted to the Minister from Kilcoy school—

- (1) Is he aware that each student is required to carry hot water from the one sink to their work benches, risking not only a soaking but also the possibility of scalding?
- (2) When will funding be made available to address these safety issues that threaten the children of Kilcoy State School every day?

Mr WELLS (12/4/99): I have been advised by the department that Kilcoy State High School is complying with mandatory workplace health and safety requirements, as required under the Workplace Health and Safety Act 1998.

The school has an appointed Workplace Health and Safety Officer and that officer and others involved in the storage of chemicals have received appropriate workplace health and safety training, including instruction in the safe storage of chemicals.

The school is also observing all relevant legislative and departmental policy requirements regarding the storage of chemicals.

While the school is meeting all mandatory workplace health and safety requirements, it has requested an upgrade of facilities, including provision of a new science storage room. That request is being progressed as part of the department's broader capital works program.

203. Disability Program; Purpose-built Vessel

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/3/99)—

With reference to my interest in having a purpose built vessel for the disabled, trailable, approximately 8 metres in length, 2.44 metres beam, powered by an 80 hp outboard with wheel chair toilet access and arrangements, so that disabled people could fish from their chairs and as construction would be flat bottom barge type, suitable for restricted calm waters and I would be prepared to submit plans for such a vessel and detailed usage and management—

What avenues are available for funding for this purpose?

Ms BLIGH (30/3/99): The Disability Program of my Department funds non-government organisations to provide a range of community based support services, other than employment, to people with disabilities and families who have a member with a disability. The support services are generally focused on the provision of lifestyle support and include the provision of accommodation support, respite, community access and recreation, advocacy and information services.

Most of the funding for disability initiatives goes to the provision of direct support and while in some instances, funding for capital projects has occurred, the rationale for these projects is that the project will enhance the capacity of the community to respond to the support needs of people with disabilities and their families across Queensland.

Taking the above into consideration, I regret to inform the Member for Thuringowa that building a purpose built vessel is not considered a high priority for funding under the Disability Program in 1999.

However, I do commend the Member for Thuringowa on his interest in improving access for people with a disability to leisure pursuits that are readily available to others and would encourage him to submit a funding application for this proposal to the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund within my Department.

204. Gladstone Electorate, Bat Colony

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to potential health risks to residents in my electorate and continued encroachment by bat colonies to actual domestic yards and houses—

Will he reconsider action to relocate the colony to a safer and more appropriate environment?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99): I have already written to the member about this.

Officers from my Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service have conducted inspections of this flying-fox colony at West Gladstone in recent weeks. The colony consists mainly of Black Flying-foxes and occupies a mangrove area on Auckland Creek, Gladstone.

The presence of flying-foxes in the Gladstone area has been well documented over many years. Past reclamation of mangrove areas has reduced available habitat for flying-fox species, and has caused these flying-foxes to move to the peripheral mangrove areas which is where this colony currently roosts.

With regard to the health risks, my officers have spoken to Dr Rosco Taylor of Queensland Health who advises that the mere presence of a flying-fox colony does not constitute a risk. In this respect I would refer you to an article published by Queensland Health in January 1999.

Senior Officers from the Service met with officers from Gladstone City Council on Wednesday 17 March 1999 to develop a management plan for the flying-foxes at the West Gladstone site.

205. Question ruled out of order on 23 March 1999 (see p. 685).

206. Animal Health Institute, Feasibility Study

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to the development of a world-class Animal Health Institute between the Department of Primary Industries, the University of Queensland and CSIRO, which the former Borbidge Government endorsed—

- (1) Will he provide a copy of the feasibility study on the project?
- (2) Why has his director-general publicly released the feasibility study rather than himself and does this indicate a lack of commitment to the project on his behalf or the Beattie Government's behalf?
- (3) Does he share the concerns of the Australian Veterinary Association, some university staff and some students with the proposed relocation by the university to a location outside of Brisbane?
- (4) What powers does the State Government have in relation to any reorganisation or relocation of the university's faculties?
- (5) What action will he take to ensure this project progresses?
- (6) What is the timetable for the project?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. Yes.
2. The announcement of the release of the feasibility study report and of the agreement to further progress the concept was made by the Director General to avoid any inference that the Government had taken a position on an internal University issue.
3. The location of veterinary education in this State is the responsibility of the University of Queensland.
4. None.
5. Further development of the concept will follow consideration of submissions made during the consultation phase.

6. The completion date for the implementation study would be the end of 1999.

207. Cattle Tick Control

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to the document titled "Cattle Tick Control Policy Review—January 1999" compiled by his department's Animal and Plant Health Service—

- (1) Will he provide justification for the proposed \$2.20 inspection fee on cattle crossing the tick line, including a full and transparent breakdown of the cost components of this fee?
- (2) Given the increasing trend towards user pays, including that producers are expected to contribute to tick control on a user pays basis, how can producers have confidence in the prioritisation and allocation processes for budget funding across the various departmental programs?
- (3) Will he introduce a transparent prioritisation and allocation system for departmental budgeting across all programs; if not, why not?
- (4) Does he agree that the cost of maintaining the tick line should be met by producers in the tick infected area only; if so, why; if not, why not?
- (5) Will he use this review to introduce a compensation scheme for those producers on the tick line who provide front-line defence for the tick-free area and are regularly required to eradicate tick outbreaks?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. The \$2.20 per head fee reflects the costs of maintaining the tick line. The \$2.20 fee is broken down as follows: 0.50 maintenance of facilities; 0.60 dipping fee; 1.10 other costs.

Other costs include:

Labour costs of technical and administrative staff involved in the process of booking, performing the inspection task and overseeing the necessary treatment. The number of full time equivalents involved in these tasks were estimated for each dip and multiplied by the cost of this labour to government.

The cost of vehicles associated with dipping activities. These costs were estimated by apportioning the amount of relevant vehicle's leases associated with dipping tasks.

Other costs associated with dipping. This category included travel expenses for relieving staff at dips (to cover periods of recreation leave and time away for training) and protective clothing and equipment to meet Workplace Health and Safety Standards.

The calculation did not include:

Livestock spraying costs at the tick line
 Infrastructure costs
 Recurrent costs such as telephone, office equipment and office maintenance

2. There are a range of opportunities for producers to be involved in the prioritisation and resource allocation process across the department's various programs. Formal consultative processes that have been established by the Department include:

Industry Development Councils such as the Beef Industry Development Advisory Council (BIDAC)

Institute Boards, for example the beef institute Queensland Animal Health Council (QAHC)

I am keen to pursue ways industry can be involved in priority setting.

3. I refer to my previous answer. I am keen to pursue a system that facilitates appropriate industry involvement in priority setting.

4. No. The cost of maintaining the tick line should be shared across a range of stakeholders.

5. The review considers such a case.

208. Primary Industries Department, Institutes

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to his department's eight institutes—

- (1) Will he provide a precis of each institute's current budget position?
- (2) Are any institutes over budget or under budget; if so, which ones, by how much and for what reasons?
- (3) How successful has each institute been in attracting external funding sources and what contribution do these sources make to each of the institutes?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. Details are as follows:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2. It is not anticipated that any of the institutes will be outside acceptable budget limits at the end of the financial year.

3. All institutes are currently forecasting additional external funding receipts above the 1998-99 budget receipt estimates.

The table below shows the percentage of external funding to total 1998-99 budget for each institute:

Institute—External funds as a % of Budget 1998/99

Queensland Beef Industry Institute—31%

Sheep and Wool Institute—14%

Australian Tropical Dairy Institute—39%

Australasian Pig Institute—25%

Queensland Poultry Research & Development Centre—25%

Farming Systems Institute—50%

Queensland Horticulture Industry Institute—33%

Centre for Food Technology—49%.

209. Australia-New Zealand Food Authority; Food Safety

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to the issue of food safety reform and the suggestion by the Federal Minister for Agriculture that the administration of the Australia-New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) be assumed by the Federal Minister—

- (1) Does he support the Federal Minister's suggestion?
- (2) What steps is his Government taking to reform food safety administration in Queensland in order to reduce overlap, red tape and charges on food processing and manufacturing businesses?
- (3) Why is consideration being given to the establishment of a State Food Authority under the auspices of the Minister for Health and Queensland Health?
- (4) Does he support such an initiative; if so, why; if not, why not?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. Yes this is a logical response to the Blair Review of Food Regulation recommendations for an integrated and coordinated food regulatory system. Relocation of ANZFA will complement changes already effected within AFFA to consolidate responsibilities for food policy and regulation along the entire food supply chain from paddock to plate.

2. To address the urgent need to reduce duplication in the area of food safety under my portfolio, I have asked my Department to examine the concept of combining the food safety regulatory functions for high risk animal protein products under the jurisdiction of a single regulatory agency. This can be achieved primarily by incorporating the food safety roles and functions of existing bodies within the Primary Industries portfolio namely meat, dairy and seafood.

The model I am proposing adopts a staged approach to reducing duplication of functions, yet ensuring proper coverage, of matters that are contained under my portfolio. However, I must stress that the proposed food safety agency will not be a policy-setting body, it will be a regulatory body which facilitates food safety standards in the high risk animal protein areas only at this stage.

3. This question should be directed to my colleague the Minister for Health.

4. I support the need for better coordination of food regulatory arrangements. It needs to be recognised that primary products are largely the basis for food that reaches consumers, and it is crucial that there be a strong focus on food safety in the primary industry sector. However, the manufacturing food services and retail sectors must also have a strong focus on food safety. Each of the sectors is quite different and we need to ensure that the arrangements which apply to each are appropriate for that sector.

210. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Commercial Fishing

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to recent statements by the Federal Minister for the Environment, Senator Robert Hill, regarding commercial fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and particularly prawn trawling—

- (1) What action has he taken to assure Senator Hill that the management of the commercial fishing industry in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is being conducted in an environmentally responsible manner and illegal activity is being appropriately enforced?
- (2) What is the progress in implementing the Vessel Monitoring System, Bycatch Reduction Devices and Turtle Exclusion Devices within the commercial fishing industry?
- (3) Does he support calls by the Member for Crows Nest for the Federal Minister for Agriculture and himself to sit on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; if so, what action has he taken to progress this call?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. Prawn trawling is the largest and most valuable form of commercial fishing in Queensland. It accounts for several thousand jobs in this State involved in catching, processing and marketing of the products. The following actions are applied to prawn trawling in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:

Limitation on the number of trawl vessels

Turtle Excluder Devices and By-catch Reduction Devices have been introduced and will shortly be compulsory in all sensitive areas

Trawling permitted only in Marine Park General Use A Zones

Fishing closures to protect replenishment zones (adult spawning zones) for scallops

Satellite vessel monitoring system is implemented and will eventually be extended to all trawlers with industry cooperation

Patrol vessels and fishing inspectors operate within the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol to ensure compliance.

2. A satellite vessel monitoring system has been introduced in Queensland and will eventually be extended to all trawler vessels with industry cooperation. The use of vessel monitoring systems has been mandatory for scallop trawlers since September 1998 and is to be extended to all east coast trawlers (except Moreton Bay trawlers) by 1 July 1999. Many trawler operators have adopted Turtle Excluder Devices and By-catch Reduction Devices on a voluntary basis. Legislation is now being considered for the compulsory use of Turtle Excluder Devices and By-catch Reduction Devices on trawlers in sensitive areas.

3. No. I do not support Ministerial representation on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. I fully support the present approach of Queensland Ministers being part of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council and a Senior Official being the

Queensland representative on the Authority. I do not intend to seek any changes to this situation.

211. Northern Wheat Breeding Program

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to calls by the Queensland Graingrowers' Association, which were endorsed by Mr David Hamilton of the Farming Systems Institute, for further resources to be directed towards the Northern Wheat Breeding Program and, specifically, towards the development of more disease-resistant wheat varieties—

- (1) How much money is currently being directed to this program?
- (2) Does he support the need for further resources to be directed to this program; if so, how much will be provided?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. The DPI Farming Systems Institute in 1998/99 directly supports wheat variety development (including the Northern Wheat Improvement Breeding Program) to the value of \$4.858m. Total Queensland Government support is \$3.381m with Industry providing \$1.477m to the program.

2. In the past 12 months the Queensland Government has increased its support for the wheat breeding program by \$485,000. I have consulted with the Queensland Graingrowers Association and officers of the DPI Farming Systems Institute and am considering how best to address the disease problems grain growers experienced in 1998. In conjunction with the Grains Research and Development Corporation, the DPI Farming Systems Institute undertook a review of the problem by leading scientists. This report is envisaged to lead to additional research on yellow spot, the major disease causing the loss. The report is envisaged to also lead to accelerated plant breeding to produce varieties specifically suited to various regions of Queensland and varieties with multiple resistances to diseases. Already, the variety Kennedy (with moderate yellow-spot resistance), which I launched last year, will be used commercially this coming season. Staff of the DPI Farming Systems Institute have delivered new information to the industry on how to manage the problem if we continue to get wet winter weather.

212. Animal Welfare Legislation

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to the article titled "Changes urged to Animals Act" in the Queensland Country Life on 4 March and to his answer to Question on Notice No. 675—

- (1) Does he still expect to introduce the new animal welfare legislation to Parliament in mid-1999?
- (2) Will the legislation prevent a repeat of the treatment afforded to the Schloss family?

(3) Will the legislation offer any recourse for animal owners charged but not convicted of cruelty offences and particularly in relation to financial costs incurred as a result of animal seizures?

(4) Will livestock production enterprises be administered by inspectors qualified to competently assess the welfare of livestock, namely DPI vets and stock inspectors rather than RSPCA officers?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. I expect to obtain Cabinet approval to commence drafting of the new Animal Care and Protection Bill in May. The timing of its introduction into Parliament will depend on the legislative timetable and the availability of Parliamentary Counsel.

2. I am not able to comment on how this may or may not have affected a particular case that occurred in the past. The new legislation will promote responsible animal care and protect animals from cruelty. It will do this by (amongst other things) recognising codes of practice, including the nationally endorsed animal welfare codes for livestock. DPI stock inspectors and veterinarians will become inspectors under the new Bill as well as RSPCA inspectors.

3. The Bill will have very strict procedures for the seizure and subsequent disposition of animals. These procedures will be designed to ensure the best outcome for the animals. These procedures will also reduce the costs, both to the owner of the seized animals and to the enforcement agency.

The matter of costs in the event of a charge being dismissed in the Magistrates Court is governed by the Justices Act.

4. All inspectors will be qualified to operate within their jurisdiction.

213. Electrical Safety Switches, Installation Rebate

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (11/3/99)—

With reference to the introduction by the former Coalition Government in April 1998 of a \$50 rebate scheme to encourage owners of dwellings built before 1992 to install powerboard safety switches in their homes (safety switches have been compulsory in all houses built since 1992) which offer was initially available to the first 18,000 applicants and in view of the response to this proven life-saving measure—

Will he consider extending the offer beyond 18,000 applicants?

Mr McGRADY (12/4/99): In response to the specific question made by Mrs Gamin, I can advise as follows:

The safety switch rebate scheme will continue beyond the first 18,000 applicants and will remain in place until the end of the financial year. I am exploring improved incentives to apply next financial year, to continue to encourage householders to install safety switches.

Since we came to Government last year, I have given my full support to the existing rebate scheme which encourages owners of dwellings built before 1992 to install safety switches. It is mandatory that these safety switches be installed in all new dwellings, constructed after July 1992.

214. Commercial Fishing Licence Buyback Scheme; Gulf of Carpentaria Fishery

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to the former Borbidge Government's successful \$5m commercial fishing licence buy-back scheme—

- (1) Will he maintain the commitment to provide \$500,000 towards a commercial licence buy-back scheme for the Gulf of Carpentaria fishery as part of the Gulf Management Plan?
- (2) Does the Beattie Government believe that commercial licence buy-back schemes are a useful tool in improving the environmental sustainability of Queensland fisheries and the economic sustainability of the commercial fishing industry?
- (3) Will the Beattie Government commit funding towards another round of the buy-back scheme; if so, when; if not, why not?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. The Queensland Government has recently completed two buy-back schemes of commercial fishing licences. The general buy-back scheme was solely funded by the Queensland Government. Invitations were issued to 1200 holders of inshore netting and beam trawl types of commercial fishing licences, including Gulf of Carpentaria net fishing licences. The total amount available was \$3 million and an independent advisory panel was established to ensure that the Government obtained good 'value for its dollars' in buying licences. A nominal amount of \$500,000.00 was allocated for Gulf licences. However only eight offers were made ranging from \$60,000.00 to \$700,000.00. Only three reasonable offers were forthcoming from Gulf licence holders and hence other, more reasonable offers, were accepted. The second buy-back scheme was a joint Commonwealth/Queensland Government exercise to establish Dugong Protection Areas and reduce the amount of net fishing on the Queensland east coast. A total of thirty-eight licences were bought out under this scheme.

2. Yes, commercial fishing buy-back schemes can be useful tools in reducing and restructuring the commercial fishing industry. However to be effective they must be done in cooperation with the fishing industry and in conjunction with other negotiated management arrangements.

3. The Government commitment at this juncture is to encourage industry to now contribute to the restructuring process. During the past year or two the value of commercial fishing licences has increased substantially, so we must be careful in subsidising further buy-back schemes. One indication of a healthy commercial fishery is the value

of fishing licences. Our main commitment at this time is to fund net fishing licence reduction in the Trinity Inlet, Trinity Bay and Barron River areas.

215. FarmBis Program

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to the FarmBis program and to the fact that Queensland is the only State yet to sign off on a funding agreement with the Federal Government—

- (1) What are the reasons for this delay?
- (2) What is his preferred outcome as far as Queensland's role and contribution in the FarmBis program?
- (3) What action is he taking to ensure that this agreement is signed as a priority?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. I discussed this matter with Minister Vaile at the ARMCANZ meeting in Adelaide recently. I am pleased to advise that negotiations with the Commonwealth concerning the implementation of Farmbis in Queensland were completed on 11 March 1999. The State has accepted the Commonwealth's offer of \$11M and, in so accepting, recognised that the State must make a matching commitment of at least \$11M. This is being considered in the review process of the 1998/99 budget. The reason for the delay was that the State Government was committed to getting the best deal for Queensland.

2. FarmBis funds will assist producers, their employees and farm contractors take part in management and leadership development programs. This training assistance component will be administered by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority. FarmBis will also fund special projects designed to overcome occurrences of market failure in the provision and use of business training.

3. I refer to my answer to Question 1.

216. Water Allocation and Management Plan

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to the WAMP process, which is being undertaken in the Fitzroy and Condamine/Balonne catchments—

- (1) Is consideration being given to lifting the pump threshold or restricting the period of operation for any water harvesting licence?
- (2) On the calculation to date using key performance objectives, how many existing irrigation licences on each catchment will fall outside his proposed guidelines for irrigation under the WAMP?
- (3) What process will he be undertaking to include overland flows?
- (4) What right of appeal will existing licence holders have if there is a variance to a licence once the WAMP calculation is determined?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99):

(1) The draft Fitzroy WAMP proposes that certain flows, such as part of the first post-winter flow that occurs each year, would be passed through waterways to provide for the lifecycle needs of native fish and other species. This means that there would be times when access to flows by water users including water harvesters would be constrained.

Constraints similar to this already occur under existing management arrangements in the Fitzroy Basin which require downstream waterholes within each system to be filled and other system requirements to be met before the commencement of water harvesting will be announced.

In the case of the Condamine-Balonne WAMP, the preferred flow management strategies have yet to be determined. These will be identified in the draft WAMP when it is released later this year.

(2) In the future, under the Fitzroy WAMP, all existing and future irrigation licences would be required to conform with the key performance objectives proposed in the draft Fitzroy WAMP. This would require the Fitzroy Basin to be managed to abide by the environmental flow management strategies. This is also likely to be the case in the Condamine-Balonne and other WAMPs throughout the state.

(3) The Government recognises that overland flows are a significant issue, particularly in Basins where there is potential for large scale floodplain diversions such as in the Condamine-Balonne Basin. Possible ways for including overland flows in the Condamine-Balonne WAMP were recently discussed with the community reference panel established in that Basin.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the outcomes of other planning processes under way within the Basin, (such as the upper Condamine floodplain management project, and the Lower Balonne floodplain management planning process) are integrated and consistent with the outcomes of the Condamine-Balonne WAMP.

In developing the draft Condamine-Balonne WAMP, my Department of Natural Resources would simulate the extent of overland flows expected to enter the watercourse. It is proposed that the draft Condamine-Balonne WAMP would establish key performance objectives that incorporate this allowance for overland flow harvesting.

The draft plan would therefore effectively set the Basin-wide hydrologic boundary conditions within which floodplain management planning processes under way in the Basin would have to comply.

(4) At this stage the statutory details for the WAMP process are yet to be drafted. This is being addressed through the further development of the Government's draft policy paper on Improving the Water Allocation and Management System in Queensland.

However, I can advise that presently it is intended that the WAMP process will provide for public submissions on a draft plan and Government consideration of these submissions before moving to adopt a final Plan.

217. Dingoes

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to dingo control in pastoral Queensland and to the dingo bounty scheme in which he has decided to withdraw the State Government's support—

- (1) What evidence does he have to support his claims that the dingo bounty scheme was being rorted?
- (2) What evidence does he have to support his claims that the dingo bounty scheme was not effective?
- (3) Will he provide full details of the support offered by his department towards dingo control?
- (4) Given his statement in the Daily News on 6 March that "targeted baiting and other control programs work better" what action will he take to boost these programs in lieu of the dingo bounty scheme?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99):

(1) It should be made clear that no action which I have taken or intend to take will prevent local governments from continuing to pay dingo bounties. Bounties currently are handled by local governments. Contributions are initially paid to the Rural Land Protection Trust Fund and later reclaimed. The proposed legislation will terminate this administrative arrangement.

We are not abolishing the bounty, but encouraging councils to recognise better and more successful methods.

(2) A 1998 review by Hassall and Associates P/L for the Bureau of Resource Sciences states that—

"Although used throughout Australia for over a century, bounties have generally failed to control pest populations".

The Committee of Inquiry into Animal and Vegetable Pests in Queensland in 1976 considered that money spent on bonuses could have been more beneficially spent on research. The Committee, which included members with a grazing industry background, recommended that the bonus system be abolished.

The inter-governmental committee on pest animals, the Vertebrate Pest Committee, stated in 1975 that—

"The payment of bonuses for destruction of vertebrate pest species does not lead to effective control and hence these systems should be phased out as soon as possible".

Overall, the reasons why bounty schemes are not effective are that bounties:

- are counter productive to more efficient, longer-term control options;
- utilise funds better spent elsewhere;
- can result in fraud;
- provide a financial incentive not to participate in more effective programs; and
- can result in no appreciable reduction in numbers of pest animals.

It is significant that bounties for all other pest animals ceased many years ago.

(3) My Department of Natural Resources has twenty-nine Land Protection Officers providing on-going support to landholders and local governments for dingo and wild dog control using coordinated baiting programs and technical advice on other control methods. These officers provide coordination and a 1080 baiting service, and provide guidance and support to local government officers who also provide a 1080 baiting service.

The Dingo Barrier Fence, which provides protection to the sheep and cattle industries in southern Queensland, is maintained at a cost of \$1.3 million per year of which \$706,000 is contributed by the State Government.

There has been considerable research on dingo control over many years. Recent research has been partly funded by the Bureau of Resource Sciences but the State's contribution is in excess of \$100,000 per year.

Extension Officers and Land Protection Officers provide information to landholders and to the community, including school children, on the impact and management of dingoes and wild dogs.

The development of local government Pest Management Plans is a key strategy for all future pest management programs, including dingo and wild dog control. My Department provides a Project Officer (Local Government Services) and regional staff to assist in the development of these plans.

For the current year, my Department has provided approximately \$1 million for dingo and wild dog management.

(4) I reiterate that no control technique is lost if bounties are withdrawn. Shooting, trapping and baiting are all acceptable control techniques and can continue.

My Department has increasingly emphasised the benefits to landholders of coordinated baiting and assisted with that coordination. This will continue as a priority.

Any savings from withdrawing bounties will remain with local governments. It will be at their discretion as to how their funds are best spent to reduce the impact of dingoes and wild dogs. This should be addressed in the pest management planning process and officers of my Department will be available to provide information on the options.

To support landholders, my Department will continue research leading to the improvement of dingo and wild dog management practices. Only recently, two projects have been submitted seeking funds from the National Feral Animal Control Program of NHT. The State contribution in 1999/2000 will be \$115,000.

218. Local Government Valuations

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to the recent decision by him not to value some local government areas—

Will he provide details on which local government areas will not be valued and when each of these local government areas last had a valuation?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99): My Department of Natural Resources provides statutory valuations for over 1.2 million rateable properties in accordance with the requirements of the Valuation of Land Act 1944.

Each local government is valued annually unless there has been insufficient movement in property values. However, regardless of property market movements, each local government is valued at least once in the three-year valuation cycle.

This year, valuations were not undertaken in 35 local governments. The details the Member for Warwick has requested are provided in the attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

219. Local Government Valuations

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to the recent release of valuations, will he provide details on which local government areas have had their valuations assessed this year, what the average valuation is for this year in each council area, what the average increase in valuation was from the previous valuations (both in real and percentage terms) and when the previous valuation was carried out?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99): My Department of Natural Resources provides statutory valuations for rateable land in accordance with the provisions of the Valuation of Land Act 1944. These valuations are used to determine local government rates, land tax and for other purposes.

During 1999 my Department issued valuations in 89 local governments. The extensive details the Member for Keppel has requested are provided in the attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

220. Goats

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to the rapid growth in the goat meat industry, the subsequent increase in the value of feral goats, the widely reported increase in goat theft, calls by graziers for tightening legislation to provide for the recognition of identification systems and the ownership of domesticated feral goats—

- (1) Will he provide an outline of the procedures available for land holders to establish ownership of feral goats running on their properties?
- (2) Will he provide the terms of reference for his department's review of legislation relating to the identification and ownership of goats?
- (3) When will this review be completed?

- (4) In the meantime, what advice has his department provided to the stock squad to ensure goat theft is not tolerated?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. To establish ownership of goats running on their properties, landholders should mark them with a brand or earmark registered with the Brands Section of DPI and contain them within a suitable fence.

2. My Department did not undertake a review per se. Rather I had meetings with industry representatives where these issues were raised. I then wrote to my Ministerial colleagues Honourable M J Foley, Attorney-General, Honourable T A Barton, Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Honourable R J Welford, Minister for Natural Resources. In those letters I outlined my proposals for changes in the law to address the situation.

3. I am continuing consultation with my Ministerial colleagues on proposed changes to the law. I hope that we will reach an agreed position in the coming months.

4. DPI has consistently advised landholders and the Stock Squad that a registered brand or earmark on a goat is evidence of ownership.

221. Natural Resources Department, Corporate Communications Unit

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to the Corporate Communications Unit of the Department of Natural Resources—

Will he provide details of (a) the overall budget for the unit in 1998-99, (b) the amount allocated for advertising in both the print and electronic media, (c) the total amount of the Corporate Communications budget which has been expended so far, (d) the total amount expended so far on advertising and (e) outstanding advertising accounts?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99):

(a) The overall budget for the Corporate Communications Unit of my Department of Natural Resources in 1998-99 is \$1.3 million.

(b) The Corporate Communications Unit has no specific budget allocation for advertising in print and electronic media.

(c) The total budget for the Corporate Communications Unit expended as at 28 February 1999, was \$646,281.96.

(d) The total amount expended on advertising to date is \$951.00.

(e) The Corporate Communications Unit has no outstanding advertising accounts.

222. Primary Industries Department, Staffing; Remote Area Incentive Scheme

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to the recruitment of departmental employees—

- (1) Will he provide the numbers of staff employed for each financial year since 1989-90 to the present and a breakdown of those staff, including average age, gender, graduate numbers employed and departmental program to which they were appointed?

- (2) Will he provide the numbers of staff that ceased employment with DPI for each financial year since 1989-90 to the present and a breakdown of those staff, including average age, gender and departmental program from which they were appointed?

- (3) What is the average age of departmental employees and average duration of employment?

- (4) How many staff are currently employed by his department in total and what is the breakdown of permanent, temporary/contract and casual positions?

- (5) What incentives comprise the Remote Area Incentive Scheme?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99): Departmental systems do not capture all the information requested. Information has been provided where it is available. System enhancements in 1996 enabled additional information to be provided from that date.

1. The number of new staff employed by the Department of Primary Industries for each of the financial years since February 1995/96 is included in Table 1 below. (These figures exclude casual staff). (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Information about which staff were graduates is maintained on personal files of staff. No statistics have been collated.

2. The number of staff ceasing employment from the Department of Primary Industries for each of the financial years from February 1995/96 is included in Table 2 below. (These figures exclude casual staff). (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

3. The average age of staff in the Department of Primary Industries as at 5 March 1999 is 40 years old.

The average length of service of staff in the Department of Primary Industries as at 5 March 1999 is approximately 11.13 years.

4. As at 5 March 1999 there are 4146 staff employed by the Department of Primary Industries. The breakdown of permanent, temporary, contract and casual positions is in Table 3 below. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

5. The DPI Rural Area Incentive Scheme (RAIS) applies to all salaried officers covered by the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry Certified Agreement 1997 (excludes Forestry and Corporate Services Agency).

A Locality Index was developed in consultation with staff to rate centres from 1 to 5 (5 being the most remote). Eligibility for incentives is determined by a centre's rating.

The incentives offered in RAIS are:

Locality Allowance: Increased locality allowances in rating 2, 3, 4 and 5 centres. The new schedule of rates simplifies the number of different levels of allowance payable across the State.

RAIS Allowance: A \$40 per fortnight allowance for officers in centres rated 3, 4 and 5 who are

- (a) not in government housing, or
- (b) not receiving government rental subsidy.

Accommodation Assistance: In ratings 2, 3, 4 and 5, Institutes and Business Groups have the authority to arrange a private residential tenancy agreement for an employee.

Recruitment and Selection: A range of initiatives regarding recruitment and induction of staff in remote areas have been developed for local implementation.

Transfer Policies: Institutes and Business Groups may offer innovative transfer arrangements within existing budgets.

223. Water Allocation and Management Plan

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to the WAMP undertaken in the Fitzroy catchment—

What is the range of flows that his department has advised will meet the environmental flow objective?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99): The draft Fitzroy Water Allocation and Management Plan, or WAMP, proposes several environmental flow objectives that are designed to help maintain the long-term health of river systems in the Fitzroy Basin.

In effect, the WAMP will explicitly provide for environmental flow requirements for the first time anywhere in Queensland. It proposes that:

A part of the first post-winter flow occurring each year be passed through waterways to provide for the life cycle needs of native fish and other species;

Pumping from natural water holes be limited when levels are low;

Instream water deliveries be managed to more closely mimic the normal variability of streamflows; and

The extent of the total amount of water allocated within each part of the basin be managed so that the basin's riparian habitats, floodplains, and estuarine and marine zones are provided for in the long term.

The Fitzroy WAMP, when finalised, will establish a strategic vision for the Basin's water resources, and will surely become a benchmark for the sustainable management of water resources throughout Australia.

224. Water Allocation and Management Plan

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to the issue of compensation and the Government's document titled "Water Compensation Principles"—

- (1) What job impact assessment has been conducted in the catchments where a WAMP is currently being undertaken and will he table the results to date of that impact assessment?
- (2) What criteria will the Government use to assess cases of individual hardship mentioned in the document?
- (3) What avenue of appeal will water entitlement holders have in regard to any decisions which reduce entitlements made by the Water Allocation and Operating Authority described in the document?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99):

(1) Water compensation principles are just one element of the improvements to the State's water allocation and management system that the Government sees as essential for the sustainable use of our water resources. Other elements include the preparation of Water Allocation and Management Plans in priority catchments and groundwater basins.

It is expected that the greater certainty represented by Water Allocation and Management Plans, the Government's commitment to compensate in the event of a change during the life of a plan, and the increased flexibility available to water users through trading, will result in reduced costs, higher profits, water being used for higher value production, and ultimately increased certainty of long term employment.

(2) The compensation principles are just that—principles to provide broad directions on the way the impact of changes to entitlements will be addressed. Accordingly the criteria to be used to assess individual hardship, are yet to be determined. My Department of Natural Resources will initiate discussions with water users on the matter, and work with the community in formulating a fair basis for assessing hardship over the remainder of this year. They would be initially applied as part of the implementation of the Fitzroy WAMP.

(3) The form of compensation available would be determined at the time a decision was made to alter an operating WAMP.

225. Dental Services

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Health (11/3/99)—

- (1) What financial impact on Queensland was there when the Howard Federal Government cut back funding for dental care in Queensland?
- (2) Has the Federal Government indicated that it will restore this funding to Queensland?
- (3) What action is she taking with the Federal Government to ensure that dental patients in Logan City do not unnecessarily suffer because of Federal Government policies?

Mrs EDMOND (8/4/99):

(1) The Federal Government's cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program in December 1996 withdrew \$19.8m of Commonwealth funding

from public sector oral health services in Queensland. Queensland was the only state to replace the Commonwealth funds to maintain the existing level of services. Other States reduced services and some introduced co-payments.

(2) The Federal Government stated when it ceased the Commonwealth Dental Health Program that it had achieved its objective of reducing waiting times and improving access and indicated that it considers oral health services a State responsibility.

(3) The State Government continues to lobby the Federal Government for an equitable share of health funding including funds for oral health. Queensland put a submission to the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee into Public Dental Services which identified disadvantaged groups and high risk groups whose dental health is below national averages. The recommendations of the Report are in line with Queensland's position of a Commonwealth/States partnership to minimising inequities in oral health in the population. In September 1998, I wrote to Dr Wooldridge, the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care reinforcing the Queensland Government's commitment to the provision of adequate public dental services and seeking support in progressing the recommendations of the Senate Committee Report as a matter of urgency.

226. Meat Processing Development Initiative

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to the Meat Processing Development Initiative (MPDI) launched on 27 October 1998 and to his reply to Question on Notice No. 556—

- (1) Have any meat processors been provided with assistance under this package; if not, when will this money start to flow?
- (2) What projects or initiatives has his department developed under the MPDI to facilitate the introduction of a value based marketing system for hides and incentive payments based on hide quality?
- (3) Have the applications from Darling Downs Bacon, Danpork and Australia Meat Holdings been assessed yet; if so, will they be receiving assistance; if not, when will this assessment be completed?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. QMPDI applications are considered in quarterly rounds, but when an urgent outcome is required applications can be considered outside the rounds process. Firstly Expressions of Interest are considered for QMPDI eligibility, and full applications are then sought for projects considered to be eligible. Eighteen Expressions of Interest were received by the first round closing date, 1 December 1998, and detailed applications were required by 12 February 1999.

Thirteen detailed applications are currently undergoing a rigorous assessment phase and the outcome of these assessments will become more apparent in the very near future. Applications were

received from a range of meat processors, from small rural businesses to significant regional and urban meat processors.

It should be noted that a number of companies deferred lodgement of detailed QMPDI applications to further develop strategic and business plans.

To date the only meat processor to which QMPDI funding has been committed is the Darling Downs Bacon Cooperative. However, through the Task Force, other firms have accessed funding from the Queensland Investment Incentives Scheme (QIIS) and the Queensland Industry Development Scheme (QIDS).

2. There have been no applications under QMPDI to facilitate the introduction of a value based marketing system for hides or incentive payments based on hide quality.

3. On 19 March 1999 Government announced a \$1.8 million assistance package to Darling Downs Bacon in support of its \$37 million export upgrade and value adding project at its Willowburn facilities in Toowoomba. The funds were committed on an urgent basis given the Government's objective to have an alternative export accredited pig processor retained in Queensland following the planned closure of the Queensland Abattoir Corporation after November 2000.

To preserve the commerciality of other proposed value adding projects, the names of applicants or the purposes for which applications are made will not be made public. To preserve the integrity of QMPDI and the sensitivity of the proposed projects, all applications are treated on a commercial-in-confidence basis.

227. Poultry Industry

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to the administration of the intensive poultry industries under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the misuse of the Act by some local authorities as a defacto town planning instrument against such existing environmentally relevant activities—

- (1) What safeguards are in place to ensure local authorities are not misusing the Act and jeopardising the viability of poultry farms through excessive red tape, charges and fines?
- (2) Are these safeguards being enforced by his department; if so, how?
- (3) Given the excessive cost of reviewing decisions in the Land and Environment Court, will he introduce a low-cost decision review mechanism which could be used instead of immediately proceeding to litigation as is currently the case?
- (4) Given the widely varying interpretation and administration of the Act by local authorities, will he support the Department of Primary Industries assuming responsibility for the administration of the intensive poultry industries as it does for feedlots?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99): With respect to your question regarding the administration of intensive poultry industries I wish to advise that since 1 July 1998 approvals for such activities are granted under the Integrated Planning Act 1997.

1. The ability to attach conditions to approvals is set out in the Integrated Planning Act 1997 requirement for decision makers to act within their area of jurisdiction and impose only relevant or reasonable conditions. Application fees are set by local government. The application fee for an environmentally relevant activity cannot exceed the fee set by the State Government. Penalties are imposed by the courts.

2. The Environmental Protection Agency is not aware of any local government failing to undertake its environmental duties under the Integrated Planning Act 1997 in relation to intensive poultry industries.

3. Section 3.5.17 of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 provides a low cost decision review mechanism which allows an applicant to make representations to the assessment manager about conditions of a development approval.

4. Current evidence does not support the view that the removal, from local government, of the devolution of the Environmentally Relevant Activity of poultry farming and the delegation of it to the Department of Primary Industries, is necessary or desirable. It is considered that local government is the most appropriate entity to administer poultry farms as the conditions which operators need to comply with can best be set and enforced through the planning approval process by local government.

228. Commercial Fishing; Sale of Bycatch

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to plans by Hervey Bay commercial fishermen to appeal the conviction of a fisherman fined for catching sand crabs in his prawn nets, as reported in the Fraser Coast Chronicle on 13 February—

- (1) What is the progress of the legislation that would allow the sale of bycatch caught by commercial fishermen?
- (2) When does he expect this issue to be resolved so that the fishing industry can enjoy some certainty?
- (3) Will this case set a precedent for the Boating and Fisheries Patrol and their interpretation of the existing legislation?
- (4) Why has this matter been referred to a Cabinet subcommittee and what is the membership of that committee?
- (5) Why is the Member for Rockhampton taking a role in this issue?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. New regulations providing for a range of measures in regard to trawl bycatch were approved by the Governor in Council on 1 April 1999.

2. This issue is now resolved.

3. Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) officers are aware of the amendments to the provisions relating to bycatch.

4. A previous National Party Government attempted to resolve this long standing problem but did not finalise the matter. Perhaps this was because of the complexity and controversy surrounding bycatch issues.

The Beattie Government is determined to develop a bycatch plan which serves the interests of all Queenslanders. It is for this reason that a number of my colleagues namely—

The Honourable P D Beattie, MLA, Premier

The Honourable J P Elder, MLA, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade

The Honourable R E Schwarten, MLA, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing and Member for Rockhampton

The Honourable R J Welford, MLA, Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources

The Honourable D J Hamill, MLA, Treasurer

The Honourable T M Mackenroth, MLA, Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities

have assisted in regard to this matter.

5. As stated in the response to Question 4, a number of my senior Ministerial colleagues have been pleased to have input into this matter, including Mr Schwarten.

229. Miles, Bank Closures

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Treasurer (11/3/99)—

With reference to announcements by the CBA and Westpac that they intend to close their Miles branches and as it is possible the people of Miles and district may choose to invite a building society to open a branch in Miles on the condition that the majority of local people support this society and if this is to occur, stamp duty could be payable by customers on the transfer of loans from one financial institution to another—

Bearing in mind that the two banks created the circumstances making these transfer of accounts necessary, would he waive the stamp duty payable by people who are adversely affected by bank closures in rural towns?

Mr HAMILL (15/4/99): The refinancing of existing loans in such a situation can be achieved by the building society either making new loans to customers and obtaining fresh loan documents and mortgages from them, or by taking a transfer of existing loans from Westpac or CBA.

Stamp duty is a tax on instruments and is payable on the execution of loan documents or the transfer of mortgages. However, a number of concessions may apply to assist the residents of Miles.

Should the building society refinance the loans by way of a transfer of the existing mortgages from Westpac and CBA, a concessional rate of \$5 stamp duty will apply to each transaction where the mortgages are secured on land. For a loan of \$100,000, this represents a saving of \$2350 in stamp duty.

Where, however, the building society requires that a new loan be taken out to refinance an existing loan, a stamp duty exemption applies to balances of up to \$100,000 owing under the previous loan where the loan is secured by the borrower's home. This results in a saving of \$400 in stamp duty.

Providing an incoming building society takes advantage of these concessions, stamp duty will be minimised.

Relief is also available to the rural sector for refinancing certain qualifying loans for which the borrower is eligible for assistance in the form of an interest subsidy under the Rural Adjustment Scheme.

230. Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority; Stamp Duty

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (11/3/99)—

With reference to the assistance offered to primary producers via the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) to counter the recent spate of crop losses as a result of Cyclone Rona, excessive unseasonal rainfall across the grain belt and flooding in South-east Queensland and also to the application of stamp duty on crop insurance and loan re-financing—

- (1) Will he provide a full breakdown of the assistance measures available through QRAA, including the eligibility criteria?
- (2) How many applications for assistance did QRAA receive for each of these events, enumerated above?
- (3) How many of these applications were successful?
- (4) Of those that were not successful, will he provide a precis of the reasons why?
- (5) How much does the State Government generate through the 8.5 per cent stamp duty currently imposed on crop insurance?
- (6) What is the current rate of stamp duty imposed on loan re-financing for primary producers and how much does the State Government generate through that stamp duty?
- (7) Can he justify the application of 8.5 per cent stamp duty on crop insurance in Queensland, compared to 2.5 per cent in New South Wales and up to 1 per cent in Victoria?
- (8) Will he reinstate the former Borbidge Government's 1998-99 Budget initiative to abolish stamp duty on crop insurance and loan re-financing; if not, why not?

Mr HAMILL (20/4/99): 1. The Natural Disaster Relief Assistance (NDRA) scheme is designed to assist in meeting the needs of primary producers to recover following natural disasters of substantial

magnitude. Loans of up to \$100,000 are provided for carry-on requirements including replanting/restoration/re-establishment of affected areas, sustenance, essential property operations and payments of rent, rates and repair and/or replacement of farm buildings. Loans of up to \$100,000 are also available for re-stocking.

Loans are not intended to compensate for losses suffered. Assistance would not generally be available where adequate insurance could be effected at reasonable rates.

Current applicable interest rates are 4% for declared disaster areas and the commercial lending rate for non-declared areas. The Treasurer may use his discretion in exceptional circumstances to approve a concessional rate for primary producers affected by a single natural disaster in non-declared areas.

To be eligible, applicants must be in working occupation of their properties and must:

- Have used up all liquid assets and all normal credit sources up to normal credit limits;
- Be considered to be viable with the assistance provided; and
- Have taken reasonable precautions to minimise or prevent the disaster.

2. Applications received for the following events:

SEQ Storm and Flooding—4
 North Qld Flooding and Cyclone Rona—7
 NDRA Widespread Flooding—118
 Total—129

3. Successful applications:

SEQ Storm and Flooding—3
 North Qld Flooding and Cyclone Rona—2
 NDRA Widespread Flooding—65
 Total—70

Other applications:

Declined—36
 Cancelled—3
 Under Assessment—13
 Withdrawn—7
 Total—59

4. Reasons for unsuccessful applications:

Debt level too high—12
 Farm business not viable—10
 Unacceptable or inadequate security—5
 Not in financial need—3
 Other normal finances available—3
 Refusal of financial institutions to participate—1
 Not a bona fide farmer as defined in guidelines—1
 Not in working occupation of property—1
 Total—36

5. While it is extremely difficult to estimate the revenue raised from stamp duty on crop insurance due to the fact that specific data is not collected, it has recently been estimated that revenue from stamp duty on crop insurance may be approximately \$1.3 million per annum.

6. The current rate of stamp duty on loans including refinancing loans to primary producers is .4% mortgage duty. In addition, 0.03% credit business

duty applies to some loans. Exemption from duty on refinancing transactions is available to qualifying borrowers under the Rural Adjustment Scheme and on the first \$100,000 of a loan secured on a borrower's principal place of residence. Where a refinancing transaction takes place by way of transfer of an existing mortgage over land to a new financial institution, a concessional duty of only \$5 applies to that transfer. No mortgage or loan duty applies in that case. It is not possible to estimate that portion of stamp duty revenues which are raised from the levying of stamp duty on the refinancing of loans by primary producers.

7. In last year's State Budget, the Government announced its intention to reduce the rate of Stamp Duty on crop insurance. The timing of the reduction has been in abeyance as a result of uncertainties associated with the Federal Government's tax package, in particular, negotiations over the appropriate revenue base used to compensate the State.

8. See Question 7.

231. Regional Forest Agreement

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to the South-east Queensland Regional Forest Agreement (RFA)—

- (1) Is the Beattie Government committed to a long-term, sustainable native forest industry?
- (2) As a fundamental part of the RFA process, is the Beattie Government committed to the development of the timber industry and the full consideration of social and economic issues?
- (3) Does he believe that the biodiversity and old growth targets within the Janis criteria cannot be achieved in Queensland and will he provide his reasons?
- (4) Does he support the implementation of the social and economic flexibility outlined in the Janis criteria and will he provide his reasons?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99):

(1) The long term sustainability of the native forest timber industry is a matter of key concern to the Beattie Government. The data produced by the RFA process has indicated that the 65% of native forest logging sourced from private land is currently unsustainable. The Government has committed every effort in analysing how to best effect a transition for the industry, and its employees, from this situation and still achieve a viable future timber industry. The Government is also examining options for sustainable wealth generation for regional communities through a range of activities such as ecotourism and recreation, beekeeping, flower and foliage collection and grazing and other activities which can be demonstrated to be ecologically sustainable.

(2) The Government is committed to the development of an ecologically sustainable and internationally competitive timber industry. Already the region's timber industry is 76% dependent on plantation forests and the RFA research has

confirmed that this is the industry sector positioned for maximum growth. In finalising the RFA, the Beattie Government is committed to full consideration of the social and economic wellbeing of the important regional communities concerned.

(3) The JANIS document, which sets out nationally agreed criteria for a conservation reserve system for forests, recognises that the extent of social and economic impacts may limit the ability to meet the criteria. JANIS establishes a reasonable and flexible approach to establishing a Comprehensive Adequate and Representative forest conservation reserve system. The approach clearly signals that the criteria it establishes are guidelines rather than mandatory targets.

(4) It is imperative that the JANIS criteria are applied flexibly and this is the basis of the RFA assessment and negotiation process.

232. Primary Industries Department, Report on Tax Reform

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 650 (1998) regarding the DPI commissioned study examining tax reform and to his answer—

- (1) Given that nine months have now elapsed since this study was started, has he received a copy yet; if not, why not?
- (2) What are the findings of the study?
- (3) When will the report be released publicly, so that primary producers can make an assessment on how tax reform will affect their business?
- (4) If he will not release the report, how can he assure industry and the Parliament that he and his department are not acting with impropriety, particularly as he previously stated that \$50,000 of public funding was spent on the report?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. No, because the study has not yet been finalised because the Federal Government has yet to pass the GST Legislation.

2. Refer to my response to question 1.

3. Public release will be considered following the passage of the tax legislation and the subsequent validation of the underlying model.

4. Refer to my response to question 3.

233. Coastal Management Plan; Aquaculture Industry

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to the Labor Party's Coastal Management Plan and specifically to the clause which will and I quote "ensure no new aquaculture or mariculture developments are permitted in inter-tidal areas"—

- (1) How can the Government condone such a policy that will kill the development of this multi-

million dollar environmentally regulated industry that can generate thousands of jobs?

- (2) What action has he taken to ensure the development of aquaculture industry in Queensland, if any?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99):

1. The Government is committed to the sustainable development of Queensland. Tidal areas include mangrove forests and sea grass beds and are the nursery for marine life including many important commercial species. The areas are also important for wading birds.

I am advised that for good practical reasons the overwhelming majority of existing aquaculture developments are above highest astronomical tide.

(Note only 3 sites are below highest astronomical tide and oyster farming is not included as aquaculture.)

2. The Government encourages all forms of sustainable industry and has embarked on a program of coastal planning to help give certainty to the long term use of the Queensland coast.

The Department of Primary Industries is the lead agent for aquaculture and has five industry development/extension officers assisting the industry. It is also developing a "Coastal Sustainability Policy" with my Environmental Protection Agency to give appropriate guidance for development and assessment of applications. This policy is currently undergoing consultation with industry.

I am sure that there is no action in train which will be an unnecessary impediment to the growth of a sustainable industry.

234. Meat Industry

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to the review by the Queensland Livestock and Meat Authority of the fee schedule for meat processors, slaughter yards, butcher shops and retailers—

- (1) Will he provide details of the new fee schedule?
- (2) Will he guarantee fees for any of these business will not rise; if not, why not?
- (3) If fees are to rise (a) which sectors will pay increased fees, (b) how much will those increases be and (c) for what reason?
- (4) Given his apparent support for continued community service obligation funding of the QLMA by Government, what will that contribution be and what QLMA operations will it be directed towards covering?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. A revised accreditation fee schedule, which incorporates an increase which reflects an 8% CPI movement, was gazetted on the 3 April 1999.

2 and 3. All accreditation holders in the meat industry will be subject to an increase of 8% to their

accreditation fee which is in accordance with CPI movement back cast to when the accreditation fees were initially implemented in January 1995. These increases are in line with Government policy.

4. Treasury has agreed to provide funding of \$200,000 per year for two (2) years to the QLMA to assist in remote area servicing. Additionally continuous funding for Enforcement of the Meat Industry Act will be provided out of my Department's budget.

235. Border Rivers Commission; Lower Balonne Advisory Committee

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

With reference to the stakeholders that comprise the Community Reference Panels of the Border Rivers Commission and the Lower Balonne Advisory Committee—

- (1) Will he provide a definition of a stakeholder?
- (2) What recourse does a directly affected landholder or irrigator have if an indirect group or groups deliberately sabotage the outcome of the WAMP to the financial disadvantage of the landholder?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99): The Border Rivers Commission is a joint Queensland and New South Wales entity formed some 53 years ago to assist in the sharing between the States of water resources in the border rivers. It established the "Intersecting Streams Consultative Committee" for the purposes of considering cross-border water sharing issues. A separate consultative committee, the Border Rivers WAMP Community Reference Panel was established as an advisory panel to assist my Department of Natural Resources in developing a WAMP, in cooperation with NSW, for the Border Rivers catchment.

The Lower Balonne Floodplain Advisory Committee, on the other hand, is focused on the identification and implementation of floodplain management strategies for the lower Balonne floodplain.

This shows that the Beattie Government is embarked upon a number of planning processes that aim to achieve sustainable use and management of water resources in the region. Each process typically involves close consultation with the community to ensure that the planning outcomes incorporate and address the diverse range of community values and needs.

(1) The Government has aimed to be very inclusive when interpreting who might be stakeholder when establishing the Water Allocation and Management Planning (WAMP) process.

Because water is such a vital resource, obviously the list of potential stakeholders and interests is quite long, and the divergence in opinions as to how water should be used can be significant.

In our WAMP process, a community reference panel would normally be formed after a public invitation for nominees and after consultation with the local Catchment Co-ordinating Committee. Panels consist

of representatives from a range of community interests and stakeholders. These include representatives from primary and secondary industries, environmental, conservation and recreation groups, Indigenous Communities, fishing and tourism industries, Local Governments, business and commerce groups and other community groups as appropriate.

Representatives on these panels provide input and advice on water management and allocation issues through a series of facilitated workshops and information sessions.

(2) The broader community is given an opportunity to comment on the draft WAMP when the draft plan for a particular catchment is widely advertised in the press. The public is invited to review the draft WAMP and make submissions on its content.

A particular stakeholder group or individual cannot sabotage the outcome of a WAMP as it is ultimately the Government's responsibility to make decisions as to the content of a WAMP. The Government does this by considering the advice received via the community reference panels, as well as the wide range of submissions received from the public on the draft WAMP.

The Government is committed to ongoing and meaningful discussions with the community in all of its planning processes that seek to find the balance between the water needs of the environment, and the demands of existing and future water users.

236. Livestock Market Reporting Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/3/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Livestock and Meat Authority's Livestock Market Reporting Service which is being incorporated into a national service—

- (1) Will he provide details of how the new service will be administered?
- (2) What funding contribution has the Queensland Government made to this service?
- (3) Will this funding be provided on an annual basis; if not, how is the service being funded?
- (4) In the event that the national scheme is not successful or fails, will the Government move to reinstate the QLMA's Livestock Market Reporting Service?

Mr PALASZCZUK (12/4/99):

1. Without any impact upon quality of service, the Queensland Livestock Reporting Service has been incorporated into the national scheme.

Consequently, this service is incorporated into the National Reporting Service which is administered by the New South Wales Meat Industry Authority. With Queensland's involvement, this means that the National Reporting Service covers New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland, with Western Australia to join in the near future.

2. and 3. The Government is providing assistance to the national scheme in terms of office accommodation and on costs for the Queensland reporter. It is an objective of the national scheme that over the next twelve months it will be self funding by recovering costs for the provision of services.

4. It is envisaged that the national reporting service will be a success and will be self funding within the next twelve months and producers nationally will benefit through a uniform approach.

237. Surplus Government Land

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/3/99)—

Will he provide details of surplus Government land which the Department of Natural Resources has been requested to dispose of since the beginning of 1998-99 including details of (a) which department has instructed the disposal, (b) which lands have already been disposed of and at what return, and (c) the expected return for land which is still awaiting disposal?

Mr WELFORD (12/4/99): To ensure the effective management of the Government's extensive property holdings, my Department of Natural Resources arranges disposals of properties no longer required for Government purposes. Disposals may be by sale or by transfer within Government. My Department manages an ongoing disposals program for any surplus properties it controls and for disposal requests from other Government Departments and Agencies.

At the end of February, my Department of Natural Resources, had disposed of some 149 properties valued at \$10.5 million during this financial year on behalf of itself and 13 other Government Departments and Agencies. During the remainder of this financial year my Department expects to dispose of a further 189 properties valued at some \$27 million.

The extensive details the Member for Mooloolah has requested are provided in the attachment. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**125. Health Districts, Entertainment Expenses**

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Health (9/3/99)—

How much has been spent on entertainment expenses by each of the health districts so far this year?

Mrs EDMOND (5/5/99): (Replacement for answer tabled on 8/4/99. See Hansard, 27 April 1999, p. 1314.) As at February 1999, \$16,412 had been expended across all 39 districts in the 1998-1999 financial year on providing refreshments (tea and sandwiches) for local community members who attend public functions such as the opening of the Barcardine Hospital in Mr Johnson's electorate.

238. Trawling, Proposed Closure

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Primary Industries (23/3/99)—

With reference to the proposed closure of trawling from 20 September to 12 December—

- (1) Has any consideration been given to the livelihood of small scallop trawler operators in the Wide Bay Region?
- (2) Is he aware that (a) a closure for this length of time would cause serious instability with industry customers because of the heavy influx of scallops prior to Christmas and would not allow for processing and freighting to be accomplished, (b) a rapid influx of scallop at that period of year would also cause a great loss to the trawling industry because it would force prices to a ridiculously low level, (c) small trawler operators do not have the advantages and opportunities of large trawler operators and hence, rely heavily on scallop trawling during this period for their premium market in Asia and (d) closing of trawling for a period of this length would surely lead to the closure of small trawling businesses and a loss of jobs?
- (3) Will he give an assurance that the livelihoods of the smaller trawler operators will be considered in this proposal and that if the proposal does go ahead, small trawler operators will not have the same restrictions placed on them as that of the larger trawler operators i.e. the smaller operators will be given an extended period of operation and/or a flexibility of operation dates?

Mr PALASZCZUK (22/4/99): (1-3) The proposed closure to which the Honourable Member refers is subject to a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). It is a Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) proposal which Cabinet has released for public comment. I would expect that the matters of concern to the Honourable Member would be raised in the RIS process. The RIS is available from the QFMA.

239. Biala Detoxification Centre

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Health (23/3/99)—

With reference to the alleged commitment of the Beattie Government to the rehabilitation of drug offenders and drug addicts—

- (1) Why is the listed number for the Biala Detoxification Centre incorrect?
- (2) What steps has she taken to rectify this situation?
- (3) Why was it that a concerned parent from my electorate, with a drug dependant child, had to virtually abuse someone in her office to be given the correct number for the Biala Detoxification Centre?
- (4) Is it true that the parent had been told by officers of that centre, that staffing is being downsized at this essential centre for drug rehabilitation; if so, in the light of question (1), why?
- (5) Is her department and this Government really concerned about drug and alcohol dependence and the rehabilitation of these people?

Mrs EDMOND (22/4/99):

(1) The telephone number for the "Biala" Assessment Clinic and Needle Exchange, at 270 Roma Street, is correctly listed under the Alcohol and Drug Services section of Queensland Health's entries (see "Health") in the Telstra White Pages for 1998/99. The number is 32384000. There is also a 24 hour information and referral service whose number is 3236 2414 or freecall 1800 177 833.

(2) Queensland Health is aware of difficulties experienced by clients in the identification of service contact points following changes to the structure used by Telstra for its White Pages Directory. As a result Alcohol and Drug staff approached Telstra in September 1998 to make changes to the information layout to assist with this problem. It is anticipated that these changes will appear in the next edition of the Directory.

(3) My office staff try to provide every assistance to the public. Abuse of staff cannot be condoned.

(4) Staff levels are not being reduced at the Biala facility. This facility offers an assessment and referral service to clients, with detoxification services where necessary being provided at a number of other locations, including the detoxification unit within Royal Brisbane Hospital.

(5) The Labor Government is committed to ameliorating the social and health harms associated with the inappropriate use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Queensland. This commitment is emphasised by the continuing efforts of Queensland Health in providing both preventive and clinical alcohol, tobacco and other drug services at an estimated cost of over \$24 million in 1997/98. This commitment was enhanced in the 1998/99 State Budget with the dedication of an additional \$1.7 million per annum under the State Illicit Drug Strategy, and an additional \$3 million per annum for new alcohol and drug services focused on crime prevention.

240. Education Portfolio; Ipswich West Electorate

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Education (23/3/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Ipswich West Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Ipswich West Electorate or which cater for the Ipswich West Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Ipswich West Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Ipswich West, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr WELLS (21/4/99): (1-5) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

241. Health Portfolio; Lockyer Electorate

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Health (23/3/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for her portfolio and its entities in the Lockyer Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Lockyer Electorate by her portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Lockyer Electorate by her portfolio and its entities?

- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under her portfolio in the Lockyer Electorate or which cater for the Lockyer Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Lockyer Electorate by her portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Lockyer, I am fully informed of the efforts made by her portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mrs EDMOND (22/4/99):

(1-6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7), (8) and (9) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government agencies, and the election commitments of this Government. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would expect the Honourable Member to involve himself in the activities of his own constituency in the usual manner of an elected representative.

242. Tourism, Sport and Racing Portfolio; Whitsunday Electorate

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (23/3/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Whitsunday Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Whitsunday Electorate or which cater for the Whitsunday Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?

- (7) What is planned for the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Whitsunday, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr GIBBS (1/4/99):

(1-6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7), (8) and (9) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government agencies and the election commitments of this Government. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would expect the Honourable Member to involve himself in the activities of his own constituency in the usual manner of an elected representative.

243. Land Tax

Mr NELSON asked the Treasurer (23/3/99)—

Will he explain why a farmer with a property in Townsville and a farm on the Tablelands would be exempt from land tax if he lives in the house in Townsville and rents the farm, but would pay land tax if he lived on the farm and rents the house in Townsville?

Mr HAMILL (20/4/99): The Land Tax Act 1915 provides generous concessions for land used as a principal place of residence and for land used for the business of agriculture, pasturage or dairy farming. The primary production concession is available even if the owner is not the one working the land, while the residence must be occupied by the owner to be entitled to the concession.

Use of land for agriculture, pasturage or dairy farming is not, strictly speaking, comparable to use of land for other commercial purposes including residential accommodation. The aforementioned purposes differ in that land is the overwhelmingly important factor of production and the value of the land is disproportionate to the income generated from it. For this reason, a land tax exemption is available for land used for agriculture, pasturage or dairy farming. In the case where the farm is rented, the concession is available to be passed on through lower rents to the farmer actually working the land.

244. Ocean Current Monitoring

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (23/3/99)—

With reference to my speech delivered on 17 November 1998, outlining the need for Ocean Current Monitoring and as this issue has generated enormous support from the scientific field—

Is this issue being addressed?

Mr PALASZCZUK (22/4/99): Ocean Current Monitoring in Queensland waters is undertaken by

researchers at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and James Cook University (JCU). The movements of water masses particularly inside the Great Barrier Reef are very complex. Their study requires the collection of oceanographic data in the field. These data are used in the development of sophisticated computer models which can simulate water movements around reefs and along the coast.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Reef Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) are all vitally interested in such studies as they can help explain spawning behaviour and the recruitment of larval reef organisms (including fish, prawns and scallops) in their planktonic phase.

DPI, through its collaboration with the Reef CRC is able to tap into the work undertaken by AIMS and JCU.

245. Queensland Small Business Council

Mr COOPER asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) Is he committed to the Queensland Small Business Council established under the previous Coalition Government?
- (2) Has he appointed a chair and members to the council as of 23 March; if not, why not?
- (3) What is the council's charter?
- (4) Will he ensure that any future appointments to the council are from a small business background?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. No. The previous government's Small Business Council lacked a clear focus and was excessively expensive. I have therefore established the new Queensland Small Business Advisory Council that will focus on the most significant small business issues and provide rigorous advice to inform the planning, development and implementation of services for access by Queensland small businesses.

2. The Small Business Advisory Council members were appointed in February this year. Matters are being finalised and I expect to appoint the Chair in the near future.

3. Through organised consultation with businesses in urban, regional, and rural Queensland, the Council will adopt a selective approach to examining priority issues as identified by the business community. In response to these priorities, the Council will consider and propose appropriate solutions to encourage and support small business growth, survival, and employment in Queensland.

4. The composition of the new Council demonstrates this Government's commitment to understanding the views and opinions of small business. This commitment will continue to be fulfilled, through the appointment of small business operators and representatives to the Council.

246. Gladstone Port Authority

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Treasurer (23/3/99)—

With reference to the vital strategic role the Gladstone Port Authority plays in the Gladstone/Calliope region—

- (1) Why is the authority being required to pay to Government a new substantial land tax?
- (2) As the GPA has apportioned this tax to its tenants, what consideration was given by Government to its effect on small business leases prior to levying this tax?

Mr HAMILL (20/4/99):

1. The Gladstone Port Authority, as a statutory GOC, has been subject to the equivalent of Federal and State taxes, including land tax, since corporatisation in 1995-96.

I am advised that whilst the GPA has absorbed the cost of land tax since commencement of its liability, it has recently elected to phase in recovery of the impact of land tax on its overall cost structure for small business lessees over a period of five years.

2. This Government has not made any alteration to the application of land tax to port authorities. As in the past, the management of such tax liabilities is a matter for commercial determination by GOCs taking into account potential impacts on lessees and other users.

247. Guide Dogs

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (23/3/99)—

With reference to trained guide dogs and hearing assistance dogs and other dogs to assist in Queensland—

- (1) What are the standards required in the training of such dogs in order to be recognised by the Queensland Government?
- (2) What courses and qualifications are necessary to become a trainer of such dogs recognised by the Queensland Government?
- (3) Is the Queensland Government prepared or able to recognise a dog trained by a disabled person and assessed by a professional trainer?

Ms BLIGH (22/4/99):

1. The Queensland Government through the Guide Dogs Act 1972 (Amendment Act 1997) recognises dogs trained at an "approved institution" or at an "approved Queensland institution" meaning an institution with facilities in the State for the training of guide dogs and declared under a regulation.

Training institutions are required to comply with international standards for guide dog training through membership of recognised international bodies which set standards and guidelines for the breeding and training of dogs and qualifications of Trainers and Orientation and Mobility Instructors. One such body is the International Federation of Guide Dog Schools for the Blind.

2. The courses and qualifications necessary to become a trainer are set by the approved institution which has responsibility under section 6A of the Guide Dogs Amendment Act 1997 to authorise trainers. An example of the intensity of training required for recognition as a Guide Dog Trainer is the Cadetship Program provided by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association of Queensland. The program is designed to comply with the standards of the International Federation of Guide Dog Schools for the Blind.

The Cadetship Program is an 18 month program that includes tuition and practical experience in animal husbandry and kennel work, and training the dogs under supervision. To qualify as a Guide Dog trainer, the trainee is required to train no less than 12 Guide Dogs, both under supervision and independently, to the stage of readiness for matching with clients.

A further 2.5 years of study and training is required to qualify for recognition as a Guide Dog Instructor and Orientation and Mobility Instructor. This requires completion of a Master of Human Services—Orientation and Mobility at the Griffith University and the Guide Dog Instructor course undertaken at the Guide Dog Breeding and Training Centre at Bald Hills. The safety of the person being assisted by a guide dog, the safety of the public and the confidence and competence of a working guide dog to handle a wide range of situations are paramount in the training programs.

3. The legislation does not allow for the recognition of training outside of that conducted at approved institutions.

248. Underage Drinking

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (23/3/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Government initiated campaign to reduce the incidence of consumption of intoxicating liquor by school age children which was supported by media advertising and notices displayed in licensed premises warning of liability of severe penalties for selling or supplying liquor to under aged persons and to street parties which are now an increasing problem, with very large numbers of intoxicated school aged children congregating periodically at night in public places on the southern Gold Coast where they cause huge residential disturbances and concerns—

- (1) What is the effectiveness of the campaign to stamp out underage drinking?
- (2) How many people have been charged with selling or supplying offences during the past six months or the past twelve months?
- (3) What strategies have been devised by Gold Coast police to control and eliminate street parties?

Mr BARTON (22/4/99):

(1) The campaign referred to in the Member's question is conducted by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing. Your question would therefore be more appropriately directed to my

colleague, the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing, the Honourable R Gibbs MLA.

(2) Prosecutions are launched, and infringement notices issued, by both police and Liquor Licensing Division officials. Whereas the majority are undertaken by the Liquor Licensing Division, the Queensland Police Service has taken the following action from 1 July 1998 to the present—

Supplying liquor to minors—3 prosecutions (of an estimated 7)*

Minor on licensed premises—4 Liquor Infringement Notices (of an estimated 17)*

False representation as to age—14 detected offences (of an estimated 138)*

Consuming liquor in a public—1223 Liquor Infringement Notices place (issued mainly to adult offenders)

(3) The Queensland Police Service advises me that the majority of street parties have occurred in the Palm Beach/Burleigh Heads area. I am further advised that the Officer in Charge of the Palm Beach Police Station has implemented various strategies in respect of these parties.

As a proactive measure, local police have conducted a media campaign in the local free-to-home newspapers addressing issues relating to street parties, including the concerns police hold for the safety of those attending, and the effect these gatherings have on local residents.

The Officer in Charge has also personally attended and addressed the school assemblies at all high schools located in the area on the effects that street parties have on the community to general; the prospect of police charges arising from gatherings of this type; and the effect of alcohol on underage persons.

School principals have been most supportive of these efforts and have allowed articles on these subjects to be placed in school newsletters. This move is designed to also reach the students' parents and make them more aware of the issues involved. The schools are liaising closely with police regarding street parties.

The Queensland Police Services believes that the measures outlined have had a positive impact and no street parties have come to police attention since the strategies advised above have been implemented.

*Estimate of total number actioned by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing and the Queensland Police Service over the period.

249. State Development Department, Staffing

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) How many staff in total are employed by the Department of State Development and will he classify all levels?
- (2) How many of these staff are employed outside of Brisbane and will he classify all levels?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. There were 600 staff employed by the Department of State Development as at 26 March 1999. Classifications range from administrative trainees to the Chief Executive Officer.

2. The number of staff employed outside of Brisbane is 152. Classifications range from Administrative Trainees to SO1 in the regions. The Queensland Government Commissioners are contract employees.

250. State Development Department; Small Business

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) What major research studies have been undertaken and what are the major findings of these studies into issues effecting small business in this State?
- (2) How many of these studies have been conducted by the Department of State Development since 1 July 1998?
- (3) How many programs have been initiated from the results of these studies since 1 July 1998 and to what effect?
- (4) How many activities have or are being directed and marketed toward small business since 1 July 1998?
- (5) How does the Department of State Development propose to differentiate its programs, aimed at small business from other activities, including the alienation of small business by the department's all encompassing name?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. A significant body of research into the needs of small business has been built over the last decade and provided government with a sound understanding of policy and program options.

2. Since July 1998, the Department has commissioned four (4) major research studies:

- (a) The "Designing Better Regulatory Systems with Business Involvement" project investigated ways of improving the regulatory environment with the assistance of business. This study commenced in September 1998, and as a result of the study guidelines are being developed to assist agencies design and introduce better regulatory systems.
- (b) A research project in relation to the administration of appeal mechanisms and enforcement procedures for business regulation in Queensland was commenced in September 1998. The findings from the project will assist the development of whole of government service delivery initiatives for the business sector in Queensland.
- (c) A study into customer service standards in regulatory agencies has resulted in two agencies developing case studies on customer service improvement strategies. The case

studies will assist the development of whole of government guidelines for customer service improvement.

- (d) A review of Business Enterprise Centres, examining their viability and effectiveness, has been undertaken. The major findings from the review will be available in the near future.

3. Programs developed or under development as a result of available small business research include:

Proposals for new programs to support micro and home based businesses are currently under development

A range of new micro and small business products is well under way (eg "Leading Edge" has been launched) and a number of new products will be ready for roll out over the next few months.

The production of International Trade Action Plans for individual businesses

Consolidated Regional International Trade Plans have been developed for Mackay, Bundaberg and Townsville and will be extended to all Queensland regions

Guidelines to assist agencies design and introduce better regulatory systems

Case Studies have been developed to inform all government agencies on the development of guidelines for customer service improvement

Case Studies are currently being printed that highlight the benefits to small retail businesses of using information technology.

In relation to initiatives that have been introduced as a result of studies conducted since 1 July 1998, it is too early to gauge their effects. However, as is normal practice, an evaluation mechanism has been built into all the programs, and they will be reviewed at an appropriate time.

4. A wide range of Department activities have been marketed toward small business since 1 July 1998. These include:

Sponsorship of the Quest Business Achievers Awards

Sponsorship of the Telstra and Australian Government Small Business Awards

Sponsorship of the Micro Business Awards

Sponsorship of Regional Small Business Awards

Distribution of small business media columns to 150 media outlets each week

In addition, a range of workshops and seminars have been delivered to small business operators and intenders, since 1 July 1998. These include existing products, such as 'Your First Step' which have been reformulated to meet changing client needs and the introduction of new products, such as 'Leading Edge'. These products have proven highly successful and in the year to the end of February 1999, 342 workshops have been delivered with nearly 10,000 attendees. A further 627 kits, principally 'Your First Step', have been sold to business intenders.

In addition, the Department has awarded 119 grants to small businesses under the various grants programs offered.

5. The Department continues to promote its key involvement with the small business sector through its sponsorship of small business awards programs, the staging of a week long celebration of small business across Queensland, and through the targeted marketing and advertising of small business services.

251. State Development Department; Regional Development Boards

Mr LAMING asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) Will he advise whether all Regional Development Boards receive the same grants from the Department of State Development; if not, will he identify those receiving different grant amounts?
- (2) Will he advise of individual grants to specific boards?
- (3) How will the performance of these boards be measured?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. Regional Economic Development Corporations established by the Department of State Development will receive \$250,000 per annum for three years.

Remote Area Boards funded by the Department receive \$100,000 core funding for one year.

Fifteen organisations receive assistance under the Queensland Regional Business Advisory Service (QRBAS). Grants on average are \$55,000 per annum over 3 years.

2.(a) Regional Economic Development Corporations: Cairns Regional Economic Development Corporation; Townsville Enterprise Limited for the Townsville Enterprise Limited Regional Development Group; and Rockhampton Enterprise Limited. Further Corporations are being established in Mackay/Whitsunday and Gladstone.

Remote Area Boards funded by the Department of State Development: South West Regional Development Association; Cape York Peninsula Development Association; Gulf Local Authorities Development Association; and Central West Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board.

Organisations successful in obtaining support under the Queensland Regional Business Advisory Service are: South West Regional Development Association Inc; Maranoa Economic & Tourism Development Association Inc; Chinchilla Economic & Tourism Development Association Inc.; South Burnett Local Government Association Inc.; Lower Burdekin Development Council Inc.; The Gulf Local Authority Development Association Inc.; Cape York Peninsula Development Association Inc.; Development Bureau of Hinchinbrook & Cardwell Shires Inc.; Mackay Tourism & Development Bureau; Central Highlands Development Corporation Inc.; Mareeba Regional

Development Organisation Inc.; Goondiwindi District Promotions Inc.; Bundaberg District Tourism & Development Board Ltd; Dawson Valley Development Association Inc.; Cloncurry Business Industry & Tourism Association .

Regional Development Organisations may also be eligible for project funding under the Regional Business Development Scheme.

2.(b) 22 regional development organisations have received grant funding through the Department of State Development.

3. The performance of Regional Development Boards funded by the Department of State Development is measured according to performance indicators developed as part of the funding agreement between the Organisation and the Department.

252. State Development Department, Staffing

Mr SEENEY asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

With reference to the establishment of the Department of State Development—

- (1) How many positions have been advertised and filled?
- (2) How many of these positions are re-designated?
- (3) How many times have applications been sought outside the Public Service?
- (4) How many internal selections have been made?
- (5) How many Senior Executive Staff (SES) are there on the staff of the Department of State Development?
- (6) How many departmental SES staff are employed outside Brisbane?
- (7) Do all SES staff have performance plans applied and how often do reviews of these plans take place?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. 74 positions have been advertised and filled.
2. 18.
3. All positions have been advertised outside the Public Service and in the Queensland Government Gazette.
4. 27.
5. 29.
6. 3.
7. The Department is developing an executive performance planning system.

253. Speed Limits

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (23/3/99)—

- (1) As the basis of the 50 km/h speed limit for built-up areas was for the reduced speed to only apply on residential streets and not major thoroughfares, were comprehensive speed reviews undertaken of the major thoroughfares

in the local authority areas which have been included in the revised limit?

- (2) Has speed signing, consistent with the manual of uniform traffic control devices, been provided on roads in built-up areas that are to remain at 60 km/h?
- (3) Have any major thoroughfares had their speed limit reduced from 60 km/h to 50 km/h as a result of the new limits; if so, which are they and are there any processes in place to have any anomalies reviewed?

Mr BREDHAUER (22/4/99):

(1) All local governments participating in the 50km/h local street speed limit signed agreements with Queensland Transport that they would undertake speed limit audits and set speed limits in accordance with the Speed Limit Guidelines established by Queensland Transport.

With the exception of speed limits on a small number of streets which are still being negotiated, Councils have advised that they have completed their obligations under these agreements.

(2) According to reports from Councils, speed limit audits and signage adjustments have been completed except those still under negotiation.

The Gold Coast City Council has indicated their intention to install some speed limits not in accordance with the guidelines. Negotiations are continuing to ensure this anomaly does not proceed.

(3) Queensland Transport is concerned about the Gold Coast City Council's situation as this involves proposals to install 50km/h on some roads which should be 60km/h. Negotiations are under way and Queensland Transport is confident that the Gold Coast City Council will change their view when they have all the facts.

254. State Development Department; Small Business

Mr MALONE asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) What is the promotion budget for all programs of the Department of State Development and will he isolate that section directed to small business?
- (2) What is the target audience of programs aimed to assist small business and who are the department's clients?
- (3) Will he provide a marketing plan which is designed to reach the target audience and prospective clients?
- (4) What is the Department of State Development doing physically to eradicate the confusion in the small business sector about identifying its association with the Department of State Development?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. The DSD promotional budget is \$1,234,084. The promotional activities cover the full range of

departmental programs including products and services to small business.

Promotions undertaken through specific activities by the Office of Small Business have a budget of approximately of \$391,000.

2. The Department's principal target audience and clients within the small business sector are persons operating or intending to operate a small business. In general terms, the Department sees its clients as Queensland business and industry.

3. A Marketing Plan for small business activities for the 1999/2000 financial year is currently being developed. The Marketing Plan will specifically identify the clients of the Office of Small Business and will address strategies (for example promotional and distribution strategies) in which the Office of Small Business will service and deliver its products and services to the targeted group. It will particularly highlight the role of the State Development Centres in delivering the services and products of the Office of Small Business.

4. The Department's major marketing focus has been through the delivery arms of the organisation, utilising the expertise, local knowledge and business networks of departmental officers in State Development Centres (SDCs).

The Department, through the Office of Small Business and SDCs, has positioned itself as delivering quality services and products tailored to meet the needs of the small business sector. These services and products are specifically promoted to local small business operators through advertising in the local press and radio, direct mail, promotion through other Programs and through local small business associations and other groups.

Departmental officers employed in SDCs identify with the local business community and are experienced in the needs of small business. The Office of Small Business is currently reviewing the presentation of SDC staff and departmental services and products, to ensure they continue to be effectively marketed to small business.

255. State Development Department; Small Business

Miss SIMPSON asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

Which officers of his department, currently working in the small business section, have had previous experience in small business?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99): The Department has 15 State Development Centres located around the State providing services to the small business sector. Of the 131 people who work in these Centres, 103 have had previous experience in small business.

The Office of Small Business has 70 staff, 44 of whom have had previous experience in small business. Specific services provided by these staff includes business information, "Smart Licence", Retail Shop Leases Registry, policy and product development and regulatory reform.

256. State Development Department, Transition Costs

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) Will he table the costs of establishing the Department of State Development in transition to Government and specifically (a) changes to the chart of accounts, (b) all staff training costs, (c) all signage material costs, (d) all changes to promotional material costs, (e) monthly reporting charges, (f) delegation charges, (g) asset changes and inventories and (h) charges (including) closed merit selection of locating staff to relevant programs?
- (2) Has the Auditor-General independently audited all of the costs of transition by the Department of State Development?
- (3) Will these costs show up separately in the annual report?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. The cost of establishing the Department of State Development in transition to Government incurred by the department totals \$2.114M.

- (a) While it is not possible to explicitly separate these costs, the cost of creating new chart of accounts, the new organisational structure and cost of the merger of data from former departments whose components were subsumed by the Department of State Development totals \$0.453M.
- (b) It is not possible to identify any material staff training costs associated with the establishment of the Department of State Development.
- (c) Signage material and labour costs incurred by the department total \$50,368.
- (d) Promotional material change costs incurred by the department total \$64,270.
- (e) No additional charges for monthly reporting have been identified in association with the establishment of the Department of State Development.
- (f) It is impossible to separately identify these costs.
- (g) Asset and inventory changes form part of the \$0.453M from question 1(a).
- (h) It is not possible to quantify these changes.

2. The accounts of the Department of State Development will be audited according to the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

3. On advice from Queensland Treasury as to Minimum Reporting Requirements for Government financial statements it is not expected that the costs of machinery of Government changes will be shown separately in the annual report of the Department of State Development.

257. State Development Department, Offices

Mr LINGARD asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) How many overseas offices operate under the auspices of the Department of State Development?
- (2) What are the operating costs, including staff of these overseas offices?
- (3) What other States have trade offices overseas and where are they located?
- (4) Are there any new overseas or interstate offices planned?
- (5) Does the department have any offices in New South Wales or Victoria; if so, how many people are employed in these offices?
- (6) How much did these offices cost to open?
- (7) How much does it cost to maintain these offices?
- (8) Why has his department opened these offices when the previous Labor Government closed down the offices of manufacturing and industry?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. Seven overseas offices and one Representative office operate under the auspices of the Department of State Development.
2. The actual operating costs for the overseas offices for 1997/98 was \$9.7m.
3. Other States with overseas offices and the location of their offices are as follows:-
 - Western Australia: London, Tokyo, Seoul, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, India, the Philippines and Thailand
 - South Australia: Hong Kong, Jakarta, Tokyo, Jinan, Shanghai and Singapore
 - New South Wales: London and Tokyo
 - Victoria: Chicago, London, Hong Kong, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Jakarta, Korea and Dubai
4. Approval in principle has been granted to establish an office in Osaka. Consideration will be given to extending Queensland's overseas representation to appropriate locations as market circumstances dictate. Consideration is being given to establishing an office in New South Wales.
5. As yet no offices are in either state, however, the Department has a representative located in Sydney to maximise opportunities for Queensland business in tendering for work associated with the Sydney 2000 Olympics.
6. Although investigations are proceeding, no costs have been incurred in opening a Queensland Government Sydney based office.
7. The cost of having a Department of State Development Officer in Sydney since July 1998 has been \$92,500. This Office currently operates in a mobile environment which meets the current needs of the Olympic Business Development Project.
8. The Olympic Business Development Director in Sydney is responsible for

Identifying Olympic Business Development Opportunities for Queensland Businesses

Ensuring Queensland capabilities are promoted to prime contractors, subcontractors and Sydney organising agencies including SOCOG

Coordinating business seminars which show case key sectors, products and services

Leveraging longer term opportunities for Queensland firms in trade and investment

The question of opening and closing offices is dependent on a number of issues but of course paramount is the need for such an office and its ability to achieve outcomes.

Previously, Queensland has had offices in Sydney and Melbourne. However, the decision to close these was taken by a previous Government.

258. Small Business, Funding Programs

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

Will he detail all funding programs currently allocated to assist small business in Queensland and will he provide details of which individual businesses have been funded between June 1998 and March 1999 and for what purpose?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99): The Government is strongly committed to aiding small business in Queensland to establish, grow and create employment for Queenslanders. To this end, the Department of State Development operates a number of programs aimed at small businesses ranging from advisory services to workshops to direct funding programs providing grants and subsidies to individual businesses and industry associations.

With the exception of the International Women's Day Grants, which are exclusively for small business operators, and the Management Skills Development Scheme moneys, which are directed to industry associations, all the direct funding programs are open to both large and small businesses. Details of recipients of all these Schemes are provided in the attachments. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane) The details of these direct funding programs are as follows (Throughout, small businesses are defined as manufacturing firms having less than 100 employees and services firms employing 20 people or less. This is the standard definition used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics):

International Women's Day Grants

As part of the 70th year Celebrations for International Women's Day in 1999 the Department of State Development established the International Women's Day Business Grant Scheme to help women business owners and intenders. The focus of the grants is to assist women develop business concepts and produce comprehensive business plans by offering moneys for the development of small business development skills. In 1998-99, 38 grants have been awarded. All of these grants have gone to small business, or business intenders.

Queensland Industry Development Scheme (QIDS)

QIDS provides assistance to businesses to increase employment, export and increase investment. In 1998-99, 44 grants have been approved and 31 of these have been provided to small businesses.

Asia Link

Asia Link has been designed to assist Queensland firms that are currently exporting to Asia maintain their export links and build on the strong bilateral relationships that exist with our trading partners in this region. In 1998-99, 27 grants have been approved, 25 of which have been provided to small business.

Regional Business Development Scheme (RBDS)

This scheme is designed to positively influence the development of regional Queensland. It is aimed at assisting individual regional firms, regional development organisations, regional and local tourism associations, business and community groups and tertiary education and local Government bodies. In 1998-99, 80 grants were provided, 42 went to regional organisations and 6 were provided to small businesses.

Sectoral Grants

The Department operates a number of grants schemes aimed at assisting individual sectors. These are Textiles, Clothing and Footwear and Wood and Paper. In 1998-99, 8 grants were provided under these schemes, 7 of which went to small business.

Management Skills Development Scheme (MSDS)

MSDS provides funds to professional industry and business associations and other groups that represent a particular small business base, to assist in the development and delivery of programs that improve their member's management skills. As such the grants are available for the benefit of small business. Eleven (11) grants have been made to industry associations in the year to date.

Queensland Trade Assistance Scheme (QTAS)

QTAS aids firms to raise their export performance by encouraging them to adopt sound strategic marketing techniques to enhance their potential for success in international markets. Of the 24 grants approved, to date, in 1998-99, 10 were awarded to small businesses.

Queensland Investment Incentives Scheme (QIIS)

The Queensland Investment Incentives Scheme aims to positively influence the investment decisions of companies considering moving to or expanding in Queensland by providing project specific financial incentives. Three (3) grants have been provided this financial year, none of which have gone to small businesses.

Other Grants

A small number of one-off and other grants have been provided. Five (5) of these have been provided directly to businesses and the remainder have gone to organisations, such as Construction Queensland. Of the business grants, 2 have been provided to small businesses.

259. State Development Department, Business Advisers

Mr HEALY asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

How many departmental business advisers are located throughout the State and where are they located?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99): As at 31 March 1999, a total of sixty nine (69) Departmental Business Advisers (now termed 'State Development Officers') operate from the fifteen (15) State Development Centres across the State.

260. State Development Department, Structuring

Mr HEGARTY asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) Has he put in place and has he completed the structuring of the Department of State Development?
- (2) Are all positions filled, including overseas and interstate appointments and are any future expansions or offices planned?
- (3) What has been the cost and what are the future budgeted costs of this structuring?
- (4) How many internal applicants were re-appointed?
- (5) How many applicants from outside the Public Service were recruited?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. The structure of the Department is in place.
2. Not all positions have been filled as there are always vacancies in any organisation of that size. These will be filled in accordance with conventional management practices. There is a sound case for some expansion of Queensland's presence internationally and interstate and plans for these are under way.
3. The costs of restructuring have been achieved within existing budgets.
4. In establishing the structure of Department of State Development, all staff were reappointed with current terms and conditions of employment.
5. 18 applicants have been recruited since the formation of the Department.

261. Queensland Manufacturing Institute

Mr STEPHAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) What is the total cost to date in the establishment of the Queensland Manufacturing Institute, including the land and building costs?
- (2) Who determines the priorities at this institute?
- (3) What is the value per annum of the estimated diffusion to industry at this institute?

- (4) What is the income per annum at this institute?
- (5) What is the contribution per annum of each of the participating partners of the institute?
- (6) Do each of the participating members have equal opportunities at board meetings?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. The total investment leveraged to date by the State in QMI is some \$25m. Investment in QMI comes from many sources, including State, Commonwealth, University and Industry.

Ownership of the buildings and land rests with the State which has contributed \$5.2m towards building costs (\$1.2m in 1985/86 and \$4m in 1994/95). The State receives a commercial return for its investment in land and buildings through the Property Services Group within the Department of State Development. The asset value of the land is \$1.25m.

2. QMI membership includes the State of Queensland through the Department of State Development, the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Corporation (VETEC) and CSIRO. The Queensland University of Technology is also a participant in the activities of QMI.

A Board of Directors, comprising representatives of the member organisations, governs the Institute and is chaired by an independent industry Chairperson. The Board, in consultation with member organisations, determines the priorities of the Institute. The Institute also has a strong interaction with Queensland business in determining its products and services. This is demonstrated in the fact that QMI will directly service projects with more than 600 Queensland firms this year.

3. Independent analysis of QMI's impact in technology diffusion has shown multipliers of 100 to 1 for the Government's investment through the Institute. This has been validated through case studies undertaken with firms that have been assisted by QMI. The value of the diffusion manifests itself in a number of ways. These include increased export opportunities, import replacement opportunities and new business attraction to Queensland.

In the global economy, innovation is the 'life blood' of successful enterprises. Companies need access to knowledge-based infrastructure that can support them in product and process innovation and in becoming internationally competitive. Innovation support through QMI means increased wealth in the State and increased jobs. Last year, QMI contributed to more than \$300m of new investment opportunities in the State and had a positive impact on some 1000 direct jobs and a similar number of indirect jobs.

4. The income of QMI this financial year is some \$4.5m. This is comprised of one third from industry through the application of user pays principles, one third through support from subscribers, and the balance through project work involving private and public (including Commonwealth Government) sector funds.

5. Member organisations make contributions to QMI in both cash and kind. This financial year, cash contributions are:

Department of State Development—\$1.4m
VETEC—\$572,000
CSIRO—\$330,000.

6. Yes. Each member organisation has one nominated board representative with equal rights. The Board is chaired by an independent industry person who is elected by the Board.

262. Major Projects in Queensland

Mr VEIVERS asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) How much money is budgeted towards attracting new major projects to Queensland?
- (2) How many major projects are the overseas offices of the Department of State Development currently working on and what are they?
- (3) How many major projects have been secured for Queensland or have arrived in Queensland, since July 1998, not including those under negotiation at the time of change of Government?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. Two areas of the Department of State Development are actively involved in securing investment and major projects in Queensland, the Project Development & Facilitation Division which has an operating budget of \$2.442m in 1998/99 and the Investment Division which has an operating budget of \$2.745m.

The Project Development and Facilitation Division also has a special budget allocation of \$27.7m largely to assist two specific projects in accordance with arrangements which have been agreed between proponents and Government.

The Investment Division administers the Qld Investment Incentives Scheme, which has a budget for this financial year of \$8.1m.

2. London Office is assisting to secure AMC's \$800m magnesium smelter project, which is proposed for Stanwell near Rockhampton.

Taiwan Office is assisting the attraction to Gladstone of the Yieh Loong steel plant.

3. None of the significant number of major projects which have emerged since July 1998 have been unconditionally committed—as would be expected given that major projects usually take at least two years in gestation—through the securing of all necessary Government approvals and infrastructure provision.

A number of investment opportunities have been secured in this period. These are:

IBM (110+)—Multilingual Call Centre and Technical Support
Citibank—Multilingual Call Centre
Parmalat—Asia Pacific Regional Headquarters
Saville—Software Development—Asia Pacific Regional Headquarters
Indus—Software Development—Asia Pacific Regional Support Centre

There are several more major investment opportunities in the pipeline but any announcement at this stage would be premature.

263. State Development Department, Business Centres

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) What is the function of the Department of State Development's Business Centres?
- (2) What programs are delivered regionally through business centres?
- (3) What expenditure authority does each business centre manager have in relation to grant approval?
- (4) What is the maximum grant available to (a) a company seeking assistance and (b) a regional development authority?
- (5) What are the department's budgets for each of the individual centres across the State?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. The Department's State Development Centres provide a single point of entry for business, industry and the community to access a wide range of government services, information, advice and support that are available through the Department of State Development.

2. Programs delivered by the State Development Centres include: Queensland Trade Assistance Scheme (QTAS); Regional Business Development Scheme (RBDS); Management Skills Development Scheme (MSDS); Queensland Industry Development Scheme (QIDS); Queensland Investment Incentive Scheme (QIIS); North West Queensland Community Benefits Grants Scheme; Sectoral Grants; Asia Link; Women In Business; Training programs/workshops such as "Your First Step" and "Leading Edge".

3. State Development Centre Directors have a delegated expenditure authority approval limit of up to \$30,000 in relation to grant approvals in accordance with grant program guidelines.

4. The maximum grant available to a company seeking assistance varies between programs.

The Queensland Investment Incentive Scheme has no upper limit. Grants and other incentives are based on the expected net economic benefit to the State and are tied to performance indicators. The Queensland Industry Development Scheme has a stipulated maximum grant of \$50,000 per annum or \$150,000 over three years to assist the company with specific improvement projects. A dollar for dollar contribution in relation to eligible activities is expected for the company.

Companies can access the Regional Business Development Scheme program. There is no upper limit for this scheme which usually requires a dollar for dollar contribution from the company. The amount provided is based on the projects value. Other programs provide lesser grants.

Regional Development organisations can also access the Regional Business Development Scheme with funding provided based on the projects worth. A number of regional development corporations have been provided grants of up to \$250,000 per year for three years.

The total budget for the fifteen State Development Centres is \$6,104,440.00 for the 1998/1999 financial year. The budget for each Centre is set out below:

STATE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE—98/99 BUDGET

Cairns—	\$371,496
Townsville—	\$870,749
Mt Isa—	\$221,458
Mackay—	\$351,888
Rockhampton—	\$581,342
Gladstone—	\$308,693
Bundaberg—	\$321,600
Maryborough—	\$235,078
Sunshine Coast—	\$314,678
Toowoomba—	\$380,110
Gold Coast—	\$437,549
Brisbane—	\$926,273
Aspley—	\$168,665
Springwood—	\$335,477
Ipswich—	\$279,384
TOTAL—	\$6,104,440

264. Cost of Transition to Government by Labor Party

Mr LESTER asked the Premier (23/3/99)—

- (1) What is the total cost to the people of Queensland of transition to Government by the Labor Party and will the Auditor-General table the entire costs related to this transition?
- (2) Will he allow an all-Party Parliamentary Committee to examine the Auditor-General and his report on this matter?
- (3) As he has stated that transition to Government by his party was "cheap", will he explain by what parameters and measurements does he claim to be "cheap"?

Mr BEATTIE (22/4/99): The cost of this Government's transition to Government, has been significantly lower than the costs of transition of the previous Government. The Labor Government's transition costs in 1998 were \$1,830,387, compared with the Coalition Government's transition costs of \$4,732,768.98 in 1996. Unlike previous transitions to office, this Government maintained stability in the Public Service and minimised organisational change. Most departments continued unchanged. Where change was necessary, as in the creation of a new department to generate business investment and economic growth with the Department of State Development under the Deputy Premier, the changes were undertaken swiftly and without the jobs of public servants being spilled. Business welcomed this approach and the community welcomed our commitment to getting on with service delivery instead of fiddling with the structures of Government. In terms of the cost to the public of the Coalition's transition to government in February

1996, it instituted a freeze on the Government's capital works program which lasted for several months and cost the construction industry hundreds of millions of dollars. It also added to the unemployment rate.

The Labor Government not only ensured that there was no interruption to the capital works program but boosted the program to \$4.8 billion in its September Budget.

265. TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (23/3/99)—

At each of Queensland's TAFE Institutes and colleges between 1 July 1998 and 23 March 1999 (a) how many permanent, full-time teachers were newly appointed, (b) how many permanent, full-time tutors were newly appointed, (c) how many permanent, full-time administrative staff were newly appointed and (d) how many other permanent support staff were appointed?

Mr BRADY (22/4/99): The total number of permanent staff newly appointed at each of Queensland's TAFE Institutes and colleges between 1 July 1998 and 1 April 1999 is 239. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

NB. The permanent staff numbers were compiled up to 1 April 1999 to coincide with the scheduled monthly Departmental download of workforce management data. Running the data as at 23 March 1999 would have meant scheduling a special report and incurring additional report production charges.

266. Clunies Ross Centre

Mr BEANLAND asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) What is the total cost to date of the Clunies Ross Centre at the Eight Mile Plains Technology Centre?
- (2) How much of this has been paid by the Department of State Development?
- (3) What is the annual rate of return received by the Queensland Government from this centre?
- (4) Who is responsible for the staff appointments at this centre?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. The capital costs incurred by the Queensland Government for the Queensland Clunies Ross Centre for Science and Industry is \$6.83 million inclusive of professional consultancies for its design and construction. The agreement between the Queensland Government and the Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Foundation provides for the Foundation to pay for operating expenses and purchase of any equipment required for the Centre's operations. This contribution amounts to some \$756,000 to date.

2. The Department of State Development has paid all of the capital costs of \$6.83 million. The Foundation has paid all operating expenses.

3. The contract which the Queensland Government has with the Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Foundation for it to manage the Centre for the first five years is not based on an annual rate of return to the Queensland Government. Profits from Centre operations are to be applied to programs that enhance science and technology in Queensland in the first instance. Any surpluses are to be shared between the Queensland Government and the Foundation.

4. The CEO of the Queensland Clunies Ross Centre is provided by the Foundation as part of the management arrangements incorporated in the agreement with the Queensland Government. I understand that the current Manager, Mr Geoffrey Cooke, was selected on merit after interviews with short listed candidates gathered from advertisements in the national media by a panel chaired by Mr Hugh Morgan AO. Mr Morgan is Chairman of the Foundation and the Queensland Clunies Ross Centre for Science and Industry. Other members of the selection panel were Mr John Clark AM, a Governor of the Foundation and a representative from the firm responsible for managing the recruitment process. The CEO is responsible for the appointment of other staff employed within the Centre.

267. Daintree Region, Power Supply

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (23/3/99)—

With reference to calls by residents north of the Daintree River for mains power to be extended to that area—

- (1) What is his response to the recently completed Environmental Impact Assessment Study which found that "the proposal to connect grid power to private lands from the Daintree River north to Thornton Beach has no direct long-term or irreversible environmental impacts"?
- (2) Does he support the Douglas Shire Council's reported position which gives in-principle support to the provision of mains power coupled with some property buy-back and monitored vegetation protection?
- (3) Will the Government provide mains power to any of those residents; if not, is the Government considering providing those residents with compensation or offering a renewed round of property buy-backs?

Mr McGRADY (23/4/99):

(1) I have repeatedly stated that this Government has a clear election policy not to provide mains power north of the Daintree River, but have also noted that the Government would fully consider the findings of the EIAS. This is a complex matter, involving three levels of government and a range of development control and environmental management concerns that go beyond just the issue of power.

(2) I am aware of the recent decision by the Douglas Shire Council on this matter, and I can advise that my colleague the Minister for Environment and Heritage and myself met with representatives of Douglas Shire Council on Tuesday, 23 March to discuss their position. Whilst I have repeatedly stated my position on the issue, I welcome the Council's attempt to develop a compromise position which attempts to meet the various, and at times strongly divergent, views of its community. My colleague and I also indicated our "in principle" support for the Council's proposal to undertake a study of possible infrastructure requirements, as part of the Council's Development Plan for the Daintree region.

(3) As the member's question intimates, this issue is complex. Delivery of a sustainable outcome, for the broader issue of ensuring that development does not adversely impact on the environmental values of the region, will involve an integrated strategy involving all three levels of government and a range of specific actions. As the EIAS report concludes, a range of complimentary actions would have to be undertaken if the environmental values of the area are to be protected. Dealing with the issue of power alone is not enough. It is for this reason that Cabinet will carefully consider this matter within the next couple of months. In taking a holistic approach to this complex and sensitive matter, it will also be necessary to determine the Commonwealth's position. This is particularly important given its role in the WHA buyback scheme, which I note the EIAS report recommends should be continued.

268. Police Beats

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (23/3/99)—

- (1) What is the total budget allocation for the operation of police beats in 1998-99?
- (2) What is the number of police beats currently operating and their location?
- (3) What new police beats have been put into operation since 1 July 1998?
- (4) In what locations will additional police beats be established by 30 June 1999?

Mr BARTON (22/4/99):

(1) Total estimated expenditure on Police Beats in the 1998/99 financial year is \$2.1M. This represents \$1.0M allocated in the 1998/99 State Budget to establish ten new Police Beats and an estimate of the salaries and recurrent costs of all 22 Police Beats.

(2) Currently 13 Police Beats are operational. The locations of these Beats are outlined in the following table.

Region:	Town—Suburb
Southern:	Toowoomba (3)—East Toowoomba, West Toowoomba, Harlaxton Ipswich (3)—Springfield, Leichhardt, Silkstone
Metro South:	Brisbane (1)—West End
Metro North:	Brisbane (2)—The Gap, Kenmore
Central:	Gladstone (1)—Agnes Waters

Northern: Townsville (2)—South Townsville, Garbutt
Far Northern: Cairns (1)—Trinity Beach

(3) Three new Police Beats have commenced operation since 1 July 1998. The locations of these Beats are outlined in the following table.

Region:	Town—Suburb
Northern:	Townsville(2)—South Townsville, Garbutt
Far Northern:	Cairns (1)—Trinity Beach

(4) A further 9 new Police Beats will be established by 30 June 1999. In addition to the 3 Beats outlined in the previous table that are now operational, new Beats will be established in the following locations.

Region:	Town—Suburb
South East:	Beenleigh (1)—Eagleby
Southern:	Ipswich (1)—Riverview
Metro North:	Petrie (2)—Bray Park, Kallangur
North Coast:	Redcliffe (1)—Margate Hervey Bay (1)—Urangan
Central:	Mackay (1)—Slade Point
Northern:	Townsville (2)—Kelso, Rasmussen

All statistics have been centrally verified.

269. Unfair Dismissal Legislation

Mr BAUMANN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

As the Minister responsible for small business, is he committed to the unfair dismissal legislation currently in place in Queensland; if not, why not; if so, why are the current unfair dismissal provisions so important to small business people in this State?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99): As a Minister of the Crown, regardless of my other responsibilities, I am committed, as are all the members of the Queensland Parliament, to upholding the laws of Queensland. The current Unfair Dismissal legislation is the law in Queensland and I am beholden to uphold it.

However, as the Members of the House would be aware, the Industrial Relations system in Queensland is currently under review. My Department of State Development has been involved in this review to ensure that the full range of perspectives are examined as part of the review. This obviously includes the perspectives of the small business sector. I understand that the results of the review will be announced in due course.

My Department is preparing a product for small business called 'Managing for Growth'. This product, which will be delivered in the form of a workshop, seeks to make small businesses aware of the issues they will need to address when they are expanding their businesses. A component of 'Managing for Growth' will be an introduction to industrial relations requirements, including unfair dismissal.

270. Smart Licence Centre

Mr GRICE asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

How many inquiries have there been for business licence information at "The Smart Licence Centre" since its inception?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99): There have been 32,496 inquiries from the public since the inception of "The Smart Licence Centre."

271. State Development Department, Office Rental

Mr QUINN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) Was the annual rent for the Department of State Development's office space paid in advance, not once, but in fact twice in the same year; if so, will he advise if the second errant payment has been recovered?
- (2) What safeguards are now in place or will he put in place to ensure that this incompetence does not occur again?
- (3) Will he advise the total annual rental pertaining to all Department of State Development offices in the State of Queensland?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. Annual rent was not paid twice in the same year by the Department of State Development. However, invoices were issued in error to both the Department of State Development and the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing for the same tenancies in July and August 1999. Credit notes have been issued to correct this error.

2. Adjustments have been made to ensure that rental invoices are issued to reflect the new departmental structures.

3. Total current annual rental is \$4,005,874.

272. Ministerial Compliance with Acts

Mrs SHELDON asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) Has he complied with all of the provisions of the Act, as it related to the Ampol Refinery and the BP Refinery Acts?
- (2) Has he rescinded any of the provisions of these Acts and has he enforced the provisions of these Acts?
- (3) Who currently determines the port charges per tonne of crude oil and how is this reconciled with the provisions of the two Acts?
- (4) Does he believe that this is a satisfactory situation?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. I have complied with the provisions contained in the two Acts in question. In doing so I have acted on advice prepared by the Crown Solicitor.

2. I have not rescinded any provisions of the Acts. No action has occurred which would require enforcement measures to be initiated.

3. The Port of Brisbane Corporation negotiates port charges with the operators of the refineries on a commercial basis. The legislation to which the Honourable Member refers was enacted in the 1960s to support the establishment of two oil refineries in Brisbane. The Acts contain provisions specifying that harbour dues were to be calculated in a certain manner as long as the refineries continued to receive all crude oil supplies by carriage by sea. As this situation ceased some years ago, the provisions relating to the calculation of harbour dues are no longer applicable.

4. The commercial negotiation of port charges between the Port of Brisbane Corporation and its customers is entirely appropriate. The initiation of discussions with relevant stakeholders to resolve any problems associated with the Acts is also appropriate and is in progress.

273. State Development Department, Small Business and Industry Assistance

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) Will he identify his department's assistance programs to (a) industry and (b) small business?
- (2) What percentage does this represent of the Department of State Development's annual budget?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. The Department of State Development exists to aid the development of business and industry in this State. This is reflected in the Ministerial Program Statement (MPS) that was presented to Parliament at the time of the last budget. To quote the MPS:

"The Department will contribute to Queensland's economic growth by:

providing a positive business environment for business and industry

supporting innovative enterprises

pursuing trade, export and investment opportunities

boosting the development of projects with the capacity to enhance Queensland's competitiveness and economic strength

providing efficient infrastructure to meet the changing needs of industry"

In a very real sense, therefore, the whole Department is devoted to providing assistance to industry and small business and its whole budget can be seen as being allocated for this purpose.

However, my Department operates on the principle of facilitating the market. Consequently, much of the assistance provided to business is in the form of advice and the provision of information to increase businesses' skills and awareness, facilitation of investment and infrastructure and the removal of impediments to business growth eg business regulation reform. Of particular note, is the suite of workshops that have been developed to address the specific needs of small business operators. This has

involved the review, reformatting and redevelopment of products delivered by the former Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry, as well as the introduction of new products.

All of these products have been introduced to small business and business intenders to meet market gaps that have been identified by market research. Significantly, they have been developed with the active involvement of State Development Centre staff to ensure that their experience is tapped and translated into meaningful programs that satisfy client needs.

Given the overall focus on facilitation and advice and allowing the market to work, direct assistance to business and industry, in the form of grants and subsidies, represents a relatively small proportion of the Department's outlays. I have already detailed the direct funding programs being offered by my Department in my answer to Question on Notice No. 258, but I will recap. The direct funding programs are as follows: Queensland Trade Assistance Scheme, Regional Business Development Scheme, Management Skills Development Scheme, Queensland Industry Development Scheme, Sectoral Grants, Asia Link, Queensland Investment Incentives Scheme, Women in Business, Other and One-off Grants

In addition, funding has been provided for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grants Scheme and this is currently under development.

With the exception of the Women in Business Grants, which are solely for small business operators, and the Management Skills Development Scheme, which is directed at Industry Associations, all of the above direct funding programs are open to both industry and small business.

For the 1998-99 year to date, 253 grants have been approved. Of these, 119 have been provided to small business, 59 to industry, 67 to industry organisations and 8 to other groups such as development associations and the like. Thus, direct grants to business represent 70.4 per cent of total grants awarded and small businesses comprise 47 per cent of all grants awarded and 68 per cent of all grants awarded to business.

As previously noted, due to the focus on facilitating market mechanisms, providing advice and removing impediments to business growth, direct funding programs represent a relatively small proportion of the Department's budget. This is reflected in the following figures for 1998-99:

Key Inputs

Consolidated Fund: \$147,689,000 (Net Inputs); \$31,521,000 (Current Grants and Subsidies); 21.6%

Trust: \$104,621,000 (Net Inputs); \$4,755,000 (Current Grants and Subsidies); 4.5%

Total: \$252,310,000 (Net Inputs); \$36,276,000 (Current Grants and Subsidies); 14.3%

274. State Development Department, Corporate Support

Mr HOBBS asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) What is the cost to the Department of State Development of corporate support provided by the Premier's Department?
- (2) What is the nature of any support paid for by the department?
- (3) How does he determine that he is getting "value for money" with this expenditure?
- (4) How many corporate officers are there in the Department of State Development?
- (5) How many corporate officers were there in the former Department of Economic Development and Trade?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. The 1998-99 Budget for corporate services from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is \$6.312M.
2. The Department pays the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for information technology, human resource management, finance, administration, library and internal audit services.
3. The provision of corporate services by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is governed by a partnership agreement that defines the level and quality of services to be provided.
4. 17 corporate support officers.
5. The Department of State Development was formed by amalgamating the Department of Economic Development and Trade (DEDT) with the Small Business and Industry parts of the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry (TSBI); the Coordinator-General's Office, Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Commercial Advisory Division of Queensland Treasury. The number of corporate support staff in TSBI was 66. The number of corporate support staff in DEDT was 1.

275. State Development Department, Motor Vehicles

Mr CONNOR asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/3/99)—

- (1) How many motor vehicles are attached to the Department of State Development, both QG plated and senior executive staff vehicles?
- (2) How many of these vehicles are located outside of Brisbane, broken down by region?
- (3) How many are garaged at the department's headquarters?
- (4) What are the usage rates on these vehicles?
- (5) How much FBT is paid on the use of these vehicles and what is the total kilometre usage on which FBT is based?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. 88.
2. 48 are located outside the Brisbane CBD. Refer Attachment 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
3. 40 vehicles are garaged in the Brisbane CBD.

4. Log books are kept in non SES vehicles and usage varies dependent on location.

5. FBT liability has yet to be determined for 1998-99. The amount of FBT will be assessed against each vehicle using either the actual operating cost or statutory method to minimise that liability.

276. Justice and Attorney-General's Department, Staffing

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (23/3/99)—

- (1) Since the Beattie Government came to office in June 1998, have any of the officers within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General had their employment positions reviewed or restructured; if so, why and how many?
- (2) Will he provide the names of officers within the department who have been offered voluntary early redundancies and the names of those who have accepted the offers and what are the reasons for the VER offers?

Mr FOLEY (22/4/99): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Springborg, I can advise as follows—

(1) Since the Beattie Government has come to power there has been some change in the delivery of corporate services within the department to maximise the use of resources on core business and to ensure that the delivery of those services reflects Government and departmental resource management policies. As a result of those changes, one officer has been registered as a deployee with the Office of the Public Service, in accordance with Directive 4/98, Deployment and Redeployment.

One position in the Office of the Director-General was declared surplus to requirements under the former Government and as no satisfactory permanent employment for the officer is available, he has been declared surplus to requirements and is now registered as a deployee in accordance with Public Service policy. A further position in the Office of the Director-General was abolished during the term of this Government and this officer has also been designated as a deployee. All three officers are being offered every assistance to obtain a position within the Public Service.

The position of Executive Officer to the Director-General, which was reclassified upwards during the term of the previous Government, has been returned to its previous classification and its occupant redeployed on her substantive level.

(2) The only voluntary early retirement (VER) packages offered were to two persons (names separately supplied to Mr Springborg for privacy reasons). One position became redundant as a result of restructuring in the Legal Aid Office and one from the formalisation of a new structure within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, initiated during the term of the previous Government.

277. Orpheus Island, Yanks Jetty

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (23/3/99)—

- (1) Will the Department of Environment clearly state their concerns with the re-installation of Yanks Jetty at Orpheus Island?
- (2) Why has there been concern regarding the stability of the jetty when it has served the tourist trade for over ten years without incident?
- (3) When will this issue be resolved?
- (4) Are there issues with regard to Native Title that are holding up the re-installation of Yanks Jetty; if so, when will these be finalised?

Mr WELFORD (21/4/99):

1. The drawings attached to the application dated 8 December 1998 for approval to construct a jetty and pontoon at Orpheus Island indicate that the pontoon does not meet the standards of the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to load-carrying capacity for a floating structure intended for public or commercial use.

2. The Environmental Protection Agency has no details regarding the stability of the jetty and pontoon. However, there is a potential for the future loading of the pontoon to exceed previously expected loadings.

3. The applicant has submitted amended drawings on which the pontoon has been deleted. Approval of the jetty was granted on 1 April 1999.

4. The Environmental Protection Agency provided 'notification' of the section 86 application in accordance with the new Native Title Work Procedures, introduced to all government departments on the 30 September 1998. The records of the Environmental Protection Agency indicate that, at 1 April 1999, no response to the notification had been received and that the minimum period provided for such responses had expired.

278. Logan Motorway

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (23/3/99)—

With reference to the upgrade of the Logan Motorway in my electorate—

- (1) What is the total cost of the project?
- (2) What is the expected completion date of the project?
- (3) How many jobs are expected to be created during the construction stage of this project?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/4/99):

(1) Duplication of the 16 kilometre, two-lane eastern section of the Logan Motorway is estimated to cost \$43.75 million and is required to enhance traffic capacity as well as service and safety levels.

The duplication of the eastern section of the Logan Motorway will be divided into three contracts:

Drews Road to Meakin Road, including the upgrading of the Loganlea Toll Plaza to incorporate electronic tolling, at an estimated cost of \$21 million. Construction is in progress for this section.

Meakin Road to Bega Road, at an estimated cost of \$12 million. The tender for this contract was awarded in early April 1999 and construction is due to commence in the near future.

Bega Road to Wembley Road, at an estimated cost of \$11 million, with construction having commenced recently.

As part of the construction program for this project, noise barriers will be erected and landscaping works will be undertaken to enhance the roadside environment for both local residents and the travelling public.

(2) The project is scheduled to be completed in March 2000 to coincide with the completion of the Pacific Motorway Project.

(3) It is anticipated that this project will create 420 jobs for the duration of the project. One quarter of these jobs will occur in the construction of the section of the project, which is in Mr Mickel's electorate.

279. Transport and Main Roads Portfolio; Whitsunday Electorate

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/3/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Whitsunday Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Whitsunday Electorate or which cater for the Whitsunday Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Whitsunday, I am fully informed of the efforts

made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/4/99):

(1-6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7-9) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of the Government agencies, and the election commitments of this Government. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would expect the Honourable Member to involve himself in the activities of his own constituency in the usual manner of an elected representative.

280. Moreton Bay Islands; Redland Shire Council

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (24/3/99)—

- (1) Does he intend to take any action in respect of the 4,000 land owners of the southern Moreton Bay islands where the Redland Shire Council plans to resume property with little or no consultation or compensation?
- (2) Has he considered an independent public inquiry?
- (3) Has he any intention of intervening in the dispute between the Redland Shire Council and the land owners?

Mr MACKENROTH (9/4/99):

(1) The future management of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands is the subject of a joint study between the Redland Shire Council and the State Government, in response to the inappropriate subdivision of over 22,500 lots, some 20 years ago. The State Government at the time allowed the islands to be subdivided and lots sold without the provision of sewerage, water, roads or social infrastructure (such as schools and health facilities), nor assessment of the environmental impact on the waters of Moreton Bay.

A draft Strategy developed from the joint study proposes a range of actions such as improvements to and sequencing of infrastructure provision, amendment to the Redland Shire Council's planning scheme, and acquisition of approximately 5,500 lots to reduce the development potential on the Islands to an ecologically sustainable level. The Strategy recommends any acquisitions be undertaken in strict accordance with the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 at a 'fair market value'.

No decisions have been made in respect to land acquisitions. I am currently reviewing the draft Strategy including the possible impacts on landowners, prior to taking a position to Cabinet for consideration.

(2) An independent inquiry is not considered necessary as the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Land Use Study has involved extensive community

consultation, technical research and public input throughout the course of the work and development of the draft Strategy.

(3) The Local Government Act 1993 provides local government with considerable autonomy to determine the amount of rates levied and the level of services to be provided to their communities. I have no powers under the legislation to intervene in these matters which landowners should take up directly with the Redland Shire Council.

Should land acquisitions be undertaken in the event the draft Strategy is endorsed, any dispute over 'fair market value' will be a matter for the Land Court to resolve under the Acquisition of Land Act 1967. I have no powers to intervene in this judicial process.

281. Mr J. Bearham

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (24/3/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of alleged police harassment in the case of a Mr Jason Bearham of Rockhampton?
- (2) As numerous incidents are reported to have occurred in the period late 1997 to late 1998, which, on the face of it, would appear to have been at least over zealous, will he investigate these allegations?

Mr BARTON (22/4/99):

1. I am advised that Mr Bearham has made allegations of police harassment, and that his allegations have been investigated by the Queensland Police Service and found to be unsubstantiated.

2. When an allegation is raised against a member of the Queensland Police Service (QPS), there are several mechanisms in place to ensure that a competent investigation takes place. These include the overview of regional investigations by both the QPS Ethical Standards Command and the Official Misconduct Division of the Criminal Justice Commission. It would appear that Mr Bearham's allegations have been thoroughly investigated using these mechanisms, however, if Mr Bearham has remaining concerns about police behaviour, I would encourage him to contact the Criminal Justice Commission.

282. Gatton College

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Education (24/3/99)—

With reference to the University of Queensland which has nearly halved the size of Gatton College by moving the Business Degrees and associated courses to the new campus at Ipswich and to South Brisbane which has effectively asset stripped the college by shifting students, courses and staff and in reality, the University of Queensland has not made any significant capital investments from its own coffers since the amalgamation of 1990, nor does it have in its capital plan, any intentions for major capital investment into the college for the next five

years and as he is responsible for the University of Queensland Act—

- (1) Why does the Faculty of Agriculture, Veterinary Science and Natural Resources distribute only 25 per cent of its funding to Gatton College whilst more than 40 per cent of students from this faculty attend Gatton College?
- (2) What will he do to address the loss of courses from Gatton College?
- (3) Does he support the relocation of the large animal veterinary component of the Veterinary School to Gatton College; if so, when can we expect this relocation to occur?
- (4) As the loss of students and staff has cost the Lockyer community an estimated \$8m annually, how will he direct the University Senate to address these losses to the local community?

Mr WELLS (21/4/99): While it is true that the Minister for Education is responsible for the administration of the University of Queensland Act, even a cursory examination of that Act would reveal that it is the Senate of the University which is responsible for the decisions concerning the matters raised in the member's question, namely the allocation of funds within the University, the array and distribution of academic programs offered by the faculties of the University, and the location of various elements of the University, such as the Veterinary School. It would be quite improper for me, as the Minister, to seek to intervene in what are properly decisions of the University's governing body.

I am advised, however, that the University has made a significant contribution to the development of its Gatton campus since 1990. These include funding for a new central lecture theatre, a new administration building, refurbishment of other buildings, including laboratories, student accommodation and dining facilities, a new piggery and student learning centre. The University's Capital Management Plan for the period 1999-2001, which includes provision for a further \$5.3 million to be spent on new facilities for the Schools of Natural Resources and Systems Management and Land and Food.

The University has further advised that it had proposed to address the relocation of some courses and students away from Gatton to other parts of the University by developing the Gatton campus as a world class centre for teaching, research and extension in Agriculture and Veterinary Science. This objective cannot be achieved unless significant infrastructure in science is provided at Gatton. It was hoped that this might occur in conjunction with the development of an Institute of Animal Health, in cooperation with DPI, CSIRO and industry. However, this appears to be increasingly unlikely and the University will need to review its policy regarding Gatton accordingly.

While the details of development of the Gatton campus are a matter for the Senate of the University of Queensland, further growth of the Gatton campus is assured, in line with projected growth in the youth cohort well into the future.

283. "Out With Homophobia" Workshop

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Education (24/3/99)—

With reference to articles in The Courier Mail on 24 February and 10 March, in which it was reported that Family Planning Queensland is introducing an "Out With Homophobia" workshop for high school teachers in order to combat the bullying of gay students in schools and as the workshop will include discussions on homosexuality, sexual identity, posters, videos and other forms of promotion of gay lifestyles to 'supposedly' increase the awareness of homosexuality and therefore the tolerance of student's lifestyle choice—

- (1) Due to public outcry at this proposed "Out With Homophobia" Workshop, does he and the Government support such a workshop in Queensland schools?
- (2) Does the Government support promoting homosexuality in schools or educating students of the fact that it exists and the implications of it?
- (3) Will any taxpayer money be used to support or pay for any part of this workshop?
- (4) Is Education Queensland involved in this or similar workshops promoting homosexuality in State schools?
- (5) Why are teachers being asked to promote student learning of a deviant and decadent lifestyle by promoting homosexual behaviour in schools which is contrary to most teachers' and parents' moral and ethical principles?
- (6) Have teachers, parents, students and community had the opportunity to input and/or agree or disagree with this workshop; if not, will they be given such an opportunity?
- (7) As most students are under the age of 18 years, should teachers be encouraging children to break the law?

Mr WELLS (21/4/99):

1. The "Out With Homophobia" workshop is not designed for use in, nor will be held in, Queensland schools. It has been developed by The Family Planning Association of Queensland and is being held on 21 April and 27 October this year at the Family Planning Association's premises in Brisbane. Its target audience is community educators, youth workers, school and tertiary education staff.

2. "Out With Homophobia" is not designed to promote homosexuality in schools. It aims to combat the bullying of gay students. Education Queensland is not involved in the promotion of lifestyles but is committed to providing a supportive school environment for all students.

3. The "Out with Homophobia" workshop has been developed by the Family Planning Association of Queensland with no funding from Education Queensland. Participants will be charged \$80.00 for the one day workshop.

4. Education Queensland has not been involved in the development of the Family Planning Association's "Out with Homophobia" workshop. Education

Queensland is not involved in running similar workshops in state schools, however staff respond to specific requests from schools for information training and advice regarding the full range of issues related to human relationships education.

5. It is suggested the Member for Hervey Bay should inquire of the Family Planning Association to provide an answer to Question 5.

6. In accordance with Education Queensland's Human Relationships Education Policy, state schools develop programs on issues of relationships with the support, involvement and cooperation of parents, guardians and community members to meet the needs of all students. As stated above, the workshop under discussion is not designed for, nor will it be used in, Queensland state schools.

7. Queensland teachers work with students and parents to promote respect for the law, participation in democratic processes and active citizenship.

284. Nerang Electorate, Electricity Blackouts

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/3/99)—

With reference to the regular blackouts in the hinterland of my electorate often lasting many hours, even days, especially in the areas of Mudgeeraba, Springbrook, Neranwood, Tallai and Reedy Creek and also to the financial plight of businesses affected and as some have asked for minor considerations from Energex such as temporary generators and have been refused even though in many cases the blackouts are planned for and notified, usually for repairs and upgrades—

- (1) Does he agree with the policy?
- (2) Does he accept any responsibility for this?
- (3) Is the Government liable for any of these business losses?

Mr McGRADY (23/4/99):

1. Power supply interruptions in the Gold Coast Hinterland area over the previous three months have been caused by planned maintenance, and unplanned events including storms and wildlife interfering with the overhead feeder. On one occasion, (24 November 1998) the interruption occurred late in the evening, and due to safety implications caused by lightning in the area, repairs were unable to be effected until the following morning. This extended outage only affected one customer. ENERGEX has recently completed extensive works in this area to improve the capacity and reliability of the network.

ENERGEX only has access to limited portable generation and is therefore unable to provide customers with this service. ENERGEX provides advanced notice of planned interruptions so customers may minimise the inconvenience these outages cause, and to provide them with the opportunity to make alternate arrangements, if necessary, to reduce the effects of the electricity outage.

ENERGEX also ensures that the duration of any planned outage is kept to a minimum and where possible schedules outages to occur at times which will cause least inconvenience to customers.

2. No. ENERGEX is a Government Owned Corporation and has a commercial charter which must be reflected in its policies and operations. The decision to make generators available during planned outages is a commercial decision for ENERGEX. However, ENERGEX is reviewing this policy so that in the future, during planned outages, those customers whose businesses rely heavily on electricity may be provided with portable generators.

3. No. While the Queensland Government does have a responsibility to protect the rights of electricity customers which it does by legislation, it does not have any liability with respect to damage or loss caused as a result of supply irregularities.

All electricity entities, including ENERGEX, are separate legal entities in their own right and do not represent the State of Queensland.

The Electricity Act 1994 provides that an electricity entity is not liable for damages caused by its partial or total failure to supply electricity unless the failure is due to anything done, or omitted to be done, by the entity in bad faith or due to negligence of the electricity entity.

Customers who believe they have a claim for damages because an electricity entity has acted in bad faith or negligently are free to seek legal advice with a view to pursuing that matter with the electricity entity concerned.

285. Mt Garnet-Ravenshoe Road

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/3/99)—

With reference to the Mt Garnet-Ravenshoe Road and proposed plans to upgrade that road so as to provide access for B Double trucks—

- (1) When does he see this upgrade commencing?
- (2) Are there any plans to signpost some dangerous sections where there have been recent fatalities until the upgrade commences?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/4/99):

(1) The Roads Implementation Program 1998-99 to 2002-03 contains a series of four projects for upgrading of sections of the Kennedy Highway between Mt Garnet and Ravenshoe. The total value of these projects is \$8.6 million. The first of these projects, a three kilometre section between Snubby and Archer Creeks, will commence in April 1999 and be constructed by Herberton Shire Council. In terms of B-Double access to the route, the Department of Main Roads has carried out a technical analysis to assess the suitability of the route in its current form. Discussions have been held with the Queensland Police Service and it is agreed that, in its current form, this route is not suitable for B-Double usage.

(2) A submission has been put to the Queensland Police Service outlining a program of minor works that should allow B-Doubles on a restricted basis.

This program will include additional signage. Main Roads is awaiting advice from the Queensland Police Service before making a decision in regard to B-Double access on this route.

286. Vocational Education; Workplace Learning Coordinator

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Education (24/3/99)—

With reference to the recognition of the value of vocational education in the secondary school curriculum—

What moves are being made to provide for a funded position in all secondary schools for a Workplace Learning Coordinator to ensure the sustainability and success of a Workplace Learning Program?

Mr WELLS (21/4/99): Education Queensland recognises the value of structured workplace learning for young people and the support it plays in providing vocational pathways for students in the post-compulsory years. A number of Commonwealth and State programs contribute to the coordination of workplace learning, of which the Australian Student Traineeship Foundation (ASTF) is but one. Other programs such as the ANTA VET in Schools project and the State Senior Schooling program also have the potential to contribute to this worthwhile activity within the school environment.

In terms of the notion of a funded coordinator in each school, this is seen to be contrary to the current trend in school to work transition programs. Developing meaningful partnerships through clustering arrangements is seen to be more beneficial to all concerned and more cost efficient.

Education Queensland will continue to encourage the Commonwealth to reconsider its position on the funding priorities to enable continuing support for the coordination of work placements, among other school-industry activities.

In addition, the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) Taskforce on Vocational Education and Training in Schools is considering the funding needs for vocational education and training in schools post 2000. It will present to the April meeting of MCEETYA a funding model, for the next quadrennium, taking into account the need for continued support for coordination of workplace learning. If supported, it will provide a strategic framework for the allocation of funds for vocational education and training in schools.

287. Cleveland Bay, Prawn Trawling

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (24/3/99)—

With reference to prawn trawling in Cleveland Bay, Townsville and to my opinion that it should be restricted to a maximum vessel size of 14 metres along with the existing 8 fathom net size and as this will solve most of the problems associated with trawling in this area and will also protect the small operators in Townsville—

Will he take a close interest in this issue and ensure this happening in the interest of sustainable fishing and the public use of Cleveland Bay?

Mr PALASZCZUK (22/4/99): The proposed closure to which the honourable member refers is subject to a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). It is a Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) proposal which Cabinet has released for public comment. I would expect that the matters of concern to the honourable member would be raised in the RIS process. The RIS is available from the QFMA.

288. Gold Coast Hospital, Surgery Wait Times

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

With reference to waiting times at the Gold Coast Hospital which under this Government have blown out to nearly 60 per cent of Category 2 semi-urgent orthopaedic patients waiting too long (up from 32 per cent at the change of Government) for surgery and nearly 50 per cent of all Category 2 patients waiting too long (up from 18.9 per cent at the change of Government—

- (1) What targets has she set the hospital to improve these surgery wait times?
- (2) What money has she allocated for this purpose?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99):

(1) The waiting list targets for elective surgery remain the same as under the previous government—no greater than 5% of Category 1 patients waiting longer than 30 days for surgery and 5% of Category 2 patients waiting longer than 90 days for their surgery. The third Elective Surgery Waiting List Report was released on 28 January 1999. The report showed more patients were being treated since Labor came to government in Queensland, and that more elective surgery is being done in Queensland public hospitals now than under the Coalition Government. There were 2312 more patients treated in Labor's first six months in Government, than under the Coalition, and 3436 less patients are having to wait "too long" for treatment. In Category 2, the 1998 December quarter shows 18.4 percent of patients waiting too long compared with 41.4 percent at the corresponding time under the Coalition.

(2) Elective surgery funding for the Gold Coast District in 1998/99 is:

Elective Surgery Performance Fund (recurrent from 1997/98)—\$564,758

Surgical Incentive Funds (New Funding 1997/98)—\$1.2M

The major difference in this Government's approach is the emphasis on recurrent funding rather than a one-off injection of funds to attempt a quick fix.

At the Gold Coast Hospital, this Government has also provided:

growth funding of \$2.5 million—the most received by any hospital in the State;

an additional \$741,000 funding for 1998/1999;

\$140,000 for two emergency physicians;

A new surgical unit to concentrate on Category 2 elective surgery patients;

\$500,000 has been allocated to the ophthalmology department;

a director of orthopaedics began in January and an additional orthopaedic surgeon will be appointed mid year;

a new \$2.231 million refurbished Paediatrics Unit;

a \$55 million redevelopment of the hospital is under way; and

in 1999/2000, a further \$3.706 million will be provided.

In 1999/2000, funding of up to \$9 million will be provided for the new Robina Hospital opening in March/April 2000. The new hospital will have an estimated annual budget of \$21.1 million associated with public sector health services.

289. Nambour Hospital, Surgery Wait Times

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

With reference to waiting times at the Nambour Hospital which under this Government have blown out to nearly 30 per cent of semi-urgent Category 2 orthopaedic patients who are waiting too long for surgery (up from 1.7 per cent at the change of Government) and nearly 14.1 per cent of all Category 2 patients waiting too long (up from 0.8 per cent at the change of Government—

- (1) What timetable has she set the hospital to bring these figures back to the 5 per cent long-benchmark?
- (2) What money has she allocated for this purpose?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99):

(1) The third Elective Surgery Waiting List Report was released on 28 January 1999. The report showed more patients were being treated since Labor came to government in Queensland, and that more elective surgery is being done in Queensland public hospitals now than under the Coalition Government. There were 2312 more patients treated in Labor's first six months in Government, than under the Coalition, and 3436 less patients are having to wait "too long" for treatment.

In Category 2, the 1998 December quarter shows 18.4 percent of patients waiting too long compared with 41.4 percent at the corresponding time under the Coalition.

At the beginning of March there were 71 patients at Nambour Hospital who had waited too long for semi-urgent orthopaedic surgery. By the end of June, it is expected that an extra 40 of these complex procedures would be performed.

(2) Elective surgery funding provided to Nambour Hospital in 1998/99 is as follows:

Elective Surgery Performance Fund (Recurrent from 1997/98)—\$955,371

Surgical Incentive Funds (New Funding 1998/99)—\$700,000.

The major difference in this Government's approach is the emphasis on recurrent funding rather than a one-off injection of funds to attempt a quick fix.

A further \$465,000 was provided to Nambour Hospital in March 1999 to target the 'long wait' Category 2 orthopaedic patients.

290. Queensland Health, Nursing Staff

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent nursing positions are there in the Queensland Health Department?
- (2) Where are they on a district by district basis?
- (3) How many of the positions are not filled?
- (4) How many of these positions have not been advertised?
- (5) Where are these unfilled positions on a district by district basis?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99):

(1) As at September 1998, 13,485.3 registered nurse full-time equivalents (FTEs) and 2,709.1 enrolled nurse full-time equivalents were employed by Queensland Health. The data is collected by Corporate Office four times a year.

(2) Attachment 1 is a list of the number of full-time equivalent registered and enrolled nurses employed by Queensland Health as at September 1998 by Health Service District. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3 & 4) The number of nurses employed by Queensland Health is no longer based on the notion of 'establishment'. The concept of 'nursing positions' exists as an operational matter for the payroll system and bears no relationship to the outcomes focused model of service delivery introduced over the last couple of years. The number of nurses employed in each District is calculated according to service delivery needs and the skill mix of nurses. As at September 1998 active recruitment for nursing services equated to 447.12 (FTEs).

(5) Attachment 2 is a list of positions under recruitment on a district by district basis when the data was last collated for September 1998. As a sample, the data for September is relevant to the classical pattern of Australian nursing management/recruitment activity is highest in June and declines towards the end of the calendar year. In addition, larger workplaces have to fill larger numerical vacancies and remote and rural areas tend to have difficulty in filling vacancies. Placing advertisements in newspapers for the vast majority of positions is not highly successful so a variety of recruitment methods are used for permanent filling vacancies. Vacancies not able to be immediately recruited for permanent appointment are temporarily filled with available staff from Agencies and casual pools.

In recognition of the difficulties being experienced in nursing workforce management, in October 1998 I established the Ministerial Working Party on Nursing Recruitment and Retention. An interim report is under preparation which will advise on nurse education, training, nursing resource management and innovation in working patterns.

291. Public Health Facilities, Storage of Radioactive Material

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

Does the storage of radioactive materials in public health facilities meet international and Australian standards; if not, where are the facilities where the standards are being breached?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): Yes, the storage of radioactive substances in Public Health facilities meets national standards such as Australian Standards and National Health and Medical Research Council codes of practices which are based on and largely an adoption of standards established by the International Commission on Radiological Protection. The approval for a licence to possess radioactive substances for storage or any other purpose in both the public and private health facilities are subject to compliance with the following standards:

Radioactive Substances Regulation 1961

S2982: Australian Standard—Laboratory Construction Code and Design Requirements for Radiation, Radioisotope and Radiological Laboratories

Queensland Health Radiation Shielding Manual

National Health and Medical Research Council and National Occupational Health and Safety Commission—Recommendations for limiting exposure to ionising radiation (1995) and National standard for limiting occupational exposure to ionising radiation (1995).

Ongoing compliance with these requirements is achieved as a condition of licence, which is renewed annually. Further, all facilities where radioactive materials are stored are subject to audits by persons appointed as inspectors under the Radioactive Substances Act 1958. The goal of my Department's audit program is to ensure that facilities where radioactive substances are stored meet not only these requirements but also best practice expectations.

The Radiation Safety Bill, which is currently before Parliament, will assist in ensuring that the radiation standards established are satisfied and that the "best practice" standards of performance expected by the public, consistent with the established standards, are reached by providing the legislative mechanism for amalgamating all of these optimal radiation safety standards.

292. Public Health Services, Revenue

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

Will she provide detailed costings of the revenue that each Queensland public hospital and/or health service is generating and which currently goes back to consolidated revenue?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): Attached is a table detailing the revenue that each health service district generated in 1997/98 as the last financial year for which a report is available. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

293. Public Hospitals, Accident and Emergency Wait Times

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

Will she publish the reports of which hospitals are meeting accident and emergency wait-time benchmarks and which hospitals are not meeting the benchmarks?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): As part of Labor's Waiting List Reduction Strategy, the collection of emergency department waiting time data has been instituted for the first time. To assist the collection of accurate data and enhance patient care, new computerised information systems will shortly be installed in the emergency departments of Cairns, Toowoomba and Redcliffe Hospitals. There is also an increase in nursing and administrative staff in busy departments. New emergency physicians have been appointed in Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Ipswich, Cairns, Toowoomba, Redcliffe, and at the Gold Coast in an effort to reduce waiting times in emergency departments.

294. Public Health Facilities, Storage of Radioactive Material

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

How many public health facilities are currently storing radioactive waste material awaiting transferral to a permanent storage and up to how long has this waste been stored at these hospitals?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): There is only one Public Health facility that is storing radioactive waste material awaiting transfer to a permanent storage facility. Some of these radiation sources have been in storage for up to ten years while others have been stored for up to 25 years. Most major hospitals store short lived radioisotopes.

Advancement in radionuclide technology has rendered some of the previously used medical radiation sources obsolete. It is merely for this reason that they are considered waste. Pending the availability of a suitable long term storage facility these obsolete radiation sources have been placed in shielded containers and securely stored at the public health facility. Queensland Health has an inventory of the radiation sources held in storage at this facility.

Queensland's Radioactive Waste Store became fully operational in 1996. When this facility became available, a program to transfer the obsolete radiation sources to Queensland's Radioactive Waste Store

from the public health facility commenced. Queensland's Radioactive Waste Store is a purpose built facility and therefore a more appropriate place to store the obsolete sources than a Public Health facility. The transfer of the obsolete sources from the Public Health facility commenced in 1997 and is continuing. This transferral process is lengthy because of the checking and preparatory work which needs to be performed prior to transport of the sources.

Queensland's Radioactive Waste Store has an anticipated working life of about 25 years and is not intended to be a long term storage facility. Long term storage facilities for radioactive waste are required to have a Government supervised working life in excess of 100 years. The Commonwealth Government is preparing to construct a national radioactive waste repository in South Australia. The radioactive waste in Queensland's Radioactive Waste Store will be transferred to the national repository when it becomes available in due course.

295. Queensland Health, Travel Expenditure

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

- (1) How much have SES level Queensland Health officials spent on travel this year and what is their expected level of expenditure for this by 30 June 1999?
- (2) How much of this has been overseas travel?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99):

(1) The current Financial Management System cannot differentiate between SES and non-SES officers. The total travel expenses for all Queensland Health staff including medical staff and staff recruited from overseas as at 28 February 1999 was \$10,925,777.76. This includes costs for visiting specialist and outreach clinics and study and conference leave for clinical staff provided for under various awards.

(2) Of the amount stated in (1) above \$677,115.44 has been expended on overseas travel. For year ended 30/6/98, \$958,047 was spent on overseas travel. Total travel expenditure for year ended 30/6/98 was \$16,463,380.

296. Queensland Health, Entertainment Expenditure

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

How much have non-SES level Queensland Health officials spent on entertainment this year and what is their expected level of expenditure for this by 30 June 1999?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): Queensland Health's Financial Management System cannot differentiate between SES and non-SES officers. The total entertainment expenses by all Queensland Health staff (Corporate Office and Districts) as at 28 February 1999 was \$31,470. This compares with \$40,362.94 in entertainment expenses as at 28 February 1998.

297. Nursing Home Beds

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

After she endorsed the proposed closure of 14 nursing home beds in Toowoomba, are there any other nursing home beds she plans to close in the State?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): There are no plans to close other nursing home beds under the circumstances where the responsible Minister failed to act on a report of the unsafe structure of a building housing 14 residents thereby jeopardising their safety, or any other plans.

298. Townsville General Hospital, Funding

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

As Premier Beattie promised more than \$170m funding for the Townsville General Hospital according to the Townsville Bulletin in December 1997, will she keep the Premier's promise?

Mrs EDMOND (28/4/99): An independent report on Townsville Hospital indicated that the new facility could be established off-site and would require in the vicinity of \$165 million. Planning in relation to the redevelopment of the new Townsville Hospital on a 'greenfield' site at Douglas has confirmed that the new facility can be established within the allocated quantum of \$170 million.

The guaranteed contract sum of \$104.383 million has recently been accepted to enable major construction works to commence in establishing the new Townsville Hospital which will provide both comprehensive secondary referral and tertiary services to North Queensland.

The construction of the new facility can be undertaken within the allocated \$170 million to provide a hospital which is in keeping with the 21st Century, both efficient and flexible in design with provision for sufficient space to expand if required. Additionally, the construction of the new Townsville Hospital will foster greater research in conjunction with the James Cook University and complement current teaching in medicine, nursing and allied health professions. The Douglas site will form the basis of a partnership between the Government, James Cook University and the University of Queensland, culminating in the establishment of a new James Cook University Medical School at Townsville.

299. Townsville General Hospital, Surgery Cancellations

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

How many patients at Townsville Hospital have had their surgery cancelled due to a lack of intensive care beds or other beds since the beginning of this year and what category of surgery were they?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): One patient has been cancelled due to lack of ICU beds since the beginning of the year. This patient was a Category 2

patient who was cancelled on 16 March 1999 and rescheduled for surgery which took place on 31 March 1999. No other surgery has been cancelled due to lack of beds since the beginning of 1999.

300. Health Legislation and Regulations

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

Will she outline the updated health legislative program including estimated time of introduction to the Parliament of health bills and will she identify all the legislation and regulations which will expire by 30 June 1999?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): Because of the inaction of the former health minister, there is a backlog of principal and substantive legislation set to expire by 30 June 1999. Subject to legislative drafting priorities and further consultation arrangements, I intend to introduce the following Bills into the Parliament this year—

- Radiation Safety Bill 1999 (already introduced)
- Health Practitioner Registration Boards (Administration) Bill 1999
- Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Bill 1999
- Private Health Facilities Bill 1999
- 13 Bills dealing with the registration of health practitioners
- Mental Health Bill 1999.

The following pieces of Health portfolio subordinate legislation expire on 1 July 1999—

- Dental By-law 1988
- Health (Private Hospitals) Regulation 1978
- Medical Board of Queensland By-law 1987
- Mental Health Regulation 1985
- Pharmacy By-law 1985
- Physiotherapists Regulation 1965
- Radioactive Substances Regulation 1961.

301. Health Spending on Surgery

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

Will she provide a detailed breakdown of where the funding to finance extra surgery for complex procedures has been spent throughout the State?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): In 1998/99, \$3 million was specifically provided for complex procedures in Queensland public hospitals. The hospitals that received funding were:

- Bundaberg—\$125,000; Cairns—\$60,000; Gold Coast—\$50,000; Mackay—\$25,000; Mater Adults—\$200,000; Princess Alexandra—\$200,000; Queen Elizabeth II—\$125,000; Redcliffe—\$200,000; Royal Brisbane—\$500,000; Nambour—\$50,000; The Prince Charles—\$500,000; Toowoomba—\$200,000; Townsville—\$500,000; Ipswich—\$200,000.

302. Gladstone Electorate, Bat Colony

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (24/3/99)—

With reference to the growing concerns felt by West Gladstone residents over their health and quality of life—

When will positive action be taken to address the proximity of the extensive bat colony including practical advice to residents to combat noise, odour and potential contact problems?

Mr WELFORD (21/4/99): I recently wrote to you about this—in my letter dated 24 March 1999. Officers from my Rockhampton office as well as officers from Queensland Health and Gladstone City Council are currently developing a management plan to assist the few local residents who are effected by this flying-fox colony.

Residents can be reassured that Queensland Health is aware of the issue and has recently published an update on Lyssavirus. This has been widely distributed and makes it clear that "proximity is not the same as exposure". In the unlikely event of a bite or scratch, contact should be made with a doctor immediately.

The management plan will address those issues of concerns to the wider community and attempt to provide accurate information and correct any misunderstanding provided to the public.

303. Queensland Health, Growth Funds

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

Will she outline the allocation of growth funds throughout the State for 1998-99?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): The allocation of growth funding is applied for a number of purposes including meeting new and emerging needs for funding as well as expanding services to meet the increasing demand due to population growth. Growth funding for 1998-99 has been fully committed and will be fully expended by 30 June 1999.

304. Queensland Health, Treatment of New South Wales Patients

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

How much does Queensland Health receive from New South Wales under a cross border agreement for treating New South Wales patients and how much of this revenue is generated from activity in the Gold Coast Health District?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): Queensland received \$29.2 million in 1997/98 from New South Wales (NSW) for treatment of its residents in Queensland's public hospitals. Conversely, Queensland paid \$16.6 million to NSW for treatment of Queensland residents. The overall effect was a net payment to Queensland of \$12.6 million.

The Gold Coast Hospital generated revenue of \$5.6 million for treatment of residents from all over NSW.

However, Queensland incurred a liability of \$8.9 million to NSW for treatment of Queensland residents in the Tweed District Hospital. The overall effect as far as the Gold Coast/Tweed Heads is concerned was a net liability to NSW of \$3.3 million.

Considering just Gold Coast and Tweed District residents, Gold Coast Hospital generated \$3.8 million from treatment of Tweed Valley patients while the cost of treating Gold Coast residents in the Tweed District Hospital was \$8.4 million. Thus there was a net liability to NSW of \$4.6 million at this local level.

305. Occupational Therapists

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent occupational therapist positions are there in the Queensland Health Department?
- (2) Where are they on a district by district basis?
- (3) How many of the positions are not filled?
- (4) How many of these positions have not been advertised?
- (5) Where are these unfilled positions on a district by district basis?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99):

- (1) There are currently 276.23 full time equivalent occupational therapists in Queensland Health.
- (2) Occupational therapists are employed in 34 health service districts.
- (3) There is the equivalent of nine full-time (3.26%) occupational therapy positions vacant in Queensland Health.
- (4) Recruitment and selection exercises are in process for three of the vacancies and it is expected that they will be filled shortly. Advertisements for three positions have received no applications and re-advertising will continue.
- (5) Seven districts have unfilled occupational therapy positions.

306. Queensland Health, Travel Expenditure

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

How much have non-SES level Queensland Health officials spent on travel this year, what is their expected level of expenditure for travel by 30 June 1999 and how much of this has been overseas travel?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99):

- (1) The current Financial Management System cannot differentiate between SES and non-SES officers. The total travel expenses for all Queensland Health staff including medical staff and staff recruited from overseas as at 28 February 1999 was \$10,925,777.76. This includes costs for visiting specialist and outreach clinics and study and conference leave for clinical staff provided for under various awards.

(2) Of the amount stated in (1) above \$677,115.44 has been expended on overseas travel. For year ended 30/6/98, \$958,047 was spent on overseas travel. Total travel expenditure for year ended 30/6/98 was \$16,463,380.

307. Rural Queensland, Medical Services

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

- (1) What is the Government's attitude to providing medical services to rural Queensland in view of the fact that specialised services are becoming more centralised?
- (2) In the event of a person requiring specialised treatment with the concentration of services in the more populated centres, will consideration be given to a better funded patient transit scheme?
- (3) Will more specialised services be provided in country hospitals through trained staff and equipment to reduce travel of patients needing medical care?
- (4) What changes are anticipated to the current structure of health care in the bush?
- (5) What incentives are being considered to keep doctors and staff in rural hospitals?
- (6) What relief measures are being adopted for locums for both medical and dental hospital services in country areas?
- (7) What percentage of the budget is to be dedicated to hospitals outside the urban regions of the State?
- (8) In case of the Ingham-Tully-Innisfail Hospitals, is there a forecast of where the expenditure will occur for improvements?
- (9) What finances are being dedicated to maintenance for these hospitals?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99):

(1) Queensland State Labor Government have been at the forefront of decentralising specialist health services such radiation oncology, cardiac and renal services, and in 1998/99 funding has been provided for a Bone Marrow Transplant Unit in Townsville. The Government continues to work with the specialist colleges to accredit additional specialist training positions across Queensland, including a number in regional centres. Where permanent specialist medical services are unavailable, visiting and outreach services are utilised where possible. Funding is provided through the Patients Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) for patients to travel to specialist medical services when they are unavailable locally. The Flying Surgeons and Flying Obstetrician/Gynaecologist are also funded to visit many rural and remote localities. The Rural Health Advisory Council provides advice on rural health issues, including specialist services in rural areas.

(2) & (3) An extra \$350,000 was allocated to the PTSS in 1998/99. The PTSS aims to reduce unnecessary travel to distant locations if the service is available locally. An enhanced travel management program being implemented throughout Queensland will enable more detailed analysis of trends and costs

for patient travel from any locality to distant specialist services. This information will allow decisions to be made on the feasibility of providing specialist services to a rural/regional location where the volume of patient travel to distinct specialists warrants this. Where this is indicated, funding which has been allocated to move patients away to a distant specialist, can be channelled to fund a more local specialist service, and thus reduce travel of patients needing specialist care.

(4) None.

(5) The Queensland Health Certified Agreement (No. 3) includes accommodation incentives in specified rural and remote areas; there is a Ministerial Taskforce examining nursing recruitment and retention; and there is targeted training for allied health professionals with a focus in rural and remote areas. Other rural initiatives, including a zonal bonus payment scheme have proven successful in attracting dentists to rural communities in Queensland.

(6) Medical: Non specialist doctors in country hospitals requiring relief for any reason, for example, study leave, recreation leave, accrued leave, are provided with relievers from metropolitan and provincial city hospitals, coordinated through two Rural Relief Coordination Networks, one in North Queensland, and the second in South Queensland.

Dental: Locum relief arrangements are provided at various locations throughout rural Queensland, such as Blackall, Winton and Charleville. Salaried public sector staff and private practitioners provide these services.

(7) Fifty-seven per cent of the budget is allocated to health service districts outside the urban areas of the State.

(8) Renovations and upgrades have been completed and are under way at all three facilities. At Innisfail these include renovations to provide a discrete work unit for additional mental health staff, upgrading of fire systems, theatre air-conditioning and installation of temperature control systems. Renovation work at Tully Hospital includes a roofed structure to cover the airconditioning plant. A number of minor works refurbishments are under way at Ingham Hospital and Community Health Centre. Major equipment purchases are planned for the current financial year.

(9) 1.59% of each District's annual budget is allocated to minor works and maintenance.

308. Queensland Health, Advertising

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

What has been the cost of Queensland Health Department advertisements so far in 1998-99 including printed literature, what is budgeted for this kind of expenditure in 1998-99 and what is the estimated actual expenditure for 1998-99?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): Queensland Health has spent a total of \$5,303,377 on advertising, promotions and printing in 1998-99 to date. This includes \$2,252,949 on advertising (including recruitment, tenders, public notices etc) and

promotion and \$3,050,428 on printing. The printing component includes documents from policy papers to annual reports. Full year expenditure will be in line with year-to-date expenditure. Expenditure on advertising and printing for the year ended 30/6/98 was \$3,344,930 and \$5,271,758 respectively—a total of \$8,616,688.

309. Nambour Hospital, Bed Closures

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

With reference to a report from the Manager of the Sunshine Coast District Health Service, January 1999, which states "Action aimed at reining in the increasing over budget result has been approved by the Office of the Director-General and the Minister's Office. These include the closure of beds at Nambour General Hospital and a range of other actions. Basically the problem has arisen due to a reduced budget in real terms in 1998-99"—

- (1) Why did she sanction the closure of 36 beds at Nambour Hospital?
- (2) Will she confirm how many of those beds are still currently closed as at 24 March?
- (3) Will she state the date when all of the beds at Nambour Hospital will be fully operational?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99):

(1) Every District Health Service in Queensland received increased funding in the September Budget, unlike the Coalition's May Budget. Responsibility for delivering health services within that budget rests with the District Manager, Sunshine Coast Health Service District. In this regard, the number of beds on-line at any point in time is a local decision based on the demand for services.

(2) As at 24 March 1999 there were 30 beds not being used for services.

(3) The former Coalition government health minister, Mike Horan, told Parliament on 8 July 1997 that the closure at that time of the 24 bed surgical ward was of no consequence because "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the numbers of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds," Mr Horan said.

310. Health Specialists, Training

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

Will she outline all contacts she has had with the specialist colleges with regard to training more specialists and will she outline the progress in regard to each of these specialties?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): I attended the last Joint Medical Colleges meeting, a regularly held meeting chaired by the Chief Health Officer which deals with Queensland Health Medical Specialist issues. Queensland Health has regular contact with

the specialist colleges in relation to additional training positions in Queensland.

311. Physiotherapists

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent physiotherapist positions are there in the Queensland Health Department?
- (2) Where are they on a district by district basis?
- (3) How many of the positions are not filled?
- (4) How many of these positions have not been advertised?
- (5) Where are these unfilled positions on a district by district basis?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99):

(1) There are currently 442.52 full time equivalent physiotherapists in Queensland Health.

(2) Physiotherapists are employed in all health service districts.

(3) There is the equivalent of 11.7 full-time (2.64%) physiotherapy positions vacant in Queensland Health.

(4) Recruitment and selection exercises are in process for 4.2 of these positions and it is expected that they will be filled shortly. Advertisements for 5 positions have received no applications and readvertising will continue.

(5) Ten districts have unfilled physiotherapy positions.

312. Queensland Health, Public Relations Officers

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

What is the estimated cost of public relations positions in each of the health districts for 1998-99 and how many full-time equivalent public relations positions are there in each district?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): Marketing and communication professionals are responsible for ensuring that communities throughout the State are aware of and can access Queensland Health services. The estimated cost of such positions in Queensland Health's 39 districts is approximately \$974,206 and there are 22 full time equivalent positions which include marketing and communication, and public relations officers and their administrative staff.

313. Water Backflow

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

For all deaths or illness related to or where back-flow was implicated as the cause or factor attributing to the death or illness of persons within the State of Queensland since 1 January 1990 (a) what was the date and location of each incident, (b) how many individuals were affected in each incident, (c) was an

inquest held into each death and (d) has each identified back-flow problem been mitigated?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): Whilst backflow in a water supply system may well have occurred within Queensland since 1 January 1990, there are no notifiable incidents where backflow could be identified directly as the cause or a factor in the death of persons within Queensland. There is one known incident in a State Forest where it is probable that backflow resulted in a contaminated water supply and resulted in 40 persons becoming ill. However, it is understood that this problem has now been rectified.

314. Queensland Health, Capital Works Projects

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

Will she table an updated schedule of health capital works on a project by project basis, including estimated times for completion?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): Attached is a schedule of all currently approved capital works projects showing the estimated completion dates. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

315. Redland Hospital, Funding

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

What number of beds will the new Redland Hospital be funded to open for the rest of 1998-99 and what number of beds will be funded in 1999-2000?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): The Capital Works Redevelopment Program is designed to deliver a hospital infrastructure that meets the health service needs of Queenslanders to 2020. By June 30 1999, Redland Hospital will have 68 acute inpatient beds commissioned providing medical, surgical and obstetric services with an additional 24 bed acute inpatient mental health unit planned to open in the 1999/2000 financial year. The phased commissioning of these beds is in line with the principle of enhancement of locally based services on the basis of population growth and the transfer of some of the secondary services from metropolitan hospitals over the next five years.

316. Queensland Health, Surgery during Holiday Periods

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

Will she provide a copy of her instructions where she has told the department to use holiday times to keep operating theatres working for the benefit of those waiting for surgery and will she provide a copy of the department's advice to her as to whether this has been done?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): My advice to the Department stated:

"The Government's Waiting List policy must be understood by all District Managers and it must

be reinforced that performance in this regard is non-negotiable. Priority strategies should include holiday times to be used to keep operating theatres working".

The Department advised that surgical sessions during holiday periods are monitored by the General Manager, Health Services. Hospitals not achieving activity targets are instructed to make better use of operating theatres during holiday periods.

317. Queensland Health, Sponsorships

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Health (24/3/99)—

How much has Queensland Health spent on sponsorships so far in 1998-99, how much is allocated for sponsorships for 1998-99 and to whom has this been paid and how much?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/99): I am informed that the use of sponsorships by Queensland Health is very limited. No central register is maintained of sponsorships at the present time. However, a policy on sponsorships is currently under development. It is not possible to provide details on sponsorship expenditure as it is not recorded as a separate budget item.

318. Local Government

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (24/3/99)—

With reference to the introduction of the Local Government Act 1993 and to the fact that many local government reduced the number or abolished local government divisions and excluding the city and town councils—

- (1) (a) What are the names of the local government in Queensland which have divisions, (b) what is the total number of elected councillors (including the Mayor) in each of the divided local government, (c) in the divided local government, how many councillors presently represent each division and (d) how many councillors representing divisions do not reside in the rural area of the division?
- (2) (a) What are the names of the local government in Queensland which do not have divisions, (b) what is the total number of elected councillors (including the Mayor) in each of the undivided local government, (c) in each of the undivided local government, how many councillors reside in the rural area of the shire and (d) in each of the undivided local government, how many councillors reside in the urban area of the shire?

Mr MACKENROTH (9/4/99): I refer the Honourable Member to Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Areas) Regulation 1995 which sets out the name of each local government (except Brisbane City Council), the class of the local government (i.e. City/Shire/Town), whether it is divided or undivided, the number of councillors assigned to each division

and the total number of councillors, including the mayor assigned to the local government.

In terms of Brisbane City Council, I would advise the Council consists of the Lord Mayor and 26 councillors with each of those councillors being assigned to a single ward or division.

With regard to parts 1(d) and 2(c) and 2(d) of the Honourable Member, the Department does not hold records of the residential addresses of councillors. This information should be available from each local government, and the Honourable Member may like to contact the relevant local government regarding this information.

319. Swivel-seat and Wheelchair Access Taxi Licences

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (25/3/99)—

With reference to the Government's decision to retain swivel-seat cab licences to cross subsidise the wheel chair accessible cabs—

- (1) Did the Government take adequate steps to explain the decision to the owner/operators?
- (2) Will he give detailed answers why arrangements were put in place for Yellow Cab owner/operators to purchase the wheel chair access cab licences when the pioneering wheel chair cab operators in other cab companies were excluded from this offer?
- (3) In light of the Premier's "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs", will he consider offering the six owners of the cabs that were operating under these licences, a similar cost to what the others were sold for?
- (4) Does he intend to tidy up these few loose ends to help the cab owners and drivers get on with the job and with security in their job future?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/4/99): Nine "swivel seat" taxi licences were issued in the metropolitan area in 1981 to enable taxi travel for people with disabilities who were able to transfer from a wheelchair to a swivel seat in a taxi.

With the development of fully accessible vehicles in 1987, it was deemed that swivel seat licences were of comparatively limited value to the community. Therefore, these licences were phased out and progressively replaced by Medi-cab Licences. Rather than immediately withdrawing those licences, which would have reduced the services offered to the community, it was decided to allow them to continue to be operated until the vehicle attached met its maximum permissible age.

This had the effect of allowing companies to offset the cost of providing the more expensive fully wheelchair accessible services. It should be noted that those licences were also initially offered "free" as a means of encouraging taxi services to provide facilities to reduce the mobility restrictions faced by those with disabilities.

- (1) Yes. The holders of those licences were the three metropolitan taxi companies operating at that time and Departmental records indicate extensive correspondence occurred between the taxi

companies and Queensland Transport in relation to the issue of those licences.

These licences could be leased by the licence holder to individual operators, but the responsibility for ensuring the appropriate operation of the licence remained with the licence holder. As leases are private legal arrangements between the company and the lessee, the Department of Transport focused its communications regarding the operation of licences with the licence holder.

(2) Numerous operational and administrative issues arose as a result of having three separate taxi organisations operating these licences individually. It was determined, in consultation with the major taxi companies, the Taxi Council of Queensland and community based organisations, that a single taxi company could better provide wheelchair taxi dispatch services in Brisbane. Expressions of Interest were called in April 1993 for one taxi company to provide a wheelchair accessible taxi dispatch facility under a contract with Queensland Transport in the Brisbane metropolitan area. This was awarded to Yellow Cabs.

To facilitate the transfer of licences from a number of providers to only one provider, a special condition was included in the Expression of Interest. This required that existing wheelchair accessible or medi-cab licences held by the unsuccessful bidders be transferred to the successful bidder, or otherwise be surrendered when the vehicle attached to each licence reached its maximum permissible age.

All those leasing licences held by the unsuccessful bidders did have the opportunity to transfer to Yellow Cabs. A number of them, however, chose not to transfer, thus they elected to be subject to a lease which had a life limited by the expiry date of the vehicle which they operated. This arrangement was discussed and agreed with the Taxi Industry Working Group. Letters were sent to all involved Brisbane taxi companies reminding them of the expiry date of each vehicle attached to the "free" licences they held, thus indicating their surrender date.

Those licences which transferred to Yellow Cabs were not subject to an expiry date, and with the introduction of the current legislation, these licences became transferable in line with all new licences. Yellow Cabs then gave their lessees the opportunity to purchase their licences.

(3) Those licences were initially issued to taxi companies, not to individuals. Therefore, even if the licences could be sold, the current 'owner' was the taxi company not the lessee. However, as already stated, one of the conditions of the licences was that they were not transferable.

It was not until the introduction of the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, that new Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Service Licences became transferable, which was based on achieving further improvements in service delivery. However, the existing wheelchair licences had specified expiry dates which had been provided to the holder prior to the commencement of the contract with Yellow Cabs.

(4) I do not consider that any loose ends remain. All existing non-transferable licences will be phased out by the end of the year 2002, at which stage, all Wheelchair Accessible Taxis Service Licences will operate in accordance with the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994. This ongoing process has proceeded without incident and is expected to be the case for the small number yet to expire.

320. Primary Industries Portfolio; Lockyer Electorate

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (25/3/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Lockyer Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Lockyer Electorate or which cater for the Lockyer Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Lockyer, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr PALASZCZUK (22/4/99):

(1-6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7-9) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government Agencies, and the election commitments of this Government. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would expect the Honourable Member to involve himself in the activities of his own constituency in the usual manner of an elected representative.

321. Caboolture Electorate, Electricity Supply

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (25/3/99)—

With reference to residents of Toorbul, Elimbah, Donnybrook and Beachmere who again lost power several times on 14 and 19 March and as they have lost faith in his previous responses to the outages in September, October, November and December 1998, where power was lost some 14 or 15 times, blaming these outages to falling tree foliage—

- (1) Do we really have that many falling trees, or is a more rational response an admission that faulty equipment is still causing problems?
- (2) Will he assure the residents of my electorate that they should experience no further power losses?

Mr McGRADY (23/4/99):

1. There have been fifteen interruptions since September 1998 to the Toorbul, Elimbah, Donnybrook and Beachmere area. Ten of the interruptions were due to severe winds and storms causing trees to contact the powerlines. In some cases, trees fell over the lines days after significant rainfall due to the soft ground around their bases.

In addition, two outages were caused by equipment failure, one outage was caused by wildlife contacting the line, and two short outages (lasting only 20 seconds) further interrupted the power supply, however, the causes of these faults were unable to be identified by ENERGEX during its investigations.

To ensure the public's safety, the electricity distribution system is designed to disconnect the power supply should tree branches or wind borne material contact the overhead lines. This protection equipment automatically restores supply (where the line is cleared of the fault) after 15 seconds, reducing outage times to a minimum. Unfortunately, this time is long enough to cause equipment to switch off or record an outage.

An extensive tree lopping program to ensure that trees are cleared from around the power lines commenced in this area in January 1999, and is due for completion in late April 1999. In addition, further trimming and lopping work is planned to commence in July 1999, and will continue until October 1999.

2. No, it is impossible to give such a guarantee. No matter what preventive measures are employed by ENERGEX, there will always be events such as storms, high wind, vehicular accidents and the like which will have the potential to impact on power supply reliability in any area.

322. Children by Choice Association; Right to Life Association

Mr PAFF asked the Premier (25/3/99)—

- (1) Will he explain the inequity that exists in the Government funding where the organisation Children by Choice receives funding to the tune of \$0.264m while pro-life organisations such as Right to Life receive no funding from this Government at all?

- (2) As it seems that a Government committed to numeric as well as economic growth would wish to be seen as encouraging that growth through supporting organisations committed to family, will he explain the rationale behind this decision and what he intends to do to restore balance in this area of funding?

Mr BEATTIE (22/4/99):

(1) The Children by Choice Association received Queensland Health funding prior to the 1997-98 financial year. Queensland Health advertises for funding proposals under the Women's Reproductive Health Program and Right to Life can submit an application for funding the next time the Department advertises for such proposals.

(2) My Government is committed to encouraging growth by supporting organisations dedicated to the family. This commitment is demonstrated through Queensland Health's funding support to many community agencies such as the Family Planning Association of Queensland, Women's Health Queensland Wide, Pregnancy and Family Support Association Gold Coast, Young Parents' Program and various organisations through the Positive Parenting Program.

323. Bundaberg Dental Clinic

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Health (25/3/99)—

With reference to a Woodgate resident seeking to make an appointment for treatment at the Bundaberg Dental Clinic who was advised that there is a 44 month waiting list and an appointment was arranged after he had been asked if he had any of his natural teeth—

- (1) Will she advise if the number of natural teeth retained is one of the criteria for waiting lists?
- (2) Will she confirm this case of a 44 month wait; if so, does she consider this acceptable?
- (3) How long would the waiting list be for a client who has all their natural teeth?

Mrs EDMOND (27/4/99):

(1) The number of natural teeth plays a role in determining whether clients are placed on the conservative or prosthetic waiting lists. The prosthetic waiting list exists for clients with no natural teeth.

(2) The waiting time for clients placed on the conservative waiting list at the Bundaberg District Health Service is currently 44 months. Clients with urgent oral health problems can access the emergency sessions each morning, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. After a lengthy period of shortage of dentists in Bundaberg, recent successful recruitment processes have filled all dentist positions and placed the service in a position to reduce the waiting time.

(3) Clients with natural teeth currently being offered appointments have been waiting for up to 44 months. However, improved patient handling practices and full staffing are enabling the Bundaberg District Health Service to address this waiting period.

324. Hospital Patient Transfers

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health (25/3/99)—

- (1) Will she table in the Parliament her instructions to the department in regard to who pays for the cost of transport where a patient has been shifted from a hospital to "even out" the waiting lists due to backlogs at a particular hospital?
- (2) Will she outline how much extra money has been provided for this transport for this purpose?

Mrs EDMOND (27/4/99): (1) & (2) As clearly described in the Waiting List Reduction Strategy, this Government is committed to 'evening out' waiting lists by moving people, if they are agreeable, to a hospital where the procedure can be performed more speedily. We will organise and meet the cost of the transport to make this possible'.

325. Cairns Hospital, Hydrotherapy Pool

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (25/3/99)—

Why has she not included a hydrotherapy pool as part of the Cairns Hospital Development and will she table supporting documentation to back up her answer?

Mrs EDMOND (27/4/99): The proposed hydrotherapy pool at Cairns Hospital was excluded from the project under the Coalition Government. Queensland Health has not reversed that decision because there are alternative and equivalent community facilities for these purposes. Mr Warren Pitt MLA, Member for Mulgrave is working with interested community groups to examine options for access to a hydrotherapy pool.

326. Farnborough State School, Student Transport Costs

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Education (25/3/99)—

With reference to students attending Farnborough State School who are being penalised by having to pay transport costs involved in attending their closest local primary school which is not the case for students attending other local primary schools and as Farnborough State School Parents' and Citizens' Association has been trying to get this situation resolved for over five years and are seeking only the same deal for their children as those attending other local primary schools—

- (1) Why is Farnborough State School being discriminated against?
- (2) When will this matter be resolved?

Mr WELLS (21/4/99): As you would be aware the budget and policy for the School Transport Assistance scheme is administered by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads Mr Steve Bredhauer, Member for Cook. This question should be directed to the Honourable the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

327. Coffee Growers; Papaya Fruit Fly Eradication Program

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (25/3/99)—

With reference to a recent report prepared for the department titled "Coffee-growing in North Queensland and Control of the Papaya Fruit Fly"—

When will the department be in a position to provide compensation to the farmers who have been devastated by the application of control measures on their crops?

Mr PALASZCZUK (22/4/99): The Department hopes to be in a position to finalise this matter in the near future.

328. Nerang-Broadbeach Road; Mr J. B. Worrall

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (25/3/99)—

With reference to the proposal to upgrade Nerang/Broadbeach Road, Carrara and as the Regional Director, Mr John Worrall, has come under notice in this House in relation to this matter on a number of occasions and the Minister has also expressed full confidence in him and expressed in writing in answer to a Question on Notice that, "The actions of the District Director and his staff in relation to the Nerang/Broadbeach Road have been appropriate"—

Has Mr Worrall informed him or his department of any potential conflict of interest that Mr Worrall may have in relation to decisions relating to the road program?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/4/99): No.

329. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Staffing

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (25/3/99)—

- (1) How many DETIR Public Service positions have been advertised between 1 July 1998 and 31 March 1999?
- (2) How many of these jobs were part-time?
- (3) How many were fixed term?
- (4) How many were full-time, permanent positions?
- (5) How many were exempted from the application of the public sector appeals procedures?

Mr BRADY (27/4/99): My department advises me as follows: (1) 485; (2) 19; (3) 136; (4) 340; (5) 136.

330. Ms E. Elphick

Mr TURNER asked the Premier (25/3/99)—

With reference to successful lobbying in 1996 by himself and the Hon Matt Foley, as members of the opposition, of the Borbidge Government to secure extra funding for a profoundly disabled woman, Ms Ettie Elphick, ensuring that she was able to receive high support needs in her own home and as he felt so strongly about this issue when in opposition that

he personally lobbied for Ms Elphick yet just a few months after taking office, in 1998, he cut her accommodation support by 40 per cent and as this disabled woman requires recurrent funding to maintain her high support needs in the community—

Will the Beattie Government reinstate the extra annual funding of \$38,000 that was so blatantly cut or is he prepared to let this woman become institutionalised?

Mr BEATTIE (23/4/99): In September 1996, the then Minister for the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care wrote to the agency supporting Ms Elphick, advising that the additional funding provided would be ongoing. Despite the then Minister's commitment in writing to this effect, no additional recurrent funds were approved. The previous Government approved a further non-recurrent grant in May 1998. Upon this non-recurrent grant expiring, my Government approved a further non-recurrent grant to enable Ms Elphick to remain in her community of choice.

The Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services has recently approved emergency funding for Ms Elphick. This non-recurrent grant of \$19,652, combined with 30 hours per week community access service, will enable 24 hour support for Ms Elphick for the next six months. During this period, it will be necessary to explore options for future care arrangements. These discussions will involve Ms Elphick's support group, her service provider and officers of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and will address issues such as accommodation and resource sharing.

The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care will also fund an independent assessment of Ms Elphick's particular support requirements in order to ensure that all options have been comprehensively explored. An application for additional Adult Lifestyle Support funding has been made on behalf of Ms Elphick and is currently being considered by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care through the recently advertised Adult Lifestyle Support Packages funding round.

331. Police Stations

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (25/3/99)—

- (1) Will he advise by police regions (a) the number of communities with populations of 5,000 people or less that are serviced by a police station, (b) the number of permanent police officers and support staff stationed at those police stations and (c) the average distances from these police stations to the adjoining police stations?
- (2) Is there any criteria of distance or response time that justifies the establishment of a police station?

Mr BARTON (27/4/99):

- (1) There are 196 communities with a population of 5000 people or fewer that are serviced by a police station.

These stations are listed, by Region, in the accompanying attachment, which also shows, for each station, the numbers of police officers and support staff, and the distance to the nearest adjacent police station. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The numbers of allocated police officers shown in the accompanying attachment are those attached to each police station. These numbers do not include officers attached to District and Regional Offices, in squads and units that perform duties on a District or Regional basis. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) No, however there are several factors that are taken into consideration when determining where to establish future police stations. These include:

- Population trends and projections
- Crime statistics and trends
- Numbers of call for service
- Traffic volume and numbers of traffic incidents

In addition, the Beattie Labor Government's support for police beats allows the Queensland Police Service to deliver tailor made solutions for individual communities where a particular crime problem is indicated.

Also, Police Shopfronts are a useful tool in addressing community need for policing services, and are sited in areas most people frequent for shopping, recreation or business.

332. Bulk Sugar Terminals

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Primary Industries (25/3/99)—

With reference to the proposed transfer of bulk sugar terminals from Government to industry ownership, it is proposed that the allocation of shares will be based on Queensland Sugar Corporation sales proceeds over the period of 1 January 1989 to 31 December 1997—

- (1) What amount of money was owing on the terminals on 1 January 1989?
- (2) If the majority of the sugar terminals were paid for by this date, will he launch a judicial inquiry to establish and identify the rightful ownership of the bulk sugar terminals?

Mr PALASZCZUK (22/4/99):

1. A loan balance of nine million dollars existed on June 30 1988. (The Sugar Board's annual reports did not provide the balance at the end of the calendar year).

2. The request regarding a judicial inquiry is premature given that the Bulk Sugar Terminals Management Group has not yet completed its task and presented its report.

333. WorkCover Queensland

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (25/3/99)—

With reference to WorkCover Queensland—

- (1) What was the total number of staff at 30 June 1998 and 25 March 1999?
- (2) What was the total number of staff in regional offices at both the above dates?
- (3) What are the total number of voluntary early retirements offered to staff between the above dates?
- (4) Why has the board refused to consider staff requests for enhanced VER provisions promised when staff were transferred without discussion, consultation, or consideration of other options, from their public service positions with the Workers' Compensation Board, into WorkCover?
- (5) Will he give an assurance that staff will not be pressured into taking VERs through increasing amounts of unrecorded, unpaid overtime, the erosion of opportunities for advancement and the destruction of morale?

Mr BRADY (27/4/99): My department advises me as follows:

- (1) 30 June 1998—1051.
25 March 1999—930.
- (2) 30 June 1998—459.
25 March 1999—383.
- (3) 55.
- (4) The VER entitlements for WorkCover Queensland employees are consistent with Queensland Public Service arrangements.
- (5) WorkCover Queensland, a statutory body and candidate Government Owned Corporation (GOC), has advised me that staff will not be pressured into taking VERs through increasing amounts of unrecorded, unpaid overtime, the erosion of opportunities for advancement and the destruction of morale.

334. Queensland Ambulance Service, Defibrillators

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/3/99)—

Will she provide details on the progress of the QAS defibrillator replacement including the timetable proposed for each QAS centre?

Mrs ROSE (27/4/99): Queensland Ambulance Service has 668 defibrillators located in emergency response and Patient Transport Vehicles in each of the stations throughout Queensland. These have been purchased progressively since 1987; \$933,491 having been spent this financial year. Until now emphasis has been on acquiring sufficient defibrillators to equip every one of the 630 Class 1 emergency response vehicles in the fleet. A replacement program will commence next financial year with a goal of ensuring no defibrillator passes a useful life of 8 years. 362 of the units are currently less than 5 years old and only 18 are more than 9 years old. The community and Local Ambulance Committees have strongly supported the defibrillator acquisition program. The defibrillators are replaced on a needs basis, in consultation with LACs.

335. Drug and Alcohol Use; Crime

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (25/3/99)—

Will he provide the House with any quantitative or qualitative data on the relationship of drug and alcohol use and/or dependency and crime as recorded in court statistics; if not, will he provide the House with any other data which statistically indicates the extent of the correlation between drug and alcohol use and crime?

Mr FOLEY (23/4/99): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Springborg, I can advise as follows:

The Courts Database is designed to assist in the case management of matters dealt with by Queensland's Courts. It is not equipped to gather data on the relationship between societal factors such as drug and alcohol use and patterns of offending.

I have no data which statistically indicates the extent of correlation between drug and alcohol use and crime.

The Fifth Annual Report of the Children's Court of Queensland, tabled in this Parliament in December last year, contains an estimate by that court's former President of the correlation between crime and juvenile drug use.

A 1985 study in Western Australia indicated that alcohol was a contributing factor in half of the cases of community based offenders.

The National Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody indicated that there was a "heavy involvement of alcohol use in violent and other criminal behaviour among Aboriginal people and others ... " (pp. 308, vol 2).

336. Tourism, Sport and Racing Department, Staff

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (25/3/99)—

- (1) How many officers in his department also hold a senior executive or board position with major sporting bodies in Queensland?
- (2) Who are those officers, what positions do they hold within his department and what sports do they represent?

Mr GIBBS (23/4/99):

(1) Seven.

(2) Tom Reugebrink, Senior Investigator, Central Operations, Investigations and Complaints Unit, Liquor Licensing Division, Soccer; Gail Cartwright, Senior Information Officer, Industry Development, Liquor Licensing Division, Warehouse Cricket; Kathryn Rogers, Adviser, North Coast Region, Sport and Recreation Division, Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Persons Sport and Recreation Association of Queensland Inc; Greg Cahill, Regional Manager, South East Region, Sport and Recreation Division, Asia Pacific Masters Games Ltd; Mike Keelan, Consultant, Consultancy Services, Sport and

Recreation Division, Weightlifting; Lyn Bollen, Consultant, Consultancy Services, Sport and Recreation Division, Surf Lifesaving; Vicky Roofayel, Consultant, Consultancy Services, Sport and Recreation Division, Australian Dancesport Inc

All of the above staff declared their interest to the Director-General.

337. Regional Communications Centres

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/3/99)—

How many communications officers at each of the regional communications centres have completed their full training, both in the Communications Officers Course and training in the AMPDS system?

Mrs ROSE (27/4/99): There are 10 QAS regional communications centres throughout Queensland, with a total of 159 staff, comprising 7 Communications Centre Managers, 48 Communications Centre Supervisors and 104 Communications Officers.

131 Communications Centre Officers have successfully completed the full Communications Operators Course over the past 10 years.

A total of 285 staff including communications officers, supervisors and managers have successfully completed AMPDS system training at the manual or card system level over the past 5 years.

A total of 20 combined staff have recently completed the ProQA or computerised version of AMPDS and are trained to instruct other officers as at 31 March 1999.

338. Ms R. M. Kelly

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (25/3/99)—

With reference to all work and/or services performed or provided in any and/or all capacities by Ms Raelene Marie Kelly, within his portfolio areas during the past 10 years up until 25 March—

- (1) What are the individual payments received by Ms Kelly, the nature and date/date range of all the work/services provided and the level of payment?
- (2) Will he provide any other benefits or supplementary remuneration (vehicles, office space, mobile phones etc) received by Ms Kelly during the performance/provision of work or services against each individual date or date range?

Mr SCHWARTEN (27/4/99):

(1) I am advised that Ms Kelly received \$15,275 in 1993 in respect of consultancy services rendered to the then Administrative Services Department regarding proposed general conditions of contract and security of payment for subcontractors in respect of major (traditional) building construction work in the public sector.

(2) I am further advised that available records do not indicate what other benefits or supplementary

remuneration (if any) Ms Kelly may have received in respect of services provided.

As over five (5) years have elapsed since payments were made, relevant documentation may have been destroyed pursuant to the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act document retention arrangements.

I do note that Ms Kelly may have received payment for services rendered to the then Builders' Registration Board and later the Building Services Authority when those statutory bodies were the responsibility of the Minister for Housing.

339. Hospital Patient Transfers

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Health (25/3/99)—

Will she table in the Parliament a copy of her instructions where she has told the department to even out waiting lists by moving people in appropriate cases to a hospital where their procedure can be performed more speedily and will she provide a copy of the department's advice to her as to whether this has been done, how often and where and will she provide a detailed breakdown of where the funds have been allocated for this purpose?

Mrs EDMOND (27/4/99): As clearly described in the Waiting List Reduction Strategy, this Government is committed to 'evening out waiting lists by moving people in appropriate cases to a hospital where their procedure can be performed more speedily'. The Strategy is a comprehensive and interrelated eight-point plan to cut waiting lists and provide better access to surgical services for the people of Queensland. For example, the quarterly publication of waiting list information is one element of this plan where information is provided to General Practitioners and to their patients so that informed decisions are made as to where to best access surgical services.

Queensland Health has investigated and continues to investigate the best ways for patients to access services in a timely fashion. For example: some 43% of patients treated at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital reside outside that District. This is due to referrals and not the physical transfer of patients from other facilities. Another example of providing better access to surgical services involves an orthopaedic surgeon from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital performing surgical sessions at the Gold Coast Hospital in November and December 1998.

340. Juvenile Detention

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (25/3/99)—

With reference to the detention of juveniles since 1 October 1998—

- (1) How many juveniles have been transported to Brisbane so that they would not be kept in watch-houses over weekends?
- (2) What was the date of each transportation?

- (3) From what town/city was each transportation?
- (4) What was the method and cost of each transportation?
- (5) How many police, or other personnel, were involved in providing security in the transport of these juveniles?
- (6) What was the cost of these police or other personnel?
- (7) What were the locations to which each of these juveniles were transported?
- (8) For what period of time were these juveniles detained at the place to which they were transported?

Ms BLIGH (27/4/99): As the former Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, with responsibility for particular aspects of juvenile justice, Mr Beanland would be aware that the responsibility for the transfer of all Queensland juveniles pending the determination of matters before court falls outside my portfolio responsibility. The Member should therefore direct his question to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services.

341. Beach Erosion, Funding for Restoration

Mr ROWELL asked the Premier (25/3/99)—

With reference to his indication during the last Parliamentary sitting that funding was being provided to stem the erosion on the Strand in Townsville, where property is endangered—

If there are similar problems with beach erosion where property is being threatened by cyclones and storms or severe wave action will he give the same level of financial support for the necessary restoration as has been provided for the Strand in Townsville?

Mr BEATTIE (23/4/99): Should special circumstances apply, the Government would consider these on a case by case basis. Although beach erosion is not directly eligible for assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA), certain aspects of repairs or emergent works, to public assets only, may be eligible in accordance with the NDRA guidelines. The 'Natural Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements within Queensland' guidelines published by the Department of Emergency Services further elaborate on the eligibility of public assets.

Under the Local Governing Bodies' Infrastructure Subsidies Scheme, subsidy is also available for Sea and River Erosion Prevention at a rate of 25%. To receive the subsidy, the local authority must obtain an approval from the Beach Protection Authority that the beach erosion satisfies the requirements as included in the guidelines of the subsidy scheme. Works that may be subsidised include works to prevent erosion on beaches, foreshores and in the beds and banks of rivers and streams such as erosion prevention, beach access pathways, non-repetitive dune stabilisation and re-grassing, pumping of sand to replenish beach erosion, aerial fertilising of sand dunes and sand retention fences. Guidelines governing this type of work are issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.

342. Sunbus, Cairns

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (25/3/99)—

- (1) What complaints has been received since the service changes to Sunbus in Cairns which were implemented in November 1998?
- (2) What process will Queensland Transport be taking to ensure that the views of passengers are taken into account in the proposed review of these changes?
- (3) Will he ensure that either passenger surveys are circulated or that publicised open forum meetings are conducted at which community comment is invited?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/4/99):

(1) The introduction of the changes to the Cairns urban route network from 1 November 1998 were as a result of a mid-term review of the 5 year contract which identified that the company was suffering substantial financial loss which could not be sustained.

The implementation of those changes resulted in a number of complaints being directed to my office.

To address these concerns Queensland Transport conducted a further review in December and as a result further enhancements were made to the network in an attempt to address those concerns.

While there were a number of complaints regarding service levels and timetable changes the primary focus of concern was on the deletion of services to Flecker Botanic Gardens and Cairns Base Hospital.

To address these issues I have approved additional funding of \$560/week to enable services to the Gardens and Hospital to be reintroduced. These changes took effect after the Easter vacation.

(2) As indicated the views of the travelling public have been taken into consideration through the assessment process which resulted in the reintroduction of a number of services.

(3) Queensland Transport Cairns currently convenes quarterly meetings of the Cairns Public Transport Advisory Committee. This Committee presently comprises representatives from State and local authorities and the transport industry (taxi, bus, limousine). The make-up of this Committee is being examined with the view to having representatives from key stakeholder groups who access public transport on a regular basis. The matter of conducting passenger surveys could be considered by that Committee.

343. Harness Racing; Prize Money

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (25/3/99)—

- (1) Why has prize money at some provincial harness race clubs such as Toowoomba dropped by up to 40 per cent per meeting ie from \$2,500.00 to \$1,500.00 per race, meaning less money to the industry and a downturn in the economic contribution to the Toowoomba area by harness racing?

- (2) What does he propose to remedy the problem of lack of prize money in harness racing sufficient to sustain the code participants?

Mr GIBBS (23/4/99):

(1) The reduction in prize money was applied to these harness race clubs, including Darling Downs Harness Racing Club, under the former Coalition Government. This reduction was made under the former Government to accommodate, for the first time in 1998, TABQ distribution arrangements for prize money to the Townsville Club.

(2) Currently 100 percent of TABQ net profits are distributed to the racing industry. The Government's financial package for privatisation has been accepted by the Queensland Harness Racing Board and will provide extra funds to the industry.

344. State Development Department, Consultants

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (25/3/99)—

- (1) What are the names of consultants engaged by the Department of State Development since the Government took office and the names of the principal officer of each consultancy?
- (2) What was the total amount paid to consultants and the amount paid to each consultancy?
- (3) What is the nature of the work undertaken by each consultancy?
- (4) Were tenders advertised for each consultancy; if not, will he advise which ones weren't and the basis on which they were appointed?

Mr ELDER (22/4/99):

1. See attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2. A total of \$1,298,129 has been paid. For individual amounts, 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)

345. Q-Build

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (25/3/99)—

With reference to the services provided/undertaken by Q-Build on behalf of/for the Department of Housing—

- (1) What was/is the total value of work/services provided/undertaken by Q-Build in (a) 1996-97, (b) 1997-98 and (c) year to date in 1998-99?
- (2) What was/is the breakdown value of work or services provided/undertaken by Q-Build in (a)

1996-97, (b) 1997-98 and (c) year to date in 1998-99 for (i) responsive maintenance, (ii) vacant maintenance, (iii) planned maintenance and (iv) upgrade?

- (3) What was/is the value of work or services provided/undertaken by Q-Build but outsourced to private sector contractors in (a) 1996-97, (b) 1997-98 and (c) year to date in 1998-99 for (i) responsive maintenance, (ii) vacant maintenance, (iii) planned maintenance and (iv) upgrade?
- (4) What was/is the value of work or services provided/undertaken by private sector contractors in (a) 1996-97, (b) 1997-98 and (c) year to date in 1998-99 for (i) responsive maintenance, (ii) vacant maintenance, (iii) planned maintenance and (iv) upgrade?

Mr SCHWARTEN (27/4/99): The Honourable Member should be aware that Q-Build employs more than 2,500 people at various centres in metropolitan, rural and regional Queensland.

It is also one of the state's biggest employers and trainers of apprentices. At present there are 376 apprentices employed by Q-Build, including 140 first year apprentices inducted in March—50 more than last year.

Under the Beattie Government, Q-Build staff will continue to play a valuable role in the fields of maintenance and minor works within the public sector. Their work—in particular their rapid response to incidents such as vandalism at schools—has won them praise from client departments. They will also continue to be available to help local communities in times of crisis such as the aftermath of bushfires, floods, cyclones or other natural disasters affecting public assets.

The Coalition's hostile attitude towards the very existence of Q-Build is well known—both inside and outside the organisation. I have particularly noted the interest and awareness of that attitude by Q-Build staff members themselves when I have met and spoke with them—especially in country centres.

The specific details sought by the Honourable Member are:

(1) The total value of work/services provided/undertaken by Q-Build in (a) 1996-97* was \$19,582,153, (b) 1997-98 was \$64,239,726 and (c) year to date in 1998-99 is \$42,905,876.

(2) The breakdown value of work or services provided/undertaken by Q-Build in:

(i) Responsive Maintenance

(a) 1996-97*	-
(b) 1997-98	\$28,483,678
(c) year to date in 1998-99	\$21,973,033

(ii) Vacant Maintenance

(a) 1996-97*	-
(b) 1997-98	\$13,606,042
(c) year to date in 1998-99	\$8,770,684

(iii) Planned Maintenance

(a) 1996-97*	-
(b) 1997-98	\$4,926,248
(c) year to date in 1998-99	\$4,625,829

(iv) Upgrade

(a) 1996-97*	-
(b) 1997-98	\$17,223,758
(c) year to date in 1998-99	\$7,536,330

(3) The value of work or services provided/undertaken by Q-Build but outsourced to private sector contractors in:

(i) Responsive Maintenance

(a) 1996-97*	-
(b) 1997-98	\$18,230,588
(c) year to date in 1998-99	\$15,935,198

(ii) Vacant Maintenance

(a) 1996-97*	-
(b) 1997-98	\$9,665,325
(c) year to date in 1998-99	\$6,108,368

(iii) Planned Maintenance

(a) 1996-97*	-
(b) 1997-98	\$2,841,840
(c) year to date in 1998-99	\$3,606,272

(iv) Upgrade

(a) 1996-97*	-
(b) 1997-98	\$11,260,476
(c) year to date in 1998-99	\$5,764,735

(4) Q-Build does not hold records for work provided by private contractors and charged to Housing. Any private sector work outsourced by Q-Build is covered in (3) above.

* Work performed by Q-Build during 1996-97 was on a cost recovery arrangement only. A breakdown by work type is unavailable for this period.

346. Ravenshoe, TAFE Programs

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (25/3/99)—

- (1) Will he list all TAFE programs conducted in Ravenshoe since he assumed office?
- (2) What TAFE programs are currently operating in Ravenshoe?
- (3) What TAFE programs are being planned for the second semester in Ravenshoe?

Mr BRADY (27/4/99):

(1) Certificate in Business (Office Practices) and the Certificate in Rural Office Practices.

(2) The Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE currently offers a range of courses in Ravenshoe via face-to-face classroom delivery and through flexible delivery. Current programs being offered in Ravenshoe are the Certificate in Business, Certificate 3 in Information Technology, Diploma of Business and Certificate in Rural Office Practices.

(3) The Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE intends to link the training provided to the Ravenshoe community to economic and employment growth strategies. These strategies focus on possible apprenticeships and traineeships in vocational areas, such as office practices, dairy, rural, quarry, sport and recreation and heritage and interpretive tourism. The Institute will continue to

offer rural programs, such as the Certificate in Rural Office Practices, through flexible delivery modes. Services provided through the Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE will be enhanced by the Institute's flexible delivery network, thus enabling the Ravenshoe community to access a more diverse range of programs to meet individual business and community needs. Services provided will include on-line delivery, self paced learning packages, tutorial sessions, study skills, learning circle facilitation and e:mail.

347. Mental Health Legislation

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Health (25/3/99)—

Why has the new Mental Health Act, which she said would be introduced early in 1999, not been released and when will she be introducing it to Parliament?

Mrs EDMOND (27/4/99): Because of the inaction of the former health minister, there is a backlog of principal and substantive legislation set to expire by 30 June 1999.

The new Mental Health Act will not be introduced into Parliament until all outstanding issues relating to each part of the Act have been resolved. Significant questions have recently been raised regarding the extent of the role of victims in proceedings under the Mental Health Act where the offender has a mental illness or intellectual disability. This has significant implications for the new Mental Health Act and on 23 March 1999, I released a detailed discussion paper examining the issue. It is a complex issue and the consultation process seeks to ensure that the views of victims, consumers and the general community can be taken into account. Once all outstanding issues have been resolved, and before the legislation can be introduced into Parliament, a period of time is required to draft the legislation to ensure it operates effectively. Once the Bill is drafted I propose to release an Exposure Draft of the Bill before it is introduced into Parliament. Public consultation on all the proposals as a whole is vital. Members of the general community have not been consulted on the proposals as a whole since the release of the Green Paper in 1994.

Given these considerations, I expect to introduce the new Mental Health Act into Parliament before the end of this year.

348. Maryborough, Prison

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (25/3/99)—

With reference to the announcement that the next prison to be built will be located in the Maryborough and bearing in mind Maryborough has benefited enormously from the State Government contracts to build our electric trains—

How can he and the Government justify Maryborough over inland centres in the south-east who have not had similar Government contracts awarded to business houses in their regions?

Mr BARTON (27/4/99): Maryborough was selected by the Government to be the site for the new south-east Queensland correctional centre on the basis that it:

1. Possessed good community infrastructure which was capable of sustaining the correctional centre (for example, medical facilities, the availability of psychological and other professional services)
2. Offered all necessary community services (for example, Ambulance, State Emergency Services, Hospital, Education facilities)

Has a major population base

Is located on a major transport route, and is serviced by the tilt train, allowing ease of visitor transport (particularly from Brisbane), as well as prisoner escorts to court and other correctional centres

5. Provided a strong bid, which included a council contribution to the project.

It should be pointed out that Maryborough was one of the short listed sites for the new correctional centre selected by the former Coalition Government. The others were: Inglewood, Roma and Kingaroy/Nanango/Rosalie.

Although there were many positive features associated with the other three sites short listed by the Coalition they were not regarded as finally competitive because:

- (a) the travelling distance from Brisbane, in 2 cases, was further than Maryborough
- (b) community services were of not sufficient scale and size to support a 500 bed centre or were insufficiently concentrated to be immediately available
- (c) water supply was problematic in the Western sites.

349. Drag Racing, Suburban Streets

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (25/3/99)—

With reference to drag racing in suburban streets and industrial localities which is an increasing problem, as participants are well organised and can rapidly shift venues as soon as they pick up police interest in their illegal activities and as the current level of fines makes no impression on the owners of drag racing vehicles—

Will he consider recommending stiffer penalties including confiscation or immobilisation of vehicles (as recommended by the Queensland Police Service) in order to deter drag racing hoons who are taking over our streets?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/4/99): Prior to 15 May 1998, the Traffic Regulation contained offences for drivers who caused any undue noise by reason of the state of disrepair or loading of a vehicle, or the manner in which the vehicle was operated. These offences carried an infringement penalty of \$40 and did not incur demerit points. On 15 May 1998, legislative changes took effect which increased the penalty for undue noise created by the vehicle's equipment, such as stereo system or vehicle exhaust

system, from \$40 to \$120. No demerit points are attached to this offence, as it is not safety related.

Included with these amendments was the creation of a separate offence for the more serious behaviour of wilfully driving a vehicle in a way that creates undue noise. The infringement penalty for this offence is \$240, and the accrual of two demerit points against the driver's traffic history. It is considered that these amendments constitute a significant deterrent to drivers who create undue noise through the improper use of a motor vehicle. Confiscating or immobilising vehicles may have unfair social and family impacts as the driver may not be the owner of the vehicle. Such action would also not prevent the driver from committing a similar offence in another vehicle. It would also add to the Department's and compulsory third party insurer's administrative burdens depending on the amount of time the vehicle was impounded or grounded.

350. Queensland Health, Entertainment Expenditure

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Health (25/3/99)—

How much have SES level Queensland Health officials spent on entertainment this year and what is their expected level of expenditure for this by 30 June 1999?

Mrs EDMOND (27/4/99): Queensland Health's Financial Management System cannot differentiate between SES and non-SES officers. The total entertainment expenses by all Queensland Health staff (Corporate Office and Districts) as at 28 February 1999 was \$31,470.

This compares with \$40,362.94 in entertainment expenses as at 28 February 1998.

351. Auctioneers and Agents Committee; Mr D. W. Kelly and Ms R. M. Kelly;

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (25/3/99)—

With reference to the claim and subsequent payment of \$6,700 to Mr Donald William (Bill) Kelly by the Auctioneers and Agents Committee from the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund—

- (1) With whom has she spoken or corresponded in relation to this matter (provide names and titles), when (provide times and dates), where (provide venue and addresses) and in what manner (eg phone, fax, e-mail, meeting etc)?
- (2) With whom has her Director-General, Ms Marg O'Donnell, spoken or corresponded in relation to this matter (provide names and titles), when (provide times and dates), where (provide venue and addresses) and in what manner (eg phone, fax, email, meeting etc)?
- (3) With whom has her Consumer Affairs Commissioner and Committee Registrar, Mr Neil Lawson, spoken or corresponded in relation to this matter (provide names and titles), when

(provide times and dates), where (provide venue names and addresses) and in what manner (eg phone, fax, email, meeting etc)?

- (4) Has her Director-General, Ms O'Donnell, met with Ms Raelene Kelly since 1 June 1998; if so, when (provide times and dates) and where (provide venue and addresses)?
- (5) Has she communicated with Ms Kelly for any reason at any time since 1 June 1998; if so, when (provide times and dates), where (provide venue and addresses) and in what manner (eg phone, fax, email, meeting etc)?
- (6) Did she know Ms Kelly prior to the lodgement of her father's claim against the Fidelity Fund; if so, approximately how long has she known Ms Kelly?
- (7) Did she know Mr Kelly prior to the lodgement of his claim against the Fidelity Fund; if so, approximately how long has she known Mr Kelly?

Ms SPENCE (27/4/99): The Criminal Justice Commission has investigated this matter and made no finding against the Auctioneers and Agents Committee. Specifically, it had found that there was no reasonable basis on which to suspect any person had been guilty of official misconduct. The Committee was honest, impartial and fully discharged its duties of trust in the public administration.

Despite my legal position in this matter having been explained in the House, a failure to understand persists within some Opposition members.

As Minister I should not and did not have any influence over the quasi-judicial deliberations of the Committee and therefore have had no role whatsoever in the claim and subsequent payment in this matter.

Given that I am not a participant in the determination of this matter it therefore follows that the further details requested here are not ones on which I should properly comment.

352. Emergency Services Department, Enterprise Agreement

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/3/99)—

- (1) Will she detail how the department proposes to fund the proposed wage rises being negotiated in the Enterprise Agreement?
- (2) Will she also detail what financial impact the 38 hour week (promised at the EA Statewide workshop in Brisbane in July 1998) will have on the department's budget and how the department intends to fund this?

Mrs ROSE (27/4/99):

(1) The Department proposes to fund the proposed wage rises being negotiated in the Enterprise Agreement through the budget process.

(2) The financial impact of the 38 hour week is estimated to be \$5.16M in the first year and the Department intends to fund this through the budget process.

353. Dairy Industry

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (25/3/99)—

With reference to the concern in the dairy industry regarding the increased volume of milk coming into Queensland

What impact will this move have on Queensland producers, bearing in mind the assurances given by him during the debate on the Dairy Bill in 1998?

Mr PALASZCZUK (22/4/99): I refer to my previous answer to Question 104 by which the Honourable Member asked exactly the same question.

354. Single-officer Police Stations

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (25/3/99)—

Will he detail all Queensland police stations that have a single police officer only and the approximate area (sq kms) and population covered by each of these stations?

Mr BARTON (27/4/99): There are presently 79 one officer stations operated by the Queensland Police Service. These 79 stations are listed in the accompanying attachment, together with the approximate area and estimated current population of the geographic area for which each station is operationally responsible. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

For background purposes, I would refer the Honourable Member to an answer to a Question on Notice to the 1997 Budget Estimates Committee B, wherein the former Minister, the Honourable Russell Cooper said, "single officer patrols have been a commonplace, effective and necessary form of deployment for many years, particularly in smaller stations and branches, in traffic work, especially motor cycle patrols, and in dog squad duties".

At 30 June 1998 there were 80 single officer stations in Queensland. It is envisaged that as the service expands as a result of the historic numbers of police officers being recruited by this Government (300-400 net increase per year until 2005), that there could be some scope for further reductions in the number of single officer stations through growth in existing numbers at current one officer stations.

The Queensland Police Service exercises caution when considering appropriate levels of police resourcing, and includes in deliberations the issue of crime levels. An example of crime in some of the 79 current single officer stations in the most recent statistical year is—

- Chillagoe—6 crimes against the person; 12 property crimes
- Einasleigh—0 crimes against the person; 2 property crimes
- Mingela—2 crimes against the person; 7 property crimes
- Jericho—0 crimes against the person; 6 property crimes
- Eromanga—4 crimes against the person; 6 property crimes

355. Queensland Ambulance Service, Motor Vehicles

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/3/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service fleet—

Will she detail (a) the number of QAS vehicles over ten years old, (b) the number of QAS vehicles over 12 years old, (c) the location of these vehicles and (d) the approximate odometer reading of each vehicle?

Mrs ROSE (27/4/99):

- (a) There are 28 QAS Operational patient carrying vehicles over 10 years old. Fourteen of these will be replaced by June 1999 and another 10 by June 2000 under the QAS vehicle replacement program.
- (b) Fourteen of the 28 are over 12 years old.
- (c) Station locations are attached.
- (d) Odometers are available as per attached list. Two are over the QAS maximum goal of 300,000 km and are being replaced this financial year. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The goal of the QAS is to have 80 per cent or better of two-stretcher capacity vehicles less than eight years of age and 80 per cent or better of single stretcher capacity vehicles less than three years. The QAS is on target to achieve this through the record budget allocation from the Government and a continuing commitment to properly fund the QAS.

An amount of \$5,119,807 will be spent this financial year on the fleet replacement program. This will provide for 58 new or refurbished vehicles.

356. Ms R. M. Kelly

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (25/3/99)—

With reference to all work and/or services performed or provided in any and/or all capacities by Ms Raelene Marie Kelly, within his portfolio areas during the past ten (10) years up until 25 March—

Will he list the individual payments received by Ms Kelly, the nature and date/date range of all work/services provided and the level of payment and also list any other benefits or supplementary remuneration (vehicles, office space, mobile phones etc) received by Ms Kelly during the performance/provision of work or services against each individual date or date range?

Mr BEATTIE (27/4/99): Searches have not revealed any record of services provided by Ms Kelly within my portfolio during the past 10 years.

357. Ms R. M. Kelly

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/3/99)—

With reference to all work and/or services performed or provided in any and/or all capacities by Ms Raelene Marie Kelly, within her portfolio areas during the past ten (10) years up until 25 March—

Will she list the individual payments received by Ms Kelly, the nature and date/date range of all work/services provided and the level of payment and also list any other benefits or supplementary remuneration (vehicles, office space, mobile phones etc) received by Ms Kelly during the performance/provision of work or services against each individual date or date range?

Mrs ROSE (28/4/99): I am advised that departmental human resources records indicate that Ms Kelly received payments from 20 October 1994 to 16 February 1996 as a board member of the Auctioneers and Agents Committee, Office of Consumer Affairs, and for other services. I am advised that during that period Ms Kelly was paid \$21,268 for services including work on the Green Paper on Emergency Services legislation for Queensland Emergency Services in 1994, advice on the consultation process for the legislation in 1995, advice on preparation of the proposed Emergency Services Bill during 1995 and providing legal and technical opinions on various drafts of the proposed Bill during 1995. I am further advised that Ms Kelly received a salary payment of \$534 on 9 November 1995, a payment of \$492 for expenses on 7 December 1995 and \$37 for parking fees on 8 February 1996. During that period, the Office of Consumer Affairs formed part of this portfolio and was subsequently transferred to another department.

358. Mr C. Chavez; Caboolture Shire Council

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (13/4/99)—

With reference to Mr Chester Chavez, who has corresponded with the Minister and his office in relation to the building he owns and built at Beachmere now sitting dormant for the last 10 months, unoccupied and unable to be sold—

- (1) How is it that the Caboolture Shire Council can approve a building and when that building is completed, then notify the builder that the council themselves did not request all the necessary prior approvals as ordered by the Planning and Environmental Court and local building act and then attempt to force the builder, who complied with the original plans approved by the council, by notice to complete new works on the building, not contained in the original plan?
- (2) Why have the requests of Mr Chavez that the Minister investigates this matter within the Caboolture Shire Council, within his role as the Minister, being pushed towards the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations?

Mr MACKENROTH (13/5/99):

(1) In March 1997 the Caboolture Shire Council refused a rezoning application lodged by Mr Chavez for a townhouse development at Beachmere. On appeal in July 1997 the Planning and Environment Court issued a consent order allowing the rezoning subject to a number of conditions. The effect of this

approval was to allow five units to be constructed on the site without need for further planning approval.

In November 1997 the Caboolture Shire Council made an error in issuing a building approval for the site for a townhouse development comprising eight units. This approval was in conflict with the planning scheme and should not have been given by Council until a further planning approval for the additional three units was sought by Mr Chavez, approved by Council and not subsequently overturned on appeal.

The error was realised and in mid 1998 Mr Chavez lodged the necessary application for material change of use with Council. In recognition of its part in the error, Council waived its application fees. The application was approved by Council in October 1998 and is presently subject of an appeal to the Planning and Environment Court.

Despite the error which occurred with Council's issuance of the building approval, the conditions which are of concern to Mr Chavez (the non-compliance of which are effectively preventing finalisation of his development) were included in the consent order issued by the Court in July 1997, and have been included by the Council in all subsequent approvals issued by it relating to Mr Chavez's townhouse development.

(2) In correspondence to me dated 23 February 1999, Mr Chavez alleged the Caboolture Shire Council had acted in an incompetent manner in respect of its dealings with both himself and others. While I can appreciate the concerns which Mr Chavez has raised, particularly in the context of the error made in respect of his development at Beachmere, there is in this instance no basis for an investigation by my Department into the conduct of Council. Mr Chavez's concerns are related to a specific administrative error, which has since been recognised and rectified by the Council, rather than being evidence of ongoing mismanagement or malpractice within Council. In this circumstance, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations is the most appropriate authority to investigate the matter.

359. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio; Lockyer Electorate

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (13/4/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Lockyer Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?

- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Lockyer Electorate or which cater for the Lockyer Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?
- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Lockyer Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Lockyer, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr BARTON (13/5/99):

(1-6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7) & (8) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government agencies, and the election commitments of this Government, as well as Rules for questions outlined in Sessional Order number 68.

(9) In addition to the above, as Minister, I frequently provide advice publicly on police and corrective services activities in your region and electorate. You may assist in one of two ways, either by passing this information on to your constituents, or by raising specific issues on behalf of your constituents with me in writing, or exercising your right to ask me questions on specific issues in the Parliament.

360. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio; Whitsunday Electorate

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (13/4/99)—

- (1) What is the actual and estimated expenditure and associated person hours for his portfolio and its entities in the Whitsunday Electorate for each quarter of 1998-99?
- (2) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are made to organisations or groups in the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) How much money does each organisation receive and what is the purpose of the funding?
- (4) What funding or grants, both current and recurrent, are available to organisations or groups in the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (5) Which offices/departments/entities are operated under his portfolio in the Whitsunday Electorate or which cater for the Whitsunday Electorate, where are they located, who are the contact persons and their positions and what is the purpose of the office/department/entity?

- (6) How is the necessity for the office/department/entity determined and what criteria is used to determine continuation of the office/department/entity?
- (7) What is planned for the Whitsunday Electorate by his portfolio and its entities?
- (8) How may I assist in the implementation of these plans?
- (9) How may I ensure that, as the Member for Whitsunday, I am fully informed of the efforts made by his portfolio and its entities on behalf of my constituents?

Mr BARTON (13/5/99):

(1-6) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports and other budget reports required of my portfolio under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and other legislation.

(7) & (8) I refer the Honourable Member to the annual and other legislative reporting requirements of Government agencies, and the election commitments of this Government, as well as Rules for questions outlined in Sessional Order number 68.

(9) In addition to the above, as Minister, I frequently provide advice publicly on police and corrective services activities in your region and electorate. You may assist in one of two ways, either by passing this information on to your constituents, or by raising specific issues on behalf of your constituents with me in writing, or exercising your right to ask me questions on specific issues in the Parliament.

361. University of Queensland, Ipswich Campus; Student Travel Concessions

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (13/4/99)—

- (1) What travel concessions are available for university students at University of Queensland's Ipswich campus if they live outside the Ipswich city area?
- (2) How many students travel by public transport from these outer areas?
- (3) What travel concessions are available for university students at University of Queensland's Ipswich campus if they live within the Ipswich city area?
- (4) How many students travel by public transport from these city areas?
- (5) If no travel concessions are available for students within the Ipswich city area, why should these students be discriminated against in regard to travel concessions?
- (6) Will he pursue the provision of travel concessions for students within the Ipswich city area?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/5/99):

(1) With the opening of the University of Queensland Ipswich Campus an agreement was made between Queensland Rail and Transit Australia (the commercial service contract holder for the Ipswich area) which provides integrated ticketing for students attending

this campus. The integrated ticketing provides a discount of fifty per cent. Anyone who uses the rail network can avail themselves of this service.

(2) During the period 1 April 1999 to 24 April 1999, 616 trips were made using this integrated ticket.

(3) University students within the Ipswich contract area are offered a discount fare when travelling on the local bus service to the University of Queensland Ipswich Campus. This discount is set at thirty-three and one third per cent.

(4) During the period 1 April 1999 to 24 April 1999, 175 trips were made by students from within Ipswich travelling to the University Campus.

(5 & 6) Travel concessions are available within the Ipswich City area. These discounts are beyond the requirement of the contract and are at the discretion of the operator and are provided without any government assistance. The discount is set by the operator at the same rate applying to secondary school students.

362. Police Housing; Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (13/4/99)—

As the Federal Government has made unacceptable changes to the Federal Taxation Laws that will see State Police paying fringe benefits tax for housing provided in remote and rural communities, what steps will he be taking to alleviate this retrograde step in community policing forced upon us by the Federal Government?

Mr BARTON (13/5/99): The Queensland Police Service will not be paying any additional Fringe Benefits Tax on housing in remote and rural communities as a result of the recent changes to Federal Taxation Laws. No employees of the Queensland Police Service are required to pay Fringe Benefits Tax. Housing fringe benefits in 'remote areas', as determined by the Australian Taxation Office, have been excluded from a requirement of the legislation to record on an employee's group certificate the "grossed-up" value of fringe benefits received by an employee where the employee receives in excess of \$1,000 in fringe benefits.

363. Aquaculture Feed

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (13/4/99)—

With reference to my attendance at the regional science briefing held in Townsville for the Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) at which I raised the issue concerning the dangers of importing foreign aqua-culture feed at the risk of introducing disease to Australia and at which Dr Peter Montague (Aquaculture) confirmed the absolute importance of this issue and agreed that synthetic feed should be manufactured in our own country as a matter of urgency and Hon Peter Slipper, MP, and Tony Staley (CRC Association) were also in attendance and received this information with the concern it

deserves and as this matter will be raised in Canberra—

Will he also treat the matter with urgency and ensure that this problem is addressed as soon as possible?

Mr PALASZCZUK (13/5/99): The Queensland Government considers the matters important. There is a company already producing aquaculture feed in Queensland. This company supplied forty-six percent of the 3,111 tonnes used by the Black Tiger prawn farming industry in 1997/1998. Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has carried out collaborative research with this company over the past nine years. DPI along with Commonwealth Scientific, Industrial and Research Organisation researchers continue to assist this company in producing Australian aquaculture feeds. There is also additional research being carried out nationally, funded by the CRC for Aquaculture and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

The issue is also being addressed by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS). AQIS is responsible for screening of aquaculture feeds imported into Australia. AQIS is carrying out an Import Risk Analysis of imported prawn and prawn products which includes aquaculture feeds and aquaculture feed ingredients imported for use in domestically produced feeds.

364. Maryborough, Prison

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (13/4/99)—

- (1) Why was Maryborough awarded a prison when it did not meet fully the criteria stipulated ie. as to time (2 hours from Brisbane)?
- (2) Why was Woodford awarded an extension when Yarraman and surrounding districts fully supported the concept, could have supported the facility and the Yarraman and surrounding districts would have benefited from the prison being built in the area?
- (3) Will he consider redirecting the proposed extension of Woodford Prison to building the equivalent sized prison at Yarraman which would offset the declining socio economic status of Yarraman and its surrounding districts; if not, why not?

Mr BARTON (13/5/99):

- (1) The criteria for distance from Brisbane was relaxed by the Coalition Government to include all areas that had expressed an interest in the new correctional centre. Prior to coming to Government, Labor publicly rejected to Coalition proposal to build three 200-cell correctional centres, as reported on page 14 of the 9 June 1998 edition of the South Burnett Times. Given the extensive work already undertaken by many Queensland communities in preparing bids, a decision was made to continue with the same selection criteria set down by the Coalition Government. Maryborough was chosen from the Coalition's approved short-list and was deemed to fully meet all requirements, including the relaxed distance criteria.

(2) The Woodford Correctional Centre is to be expanded as part of the natural development of this site to its maximum potential. Currently, every correctional centre in the state, with the exception of the Moreton A Correctional Centre and Moreton B Correctional Centre, is being expanded to meet accommodation needs.

Additionally, the expansion of Woodford Correctional Centre (as opposed to a green field site with no existing support facilities) is the quickest, cheapest and most effective manner in which to address Queensland's urgent need for additional prison cells.

The development of new centres is undertaken in conjunction with this expansion process to ensure that the urgently required number of cells are delivered in a timely fashion at the best possible price to the Queensland Government.

(3) The Woodford Correctional Centre expansion program will proceed as planned. However, the possibility of a future correctional centre at Yarraman has not been discounted and the site will remain on the register of sites that has been prepared following an exhaustive process of potential site identification, commenced by the Coalition Government and finalised under the current Government.

It should be noted that unlike the Honourable Member for Maryborough, who made extensive and ongoing representations in relation to the prison siting, the Member for Barambah has not written to me once in support of the Rosalie Shire Council bid and the Yarraman community.

In fact one of the only public comments made by the Member for Barambah, of which I am aware, was that she was "personally not in favour" of a prison for Yarraman.

It would have been in the best interests of the Member's Electorate if she had made representations prior to the announcement of the decision.

365. Trawling, Bycatch Reduction Devices

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Primary Industries (13/4/99)—

- (1) Will bycatch reduction devices reduce bycatch to a negligible level?
- (2) Is it necessary to legalise trawling for bycatch species when bycatch reduction devices are being made compulsory and they work so well?
- (3) Will the tiny closure to trawling for winter whiting in a tiny part of Hervey Bay "make sure an adequate supply of winter whiting is available for recreational fishers in these regions" as stated in his press release?
- (4) With the jobs of about 600 people in Hervey Bay alone being destroyed by the proposal to legalise trawling for winter whiting, which include bait businesses, tackle shops, charter boats businesses, boat hire businesses, fishing guides, boat sales and services businesses, outboard supply and repair businesses, fuel supply businesses, ice suppliers, 4WD hire businesses, camping supplies, barge operators,

tour operators, travel agents, food outlets and numerous accommodation businesses, will he agree to come to Hervey Bay to meet with these people before the final vote on this proposal?

- (5) What is the average volume and Gross Value of Product (GVP) taken by trawl from the inshore trawl area (south of the line 25.05 south) in Hervey Bay?
- (6) Does he accept the wealth of irrefutable scientific evidence that says that prawns are more valuable to the trawl industry if they are protected from being targeted in the shallow, inshore nursery areas and only trawled as they move offshore where they are larger and more valuable, particularly for export?
- (7) Are the winter whiting in Moreton Bay the same genetic stock as in Hervey Bay?
- (8) What are the scientific and qualitative studies of the take of winter whiting and sand crabs by trawl that he refers to in his press releases?
- (9) Is it correct that no scientific studies have actually been done or planned to be done on winter whiting in Hervey Bay?

Mr PALASZCZUK (13/5/99):

1. Not all Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) will reduce bycatch to negligible levels. Current generation BRDs reduce trawl bycatch by between twenty percent and forty percent. The description of a BRD in the legislation is broad enough to allow for experimentation in BRD design so that the most effective designs can be developed to work in the particular areas fished.

2. The legislation, prior to the recent amendment, allowed for the retention of only prawns and scallops by trawlers. The new legislation is designed to allow trawlers to take other species at historical levels as many of these species such as Moreton Bay bugs, squid and other species are taken during trawl operations that target prawns and scallops. These bycatch species provide the basis of valuable domestic and export markets and are not taken by other fishing methods.

There is nothing in the new legislation that alters trawl gear so as to increase its effectiveness in targeting other species. As such the new legislation is not designed to have trawlers expand their activities into other species. The new legislation, when considered with other measures being proposed, will reduce the amount of trawl by-product taken in the fishery. It also provides for the retention of other species that are valuable and not subject to any other management plan. This Government is the first to have risen to the challenge of successfully dealing with the issue of trawl bycatch which has caused dissent between sectors in the fishing industry for many years.

3. The area from Burrum Heads to Point Vernon is a prime fishing area for winter whiting. Limiting trawling in the area during the most important time of the year for recreational fishing for winter whiting will preserve the resource for the exclusive use of recreational fishers.

4. During 1997, trawlers reported catching 4.2 tonnes of winter whiting valued at \$10,000. It is important to recognise that trawlers are also fishing for prawns when they take winter whiting as a bycatch. Trawlers are unlikely to target winter whiting so the volume taken by the trawl sector will be unlikely to effect recreational fishing for the species. The new legislation is intended to allow trawlers to do what they have done in the past while not allowing them to expand their fishing to take other species.

5. The volume of trawl product from the area in Hervey Bay south of 25° S as determined by logbook records for 1997 is:

Tiger prawns—14 tonnes
Banana prawns—3 tonnes
King prawns—4 tonnes
Other prawns—2 tonnes
Moreton Bay bugs—1 tonne
Blue swimmer crab—2 tonnes
Winter whiting—4 tonnes
Squid—1 tonne

This was a collective total of thirty-one tonnes of product which represented the main catch from the fishery. The landed value of the product is estimated to be \$350,000.00. A small amount of other bycatch species were also taken the value of which is currently unknown, but expected to be relatively small.

6. Tiger and Banana prawns go through their entire life cycle in inshore and coastal waters particularly in southern part of their distribution which includes Hervey Bay. These prawn species rarely move into depths greater than fifteen metres. Any attempts to move the fishery into offshore waters would result in the loss of the fishery.

7. There are no scientific data on the relationship between winter whiting in Moreton Bay and Hervey Bay. However it is thought that the two stocks are separate and do not intermix to any great extent.

8. I wish to emphasise that blue swimmer crabs and winter whiting will be monitored in detail over the next year, after which a detailed evaluation will be undertaken. This work will be carried out by fisheries research officers of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI). In addition DPI is undertaking extensive research projects on the biology of blue swimmer crabs. A survey on size structure and abundance will be conducted so as to compare these data with similar data from a survey conducted in 1984 in Moreton Bay. Research staff are also re-examining basic biological parameters for blue swimmer crabs and winter whiting, and studying the nature and extent of existing commercial and recreational fisheries.

9. Monitoring of catch rates of winter whiting in Hervey Bay was done during the late 1970s and early 1980s in the form of creel surveys. The detailed monitoring of winter whiting over the next year or so will now concentrate on the trawl fishery.

366. Viviani Report

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/99)—

With reference to the 3 page Viviani Report and the six specific tasks set out on page 18 of Schedule 1 of the contract for this consultancy and prior to making final payment on this consultancy—

(1) How did departmental officers evaluate the extent to which the various segments of this brief report met the precise requirements specified in each of the six separate tasks that were given to the consultant?

(2) Will he table their evaluation?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99):

(1) A formal evaluation was not undertaken. Departmental officers are of the view that the terms of the contract had been met.

(2) Not applicable.

367. WorkCover, Recording of Telephone Calls

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/99)—

With reference to The Financial Review of Tuesday, 16 March which indicated in the article titled, "WorkCover phone recordings lawful" that "the Minister had requested a report on the phone recordings from WorkCover"—

Will he table a copy of that report?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): The following advice was provided to me by WorkCover on 1 April 1999: the recording of telephone calls was an isolated incident involving 12 to 15 calls. The decision to record these for staff training and coaching purposes was made by a manager without the knowledge of her managers and the CEO. The practice was discontinued by the CEO immediately he became aware of it. WorkCover did not breach either the State or Federal privacy and telecommunications legislation. WorkCover is now including the issue of the privacy of customers calls into the Privacy Policy due for completion at end April 1999.

368. Community Jobs Plan

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/99)—

(1) At 31 March, how many community employment assistance programs have been approved and in what regions?

(2) What was the total value of grants to these projects?

(3) How much of this total value was attributed to (a) skill delivery to participants, (b) project management and administration and (c) ancillary costs (materials, travel, equipment, etc)?

(4) What was the total number of participants?

(5) What is the corresponding information in relation to grants under the community jobs plan?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): (1-5) See attachment 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

369. TAFE

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 711—

- (1) What was the corresponding staff figure for 1 July 1997 for each institute?
- (2) What is the corresponding average staff figure for the calendar years 1996, 1997 and 1998?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): (1) & (2) See the attached tables. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

370. Public Art Agency

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (13/4/99)—

With reference to the establishment of an agency to co-ordinate the purchase of art for public buildings—

- (1) How much money will be contributed by each department to this agency?
- (2) What is the total budget for this agency and how many staff will it employ?
- (3) What are the budgeted administrative costs for the operation of this agency?
- (4) What specific public building/capital works projects listed in the 1998-99 Budget will have a 2 per cent levy applied for public art?
- (5) How will specific pieces of art and artists be commissioned?
- (6) How much money has been spent by the agency to date and what criteria was used for this expenditure?
- (7) Will he list all items purchased and commissioned by the agency (including details of artist, cost/estimated cost of the art and planned location of the art)?

Mr FOLEY (13/5/99):

- (1) Approximately \$380,000 per annum towards the cost of the agency will be recovered from Departments on a fee for service basis.
- (2) The estimated budget of the Public Art Agency for the 1999/2000 financial year is \$580,000 of which \$200,000 will be met by Arts Queensland and the remaining \$380,000 in salaries and operational costs through fees for service.

The Public Art Agency may employ up to 5 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs).

- (3) \$290,000 has been allocated in 1998/99 for salaries and operational costs. The full year cost is \$380,000 (\$180,000 for salaries and \$200,000 for operational costs).

- (4) The policy comes into effect as from 1 July 1999. However, some projects completed or commenced in 1998-99 include, or will include, expenditure on public art: 381 Brunswick Street; Bamaga Courthouse/Community Justice Centre; Cairns

Convention Centre Stage 2; Cairns Esplanade Redevelopment; Innisfail Courthouse; Kowanyama Courthouse/Community Justice Centre; and the Neville Bonner Building.

- (5) Specific pieces will be commissioned by three methods: open competition, limited competition or direct commission/purchase of existing works.

- (6) At 31 March 1999, \$152,349 had been spent in running the agency and providing information to Government agencies and the wider community about the policy.

- (7) No items have been purchased and commissioned by the agency at this stage.

371. TAB Publication

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (13/4/99)—

With reference to his answer to my Question on Notice No. 745 of 10 November 1998 and specifically part (5) (13/4/99)—

- (1) On what date was application made to copyright the publication?
- (2) On what date was advice received that copyright had been granted?

Mr GIBBS (13/5/99):

- (1) I am advised that copyright of a published literary work belongs to the author. With this in mind, TABQ secured a release from the author of the text of the brochure 'Introduction to backing a winner'. This release enables TABQ to use the material in any format at any time in the future without further obligation to the author. Consequently TABQ considers it has copyright on the material.

- (2) The release from the author was secured on 28 August 1998.

372. Crimes (Confiscation) Act

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (13/4/99)—

What progress is being made in the drafting of amendments to the Crimes (Confiscation) Act 1989 to make the Act broader, more workable and more fair to victims of crime including (a) making the criminal prove the source of significant unexplained assets and (b) extension of the Act to civil proceedings?

Mr FOLEY (13/5/99): The Crimes (Confiscation) Act 1989 is broad, workable and fair to victims of crime. It applies to all indictable offences and also many simple offences. It contains the most far-reaching definition of tainted property (that is, property liable to confiscation) in Australia. In 1995, a sham transaction provision (the first in Australia) was inserted to allow the Supreme Court to declare as void transactions designed to defeat the purposes of the Act. This provision is broader in its reach than the "effective control" approach relied on by other jurisdictions to confiscate property not owned by an offender but subject to his or her control. The Act also contains automatic forfeiture provisions

whereby if a restraining order is taken out against the property of a person charged with a serious drug offence, that person must prove, within 6 months of conviction, that the property was lawfully acquired, and not used in committing the offence, or the property is automatically forfeited to the State. Further, the Act also contains provisions requiring the convicted person to prove the source of unexplained assets.

A defendant is required to prove that restrained property was not derived by anyone from the commission of the offence charged before the Court can release restrained assets for the payment of legal expenses.

The regime in Queensland has proved to be generally workable. The Director of Public Prosecutions has reported that for 1997/98, his office obtained 74 pecuniary penalty orders, 111 forfeiture orders, 24 restraining orders and received a total of \$2.736M from pecuniary penalty orders and forfeiture orders. My Department was informed that the net revenue from confiscation orders obtained by the New South Wales Crime Commission in 1996/97 was in the order of \$2.8M.

The regime is very fair to victims of crime because it does not allow convicted criminals to keep their ill-gotten gains. Also, the proceeds to an offender from literary and other works or publicity about crimes, can be forfeited and paid to victims as reparation.

Consideration is being given to a joint submission from the Criminal Justice Commission, the National Crime Authority, the Queensland Crime Commission and the Queensland Police Service in which it is suggested that Queensland law enforcement would benefit from adopting a New South Wales style civil confiscation regime. Such a scheme would reverse the onus of proof as to the source of assets, and extend the confiscation regime to persons who are not charged, who are not proceeded against on criminal charges for lack of evidence or who are acquitted by a jury. Obviously, the implementation of a regime of this nature would require significant protections built into it to avoid the potential for miscarriages of justice.

373. Ms R. M. Kelly

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (13/4/99)—

With reference to all work and/or services performed or provided in any and/or all capacities by Ms Raelene Marie Kelly, within her portfolio areas during the past ten years up until 25 March—

Will she (a) list the individual payments received by Ms Kelly, the nature and date/ date range of all the work/services provided and the level of payment and (b) list any other benefits or supplementary remuneration (vehicles, office space, mobile phones etc) received by Ms Kelly during the performance/provision of work or services against each individual date or date range?

Ms SPENCE (13/5/99): I understand that Ms Kelly was engaged on 16 July 1998 by Crown Law

Division of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to provide legal advice on matters before the Auctioneers and Agents Committee. I am advised that payment of \$1,275 was made by Crown Law Division in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for services provided by Ms Kelly in July 1998. To the best of my knowledge, this is the only payment made to Ms Kelly in connection with my portfolio during my time as Minister.

Ms Kelly was a member of the Auctioneers and Agents Committee while the Office of Consumer Affairs formed part of the former Department of Justice. Ms Kelly has not been a member of the Committee whilst I have had portfolio responsibility for Fair Trading matters. However, as the Auctioneers and Agents Committee now falls within my portfolio responsibility, I can advise that it appears that Ms Kelly received the following payments as a Committee member between July 1995 and October 1997: October 1997—\$2,390; September 1997—\$4,240; August 1997—\$2,630; July 1997—\$4,400; June 1997—\$1,450; May 1997—\$1,500; April 1997—\$1,190; March 1997—\$1,400; February 1997*—\$1,560; January 1997*—\$260; December 1996*—\$520; November 1996*—\$520; 6/7/95-17/10/96—\$10,850

* Ms Kelly is understood to have attended a number of additional meetings for which evidence of payment is not available.

I am advised that during the time Ms Kelly was a member of the Committee she received a payment of \$253.00 in August 1996 as reimbursement for parking fees while attending meetings of the Auctioneers and Agents Committee.

I am further advised that Ms Kelly attended a meeting of the Auctioneers and Agents Committee in Mackay in October 1995. I understand the cost of airfares, accommodation and meals would have been borne by the Committee. Also, it is usual practice that Committee members are provided with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea as required on meeting days.

The Queensland Building Services Authority has also formed part of my portfolio since July 1998. I am advised that the following figures cover the period of 1990 to 1993, when the former Builders Registration Board of Queensland was then the responsibility of the Minister for Housing and Local Government.

Services: Date Range—Fees Paid

Conduct of the Home Building Review and subsequent provision of community/industry consultation and assistance to the Builders Registration Board in implementing Reviews recommendations: 1990/1991—\$159,193

Assistance to the Builders Registration Board with drafting of the Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991: Sep 1991-Dec 1991—\$13,950

Consulting to the Builders Registration Board/Queensland Building Services Board: Apr 1992-Dec 1992—\$99,337

Consulting to the Queensland Building Services Board: Dec 1992-Feb 1993—\$12,975.

374. Ms R. M. Kelly

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (13/4/99)—

With reference to all work and/or services performed or provided in any and/or all capacities by Ms Raelene Marie Kelly, within his portfolio areas during the past ten years up until 25 March—

Will he (a) list the individual payments received by Ms Kelly, the nature and date/ date range of all the work/services provided and the level of payment and (b) list any other benefits or supplementary remuneration (vehicles, office space, mobile phones etc) received by Ms Kelly during the performance/provision of work or services against each individual date or date range?

Mr MACKENROTH (13/5/99):

(1) I am advised that available records indicate Ms Kelly has not received any payments in relation to work or services rendered to my Department.

(2) I am also advised that available records do not indicate that Ms Kelly has received any other benefits or supplementary remuneration, if any, in relation to work or services rendered to my Department.

375. Taxi Subsidy Scheme

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (13/4/99)—

As the criteria for the Taxi Subsidy Scheme for the disabled are very narrow and exclude many people who are in genuine need of assistance, will he consider widening the scheme to include persons who permanently rely on walking sticks or quad sticks (and who do not presently qualify for the subsidy)?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/5/99): There was a recent review of the eligibility criteria for membership of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. This review was asked to specifically consider groups of people who were incapable of using mainstream public transport such as buses and trains.

The review highlighted inequities where a person who was restricted to walking only a short distance would only be eligible for membership of the Scheme where they used a large complex walking aid or required the constant assistance of another person. It was recommended that the criteria should be amended to include applicants who could only walk short distances regardless of the aids used.

I am pleased to advise that I have approved extensions to the Scheme to come into effect as from 1 May 1999. These extensions include:

persons who have a chronic medical condition and can only walk short distances; and

persons with a severe emotional and/or behavioural disorder.

Eligibility for the criteria for persons who can only walk short distances will be determined by distance

rather than the aid which the applicant uses for mobility.

I consider these changes will address the present inequity within the criteria.

376. Nangram Weir

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (13/4/99)—

With reference to delays in finalising the WAMP for the Nangram Weir on the Condamine River near Miles and as this small weir will actually make the use of water in the nearby Chinchilla Weir more efficient and given that only 4-5 per cent of water originating in the Chinchilla Shire is actually impounded at present—

Why was the WAMP not finalised in February as proposed and why can't this weir, which will bring greater efficiency to water management in this section of the river, proceed immediately?

Mr WELFORD (13/5/99): The Government is committed to the development of Water Allocation and Management Plans or WAMPs in Queensland river basins.

The WAMP process is unique in that it recognises for the first time that water is a finite resource and that both the riverine environment and water consumers depend on it being properly managed.

There are a number of river systems elsewhere in the Murray Darling basin where mistakes of the past relating to the over-allocation of water resources have caught up with water managers. In recent times it has become clear that the consequences of such practices for the health of the riverine environment, as well as for the security of water users, are almost impossible to reverse.

The Government is determined to ensure that the water resources of river systems such as the Condamine-Balonne are allocated and managed properly to ensure that the problems observed in some southern systems are avoided in Queensland.

To undertake the WAMP process properly, takes time. My Department of Natural Resources has been working closely with a community reference panel to ensure that all of the relevant issues and available technical information is considered in preparing a draft Water Allocation and Management Plan for the whole of the Condamine-Balonne Basin. The community has consistently supported the approach that is being taken in developing a WAMP for this Basin, and demanded that the issues be dealt with properly and scientifically, and not rushed through.

In addition to the normal project impact assessment processes, the potential implications at a catchment scale of possible future water resource developments are being assessed as part of the development of a draft WAMP. Although some of these proposals such as Nangram Weir may individually be quite small, the WAMP process includes an assessment of the potential consequences of various combinations of numerous such proposals, and looks at the total cumulative

impacts on riverine health and on water users throughout the river Basin.

377. HOME Scheme

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (13/4/99): —

With reference to the HOME Scheme, including the HOME Loan and Rental Purchase Plan (RPP) as at 31 March—

What was the (a) total number of repossessions and converted "loans to rent" for both schemes listed above since their respective introduction, (b) total losses realised from loan write-offs for both schemes listed above since their respective introductions, (c) total capital gains or losses realised on the department's share of RPP properties since the schemes introduction, (d) total of revaluation decrements for RPP properties since the schemes introduction, (e) total value of additional assistance measures for (i) HOME Loan—interest subsidy, (ii) RPP—lease subsidy and (iii) RPP—insurance costs since their respective introductions and (f) total number of loans and repossessions currently on hand?

Mr SCHWARTEN (13/5/99): I welcome this question since it gives me a chance to outline the relative performance of the two most recent home purchase assistance schemes offered in Queensland.

The first was initiated by the former Coalition government in 1982/83 and offered interest subsidy loans until 1988/89. Under that scheme, loan repayments were set at 25 percent of a borrower's income. A total of 30,109 loans were advanced under the scheme and 3,140 such loans are still current.

The second is the Home Ownership Made Easier (H.O.M.E.) Scheme initiated in August 1990 in response to strong consumer demand at a time of record high interest rates—16—17%. The scheme had two components—HOME Loans and a Rental Purchase Program (RPP). A total of 13,157 HOME Loans were advanced between 1990 and June 1994 and 6,225 RPP loans were made between 1990 and May 1996. As at 31 March 1999 the HOME portfolio consisted of 2,045 HOME Loans and 3,229 loans under the RPP.

In answer to specific questions:

(a) As at 31 March 1999, a total of 520 repossessions had occurred under the HOME Scheme and 533 under the RPP. This compares with a total of 571 repossessions made under the Coalition's interest subsidy scheme. Repossessions under the Coalition's scheme hit a single-year high of 225 in 1987/88. The highest number of repossessions in a single year under the HOME Scheme was 134 in 1994/95. The following graph illustrates the repossessions under each scheme:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The total number of converted "loans to rent" for the HOME Loan scheme was 80 and the total number of converted "loans to rent" for the RPP scheme was 58.

(b) As at 31 March 1999, the total loss from loan write-offs for the HOME Loan scheme was \$14.9M (representing 1.4% of total lending of \$1,032M) and the total loss from loan write-offs for the RPP scheme was \$4.3M (representing about 2.5% of total lending of \$160M). When assessing these figures it is important to recognise that any home finance lender will suffer some losses. However, the most recent performance of the HOME Loan scheme indicates these credit losses could be recouped in the longer term. Of the remaining borrowers in both the HOME Loan and RPP schemes, about 75% are ahead in their repayments—a key indicator of a well-performing portfolio. In terms of the HOME Loan scheme, prepayments as at 31 January 1999 total about \$10.5M. Also, over the past year, on a January-to-January basis, the average HOME Loan balance outstanding has decreased from \$73,842 to \$70,903 — also regarded as a healthy sign for the portfolio's performance because borrowers are paying off their loans. Based on the performance of previous home lending schemes—which perform better as the portfolio matures—and having regard to the recent strong performance of HOME mortgages, there is an expectation that over time the HOME Scheme could recover all of the credit losses.

Interestingly, it is not possible to reveal the full extent of the losses realised on the Coalition's interest subsidy scheme. Under that scheme, any repossessed property that did not sell at public auction was vested to the Department of Housing—ie: transferred to public housing stock at the value of the outstanding debt. In effect, the amount of losses incurred under the Coalition scheme have always been grossly underestimated.

(c) As at 31 March 1999, the total capital gain realised on the department's share of RPP properties was \$10.4M and the total capital loss realised on the department's share of RPP properties was \$5.7M.

(d) Revaluation decrements represent adjustments to the "paper" value of the department's share of RPP properties. It is misleading to claim they represent a realised loss. They do not.

The adjustments are based on the values determined from an annual revaluation of the properties using a conservative index, a sample of kerbside valuations and any physical valuations undertaken during the year. These properties may be subsequently sold which will then give rise to a realised gain or loss. As at 31 March 1999, the total revaluation decrements for RPP properties was \$9.1M.

(e) As at 31 March 1999, the total value of additional assistance measures for the various schemes were:

- (i) The cost of subsidies under the HOME Loan scheme has been \$4,793,000. This compares with the cost, so far, of interest subsidies under the Coalition scheme of \$138,697,000.
- (ii) the RPP scheme operates on the basis of a lease subsidy and should be viewed as a substitute for mainstream public housing. Therefore, the lease subsidy—which generally approximates a public rental subsidy—should be regarded as revenue forgone and not as a realised loss. Additional assistance measures

including an additional subsidy on the lease component were introduced in January 1996. Neither subsidy is recorded by the department. The amount of the additional subsidy is an estimate of the difference between lease payments and the actual lease payments received. To date that figure is estimated at \$9.8M.

(iii) for the RPP scheme, insurance costs total \$1.1M.

(f) As at 31 March 1999, the total number of loans for the HOME Loan scheme was 2,045 and the total number of loans for the RPP scheme was 3,229. The total number of repossessions on hand for the HOME Loan scheme was 11 and the total number of repossessions for the RPP scheme was 22. Also as at 31 March 1999, there were five repossessions on hand from the Coalition's interest subsidy scheme—10 years after lending ceased, underlining the fact that all home lending schemes face potential losses.

In general, one of the measures of success of any lending product is the number of people it helps into home ownership. Out of more than 13,100 HOME Loan borrowers, more than 10,500 have paid out their loan—either for the purposes of upgrading to another house, swapping to a private sector financier, or paying off their loan. That means the HOME Loan scheme alone has so far helped more than 10,500 people into the home ownership market—a considerable success rate. Criticism of the HOME Loan and RPP schemes by the Coalition since their inception only underlines the vastly different approach taken by the Labor Party when in office. While Labor seeks to help people—and has clearly helped more than 10,500 of them through the HOME Loan scheme—the Coalition is content to make political mileage out of the failed loans that are inevitably a part of any lending program.

378. Crop Insurance, Stamp Duty

Mr ROWELL asked the Premier (13/4/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 28 (c) in which I asked regarding assistance with risk management and the exemption of stamp duty on crop insurance and to the response that was given that the Queensland Government revenue position was being threatened by the Federal Coalition's GST and that in order to get a fair outcome, I was urged to support Queensland's position to ensure a fair share was made available to the State to have the capacity to make concessions for crop insurance and now that the Queensland Government has accepted the GST package proposed by the Federal Coalition Government—

Is he now prepared to support the State Coalition's proposal for stamp duty exemptions?

Mr BEATTIE (12/5/99): In last year's State Budget, the Government announced its intention to reduce the rate of stamp duty on crop insurance. The timing of the reduction has been in abeyance as a result of uncertainties associated with the Federal Government's tax package, in particular, negotiations

over the appropriate revenue base used to compensate the State.

379. Building and Construction Industry, Apprentices

Mr STEPHAN asked the Premier (13/4/99)—

With reference to four Labor members, Desley Boyle (Cairns), Julie Attwood (Mt Ommaney), Neil Roberts (Nudgee) and Geoff Wilson (Ferny Grove) who are all on record in Hansard to the effect that the \$5.4m raised through the amendments to the Portable Long Service Leave Act will result in the employment of an additional 800-1000 building and construction industry apprentices each year and as he indicated in The Courier-Mail on 26 November 1998 that there would be up to 3000 apprenticeships created from this \$5.4m package—

Why have his backbenchers been misinformed in relation to the number of apprenticeships to be created?

Mr BEATTIE (12/5/99): In a letter to the Editor of the Courier-Mail of 26 November 1998, I wrote, "we are delivering a \$5.4m package to boost building and construction jobs, with up to 3,000 apprentices being created from a special fund created in the industry".

The Government has been consistent in saying that the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund will create up to 3,000 apprenticeships in the industry at between 800 and 1,000 apprenticeships a year. The backbenchers are fully informed and totally correct.

380. Southbank Institute of TAFE

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/99)—

With reference to the Government Gazette of 12 March which advertises nine workplace trainer positions and to the statement attributed to the management of Southbank Institute of TAFE in the review, conducted by Workplace Consulting Queensland (as part of the Bannikoff Review), which indicates a desire to accomplish a staff mix comprised of 15 per cent teachers, 65 per cent functional delivery support, 15 per cent administrative and 10 per cent management [sic]—

Is the continual advertising and filling of significant numbers of workplace trainer positions an indication that this Government is seeking to reduce the proportion of teachers in TAFE in line with the suggested model indicated above?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): The Director of the Southbank Institute of TAFE advises that the answer is no.

381. Richlands TAFE Campus; Dalby TAFE Campus

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/99)—

With reference to page 8 of his document "Matters for the Minister's Attention for the Week Beginning Monday 2 November" and obtained under FOI—

- (1) Was this extra \$2m allocated to Richlands TAFE Campus the result of submissions from the Local Member, the Minister for Primary Industries, Hon Henry Palaszczuk?
- (2) How much was saved through his decision to scrap the construction of a TAFE College in Dalby?
- (3) Was that saving diverted to enable the extra \$2m in funding for Richlands TAFE Campus?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99):

- (1) No.
- (2) \$2.95M was proposed to be set aside by the former government for a new TAFE facility at Dalby. This Government has allocated \$865,000 to the Dalby region through the Department's capital works program for 1998/99. The allocations include \$250,000 to refurbish the Dalby Campus of TAFE, \$500,000 to upgrade engineering facilities at the Dalby Agricultural College, and \$115,000 for other associated costs.
- (3) No.

382. Hymenachne

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (13/4/99)—

With reference to hymenachne which has become a problem in the wet tropical region of North Queensland—

- (1) Will he indicate what measures are being taken to eradicate the introduced pest which has the potential of blocking rivers and streams as well as destroying fish habitat?
- (2) What chemical controls are available?
- (3) Do the chemicals need NRA approval; if so, what is being done to at least obtain temporary permits?
- (4) Are there any biological controls available and what research is being carried out to make use of non-chemical means of controlling hymenachne?
- (5) Should agricultural land be flooded as a result of hymenachne blocking rivers and streams in crown land and national parks, what support will come from the Department of Primary Industries to clear hymenachne and other obstructions?

Mr PALASZCZUK (13/5/99):

1. I am aware of concerns expressed by the sugarcane and fishing industries, as well as recreational fishing and conservation groups, over the impact of the introduced pasture grass hymenachne, on the coastal environment. These concerns are being addressed from DPI's perspective through a major review of the practice of Poned Pasturing.

Hymenachne is one of the three principal introduced grass species used in Poned Pasturing. Poned Pasturing may be defined as the creation of

permanent pasture systems where water is impounded by banks and adapted grasses are grown in the water to produce green fodder. These systems are designed to replicate naturally ponded areas or natural wetlands which occur most frequently in coastal and riverine environments.

This review is a whole-of-Government exercise, with the lead agency being the Department of Natural Resources. The review is near completion and will recommend a range of measures designed to reduce the impacts of Poned Pasturing, in respect of the construction of banks and the grass species used, on the adjacent natural environment. These recommendations will include several based on an assessment of the appropriateness of hymenachne and other introduced grasses.

2-5. The questions of biological and chemical controls and the related approval processes, and the treatment of such grasses found on crown lands and national parks come within the jurisdiction of the Honourable the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources. These questions should therefore be directed to that Minister.

383. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, QWAs

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/99)—

As the Parliament has clearly indicated that QWAs are to remain as a flexible and valuable option for Queensland's employees and their employers, how many QWAs has his department registered each month since June 1998?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): The department does not register QWAs.

384. Caboolture-Redcliffe Health District, Budget

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (13/4/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 152 in which she was asked what service reductions the Caboolture-Redcliffe Health District had made to reign in a budget overrun and how many full-time equivalent permanent positions the hospitals did not fill as a result and her reply to Parliament that there had been no reduction in patients' access to facilities or services within the District and that there were no unfilled full-time equivalent permanent positions in the District due to budgetary factors and as the District Executive Summary for February 1999 reported that these hospitals were planning "A restriction in orthopaedic operating sessions", the "non-replacement of contracted general surgeon" and "non-replacement of staff where possible" and that bed closures would result from the "reduction of surgical activity"—

Did she deliberately mislead the Parliament or is she ignorant as to what is happening under her administration?

Mrs EDMOND (13/5/99): No. There are currently no unfilled permanent positions in the District because of budget restrictions.

The Caboolture-Redcliffe Health Service District is meeting Category 1 and Category 2 elective surgery targets and the District's clinical staff should be congratulated for this effort. An extra 256 orthopaedic procedures have been performed compared with the same period last year. An extra general surgeon was contracted to meet specific targets which were met.

The "non-replacement of staff where possible" refers to the non-replacement of temporary staff where levels of activity and demand permit. This is sound management practice.

385. Community Jobs Plan

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/99)—

With reference to the statement on page 416 of Hansard for 10 March 1999, where he says "Of course, some programs do not employ young people, they employ existing workers to make sure that those people retain employment"—

Will he provide details of all programs conducted from 1 January to date by his department that illustrate the department's policy of conducting programs that, "employ existing workers to make sure that those people retain employment"?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): When I referred to existing workers I was referring to those people who have been previously long-term unemployed and have since gained employment on a project funded under the Community Jobs Plan. A Community Jobs Plan job breaks the cycle of unemployment by providing a real job and opportunities to develop skills. Therefore, these jobs dramatically increase the chances of these people remaining in employment with the employer or gaining alternative employment after the Community Jobs Plan project has ceased.

386. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/99)—

With reference to the final sentence of his response to Question on Notice No. 932—

Will he quote the specific findings and the national research projects from which these findings have been drawn?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): ANTA's own reports including the National Evaluation of User Choice—Phase I: Evaluation of Framework (November 1998) and the Progress on the Implementation of New Apprenticeships (Including User Choice) (November 1998) highlight a number of major issues and concerns relevant to the implementation of User Choice and New Apprenticeships.

387. Unemployment

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (13/4/99)—

With reference to the Premier's Ministerial Statement of 24 March—

- (1) During the period in which he claims that unemployment has decreased under his Government from 8.9 per cent to 8.0 per cent, what have been the corresponding unemployment figures in each of the other States that does not have in place an initiative identical to his \$283m "Breaking the Unemployment Cycle" program?
- (2) Will he table the official statistical source documents on which he has based his claims that (a) more than 30,000 new jobs have been created during his term in office, (b) these comprise nearly one-third of all new jobs in Australia and (c) 27,000 of these 30,000 jobs are full-time jobs?

Mr BEATTIE (12/5/99):

(1) Unemployment figures for each of the other states are readily available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. If the Honourable Member requires information in relation to employment programs equivalent to Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiatives from each of the other States, then the Member should contact the relevant agencies in each State.

(2) The unemployment data is contained in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Labour Force publication (6202.0) March 1999, and is publicly available.

388. Forestry Resource, Privately Owned Land

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (13/4/99)—

With reference to the comprehensive regional assessment of south east Queensland's forestry resource—

- (1) What work was done to identify and assess forestry resource on privately owned land and how was this forest identified and assessed?
- (2) What forestry resource was identified to exist on privately owned land in comparison to that existing in State Forests?
- (3) How much of the identified forestry resource is located on freehold land?
- (4) How much is located on privately owned leasehold land?
- (5) What assurances will he give to owners of freehold land that forests existing on their land will not be included in any reserve system?

Mr WELFORD (13/5/99): The information to answer these questions, has been drawn from two reports released by the Queensland Comprehensive Regional Assessment/Regional Forest Agreement Steering Committee:

SE 1.4 An Inventory of Private Forests of South East Queensland; and

SE 1.2 Public Forest Resource Description and Inventory.

The following definitions have been used:

privately owned land—consistent with the approach adopted in the CRA/RFA private forest inventory project, this includes freehold land and leasehold land where the Queensland Government does not retain the right to the timber; and

freehold land—land described in the digital cadastral database and associated titles database as freehold land.

(1) Within the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process in south east Queensland (SEQ), a project was commissioned with the objectives of:

assessing and describing the privately owned native forest and plantation resource; and

assessing the standing volume, estimating productivity and aiming to understand the availability of the private native forest resource.

The privately owned native forest resource was identified using forest cover data derived from LANDSAT imagery and the State's digital cadastral database to identify land tenure. Assessment methods included visual assessments by experienced timber assessment consultants with some plot measurements in each forest type. Productivity estimates were based on 20 modelled vegetation types and use of Department of Primary Industries (Forestry) databases.

Information about the privately owned plantation resource was derived from the National Plantation Inventory.

The Queensland CRA/RFA Steering Committee report "An Inventory of Private Forests of South East Queensland" provides complete details of the work undertaken.

(2) The privately owned native forest resource was stratified according to forest cover and forest type, land tenure, property size (only properties greater than 10 hectares included in the assessment), forest patch size (only those patches greater than 10 hectares were included) and slope (only slopes less than 25 degrees considered).

On this basis, total and merchantable forest type area, and total and merchantable standing volumes by forest type were estimated. Details are set out in the Tables 1-3 attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Details of the privately owned plantation resource, identified from the National Plantation Inventory, are set out in Table 4 attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Another RFA project, "SE 1.2 Public Forest Resource Description and Inventory" dealt with the publicly owned forest resource. Details of the gross area, area of native forest by forest type, estimated standing compulsory sawlog volume and net area of each native forest type by productivity class are in the attached Tables 5-9. (Tables and attachments

may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The publicly owned plantation resource was described in the SE 1.2 project report. The gross area of softwood and hardwood plantations, and volume data for these plantation types are described in Tables 10-13. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) Within the context of the RFA assessments, the area of forest (native forest and plantation) on freehold land has been estimated as 1,207,074 hectares. This represents 44% of the estimated total forested area in the SEQ RFA region (2,714,087 hectares).

(4) On leasehold land, the rights to the timber may be retained by the Government or transferred to the lessee, depending on the type of lease.

On leases where the Government retains timber rights, the area of forest is estimated as 200,910 hectares (2,517 hectares plantation and 198,393 hectares native forest) or 7.4% of the estimated total forested area in the SEQ RFA region (2,714,087 hectares).

On leasehold lands where the Government has not retained the timber rights, the area of forest is estimated as 75,932 hectares (totally native forest) or approximately 2.8% of the estimated total forested area in the SEA RFA region (2,714,087).

The total area of forest (native forest and plantation) located on leasehold land is 276,842 hectares.

(5) The Queensland Government is not considering any options within the RFA process that would extend conservation reserves onto freehold land. The Government fully supports landowners in keeping, maintaining and managing private forest resources on their land, for sustainable timber production and other values in the long term.

Private forest areas could only be added to the conservation reserve system either if acquired voluntarily from landowners if available on the open market; or if landowners seek to enter into voluntary conservation agreements under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

The Government also supports landowners protecting endangered and vulnerable forest types on private land, as a sustainable land use objective, irrespective of the formal conservation reserve system. The Government is consulting rural groups and other stakeholders on the development of a comprehensive vegetation management framework to provide landowners with both incentives and planning certainty in this regard.

389. TAFE

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 753 (10 November 1998) and Question on Notice No. 30 (2 March 1999)—

- (1) Will he finalise these questions by indicating in the table provided in his answer of 1 April, the number of participants in each of the programs offered in round 1 of the competitive purchasing program, in each regional/remote area specified?
- (2) Will he also provide the number of furnishing industry participants in each regional/remote area?
- (3) As both Question Nos. 753 and 30 refer to his 1998 MPS, why is he referring to the previous Government's MPS?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99):

- (1) A breakdown of participant numbers per industry sector/program area is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (2) Approximately 120 students will participate in Furnishing industry training in the North/North West Queensland Region.
- (3) Reference was made to the previous Government's MPS to reaffirm the expected cost increase for the delivery of printing training to rural and remote areas.

390. Ms R. M. Kelly

Mr HEGARTY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (13/4/99)—

With reference to all work and/or services performed or provided in any and/or all capacities by Ms Raelene Marie Kelly, within his portfolio areas during the past ten years up until 25 March—

Will he (a) list the individual payments received by Ms Kelly, the nature and date/ date range of all the work/services provided and the level of payment and (b) list any other benefits or supplementary remuneration (vehicles, office space, mobile phones etc) received by Ms Kelly during the performance/provision of work or services against each individual date or date range?

Mr FOLEY (13/5/99): I have interpreted the question as seeking information from me in respect of my current portfolio areas for the 10 year period ending 25 March 1999.

(1) (a) During the period in question, the payments listed in attachment A were made by Legal Aid Queensland to Ms Kelly for legal services sought by private legal practitioners representing legally aided persons. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(b) Ms Kelly was also paid the following amounts by Crown Law for legal services on behalf of 3 of its clients:

\$306.00 paid on 18/11/1997
 \$296.00 paid on 12/02/1998
 \$450.00 paid on 16/07/1998
 \$450.00 paid on 16/07/1998
 \$375.00 paid on 16/07/1998

(2) No other benefits or supplementary remuneration (vehicles, office space, mobile phones etc) were received by Ms Kelly during the performance/provision of the services.

391. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/99)—

With reference to part 1 of his response to Question on Notice No. 36(a)—

Will he indicate (a) whether the nine apprentices/trainees mentioned were all part of the same group or with the same training provider, (b) the total funding still available for this initiative and (c) the promotional activities his department undertook to advise apprentices and trainees of this initiative?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99):

(a) The nine apprentices/trainees were not employed by the same employer and are not with the same training provider;

(b) Start-up assistance is demand driven and all eligible claims will be honoured. \$55.86M has been allocated for all the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiatives in 1998/99 and these funds will be managed across the various Initiatives to provide the maximum outcomes for unemployed persons; and

(c) A number of promotional activities have been undertaken in relation to the Start-Up Assistance Subsidy program. These include a statewide press release, wide release of brochures on the program, including to all New Apprenticeship Centres, inclusion of the program in the generic employers' kit, promotion and information on the DETIR website.

392. Tilt Train

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (13/4/99)—

With reference to the Estimates Committee hearings in 1998, at which I asked him a number of questions about the tilt-train project to Cairns—

(1) Will he now confirm that in addition to his admission that a contract has been let without public tender, that he has now been forced to retract some of his answers given to the committee including (a) the tilt-train will not have the capacity to even replace current services and will not provide any sleeper accommodation, (b) the tilt-train will only run four round trips a week and not double the existing services as promised because of the state of the track north of Rockhampton and (c) that it will be necessary to keep the Sunlander running as a result?

(2) Do these admissions now call into question the feasibility of the scheme, particularly as he could not inform the committee what safety upgrades would be necessary, how much they would cost and that in any case no budget allocations had been made for them?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/5/99):

- (1) The precise configuration of the tilt train sets has not been determined. It is envisaged that some Sunlander services will continue to operate after the introduction of the tilt train.
- (2) No.

393. Caboolture Hospital; Redcliffe Hospital

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Health (14/4/99)—

- (1) Will she explain the reasoning behind closing down the surgical ward at the Caboolture hospital, especially in light of the fact that the private hospital in co-location was opened just one month ago?
- (2) Is the position in relation to this as stated in a report from the District Manager, Dr Buckland, that there are no funds available to operate this ward?
- (3) Is this also the position, that there is no funding available, at the Caboolture and Redcliffe hospitals in relation to any orthopaedic surgery?

Mrs EDMOND (14/5/99):

(1) Caboolture Hospital is currently undergoing significant redevelopment at a cost of \$35 million as part of the statewide Hospital Rebuilding Program. The work involves both construction of new expanded facilities and substantial and extensive renovation and refurbishment to existing areas. In situations such as this there is a fine balance between maintaining existing services while at the same time facilitating the ongoing construction and refurbishment program. In the case at Caboolture Hospital, the building program required that one area be continuously utilised as a staging post to allow areas to be temporarily relocated during both construction and refurbishment. The area temporarily designated for the purpose was Ward A2. This utilisation of space within Caboolture Hospital has no relevance to the opening of the private collocated facility. The District is achieving activity targets set by Queensland Health.

(2) I am not aware of any report received from the District Manager that states that Ward A2 at Caboolture Hospital was closed for budgetary purposes only.

(3) The Caboolture-Redcliffe Health Service District is meeting Category 1 and Category 2 elective surgery targets and the District's clinical staff should be congratulated for this effort. An extra 256 orthopaedic procedures have been performed compared with the same period last year.

394. Fisheries Regulations

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Primary Industries (14/4/99)—

- (1) Is it true that under the new Fisheries Regulations tabled in Parliament on 13 April, any licensed fishing boats operating in Moreton Bay with net, line and crab endorsements are

entitled to have as many fin fish and crabs aboard, as long as they were taken by line, pot or net?

- (2) What precautions are being taken to ensure that these operators will not specifically target fin fish and crabs that were considered before to be only a bycatch?
- (3) What specific measures will his department take to ensure that targeting of specific fish or crabs does not occur?

Mr PALASZCZUK (13/5/99):

1. Almost all licensed commercial fishing vessels/operations carry several commercial fishing endorsements which enables a vessel or operation to engage in several fisheries. For example, a vessel endorsed for the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery (QECTF) could be expected to also carry one or more endorsements for nets (finfish), crabs (pots/dillies) and line fishing. The new fisheries legislation relating to bycatch specifically applies to operators in the QECTF including the beam trawl fishery. The purpose of this new legislation is to clarify the catch of the QECTF and to specify the fisheries resources which may be taken under the QECTF endorsement. This legislation provides for QECTF trawl vessels to take prawns, scallops, bugs, barking crayfish, cuttlefish, octopus, squid, three spot crabs, winter whiting and limited numbers of sand crabs. The regulation specifically excludes a wide range of reef fish, but provides for an incidental catch of other species such as estuarine fish, provided such fish are not specifically targeted by the trawl gear.

2. Limits have been set on the numbers of sand crabs that may be taken using trawl gear. Trawl closures have been extended to provide reasonable access to winter whiting resources by recreational fishers. Compliance and enforcement capacity is provided by the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and this will be applied to any fishing activities which are of concern.

3. In addition to the above activity mentioned in 2., the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority will monitor all commercial fishing activities via the commercial fishing logbook program. Special monitoring and research will be carried out over the next eighteen months on both winter whiting and sand crabs to assess the impacts on these stocks.

395. Marine Aquaculture Licences

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Primary Industries (14/4/99)—

- (1) How many applications were made for marine aquaculture licences between 1991 and 1999?
- (2) How many marine aquaculture licences were approved between 1991 and 1999?
- (3) How many foreign owned/operated marine aquaculture businesses are there in Queensland?
- (4) What was the average cost of viability studies undertaken by the applicants for marine aquaculture licences during the above period?

- (5) What was the average cost of the environmental impact studies undertaken by the applicants for marine aquaculture licences during the above period?
- (6) What were the names of the companies used (including the nationality and location) to undertake both the viability and environmental impact studies?
- (7) How many times were each of these companies used?

Mr PALASZCZUK (13/5/99):

1. Marine aquaculture is defined as prawn and other farms which discharge into the marine environment. Oyster farms are not included in this definition.

Unfortunately statistical information is not kept of applications made prior to December 1995 (when the new aquaculture licensing system was introduced).

Since December 1995 the number of applications received to 1999 was sixty-one (1996—thirty-nine applications; 1997—fifteen applications; 1998—six applications; 1999—one to date).

2. Prior to December 1995, the number of prawn farming permits issued since 1988/89 was 169.

Since December 1995, the number of licences issued is fifty-seven (1996—thirty-eight; 1997—fourteen; 1998—five; 1999—none to date).

3. As there is no requirement for applicants to disclose nationality/foreign ownership, this information is not available.

4. & 5. As applicants arrange their own studies the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) does not have this information.

6. Applicants are not required to provide information on which consultants, if any, are used to undertake any studies requested. Therefore DPI Fisheries does not hold this information.

7. Refer to 6. above.

396. Kalbar Police Station; Harrisville Police Station

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (14/4/99)—

With reference to recent media reports that his department is going to downgrade both Kalbar and Harrisville Police Stations to 8 am to 4 pm beat stations which has alarmed the local residents—

- (1) Has his department conducted an inquiry into the operational requirements of these police stations; if so, when will this be made available for public comment?
- (2) Is his department going to downgrade these stations; if so, when can this be expected?
- (3) Considering that most crime occurs at night, how will his department guarantee security to these residents if their stations are downgraded?

Mr BARTON (14/5/99):

(1) The Queensland Police Service regularly reviews policing in the Fassifern Valley, as it does in all areas

of Queensland. Policing in the Fassifern Valley was most recently reviewed in 1997.

(2) No.

(3) There are no plans to downgrade Kalbar and Harrisville Police Stations.

397. Hervey Bay Hospital, Training Facilities and Wait Times

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Health (14/4/99)—

With reference to the recently constructed Hervey Bay hospital, its shortage of staff, lengthy patient waiting list and the need for additional training facilities and as her department has spent a considerable sum of money on the Hervey Bay hospital—

- (1) Are there any plans to make the most of this investment by designating this hospital as a full scale training facility?
- (2) Is she aware that at this present time, trainees are only sent to Hervey Bay hospital on short term training?
- (3) Will she give reasons why this facility is not being utilised to its full potential in this area?
- (4) What is being done to reduce the lengthy waiting list for patients?
- (5) Does she feel that the length of these waiting lists is acceptable for the public in this rural community?
- (6) Does she agree that increasing the training side of the hospital would provide the hospital with more interns thereby providing a more efficient process?

Mrs EDMOND (14/5/99): These assertions about Hervey Bay Hospital appear to be based on inaccurate information.

(1) Hervey Bay Hospital has a dedicated Education Centre, which is used by hospital staff and external organisations. These include several universities including the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Southern Queensland in disciplines such as Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy and Radiography.

(2) At present, two Medical Practitioners in their first year of registration after graduation (interns) are on rotation from the Royal Brisbane Hospital. The Hospital offers placement for 10 weeks for 8 students and 12 weeks for 2 students each year. This is comparable with the rotations offered for interns at other Queensland hospitals.

(3) The accreditation for training of interns is independent of Government. It involves the Medical Board of Queensland and the Post-Graduate Education Committee of the University of Queensland. These organisations are responsible for setting the parameters to ensure the maintenance of standards for intern training. Hervey Bay Hospital has applied for accreditation for intern training.

(4) As of 1 April, there are no patients waiting beyond the category 1 or the category 2 guidelines. In fact

there are only 1.6% of patients—representing just 3 patients, waiting longer than the timelines for category 3, and this is well within the 20% tolerance.

(5) Hervey Bay Hospital waiting times are consistently better than all metropolitan and provincial hospitals.

(6) The presence of inexperienced interns requires supervision by medical specialists and decreases efficiency of patient throughput.

398. Ms P. A. Devine

Mr NELSON asked the Premier (14/4/99)—

With reference to the answer given to my Question on Notice regarding discourse between himself and Professor Ansford which stated "I am advised that after an exhaustive search of files in the Health Department and in the Health Ministers office has revealed no record whatsoever of any discussions between Professor Ansford and myself" and I draw his attention to a letter dated 29 August 1995 signed by him as the then Health Minister which states at point 3 "I have been informed by Dr Ansford that he has never spoken with you personally, although you had a conversation with his secretary" and given that it is obvious that he has had at the very least, correspondence with Prof. Ansford and also that he has stated, under oath, that he acted at the direction of the Minister at a media conference and given also that we are dealing with a case where a family has lost their daughter and received no natural justice, I plead with him, as the Premier of this State, to take a personal interest in this matter—

Will he support the call for a new inquest into the death of Peta-Ann Devine by a completely different coroner so that justice may be done?

Mr BEATTIE (12/5/99): I reiterate that I have no recollection of any discussions with Professor Ansford about this matter. The letter signed by me which stated "I have been informed by Dr Ansford that he has never spoken with you personally, although you had a conversation with his secretary" was dated 29 September 1995, not 29 August 1995 as indicated in the question. The information from Professor Ansford was conveyed to me through Departmental communications with my office, and not through any direct verbal or written communication between Professor Ansford and myself.

With respect to Professor Ansford's media interview, a request was made by my Ministerial office for a representative of the John Tonge Centre to talk to the media. There was no direct communication between Professor Ansford and myself on the matter.

There have now been three inquests into the death of Peta-Ann Devine by three different coroners—the first before Mr Ingram in May 1995 at Mount Isa, the second before Mr McKay in October 1995 at Mount Isa, and the third before Mr Casey in February 1997 at Brisbane. Both the first and second coroners concluded that the cause of death was cardiomyopathy due to pre-existing myocarditis. The

third coroner ruled that the cause of death was myocarditis due to unknown aetiology.

The third inquest heard evidence from a large number of eminent experts both from Australia and overseas. The Devine family was represented by experienced legal counsel, and were afforded every opportunity to call any witness or evidence considered relevant. The coroner heard approximately 1,200 pages of evidence, and delivered detailed findings.

Ordering new inquests is a matter for the Attorney-General pursuant to section 47 of the Coroners Act 1958. No request for a new inquest has been received by the Attorney-General.

399. National Parks, Fishing Bans

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (14/4/99)—

With reference to a genuine fear by commercial fishermen that he could make further fishing bans in national parks which would obviously affect fishers' income and is of grave concern and to closing Lakefield National Park without consultation with the involved industry and fishermen being unjust and unfair, especially when there is an existing 'sunset' clause concerning commercial fishing in this national park—

Will he guarantee that this will not happen again and that discussions with industry will be the Government's priority before any changes to legislation occur?

Mr WELFORD (14/5/99): No changes to legislation are contemplated in relation to commercial fishing in national parks.

400. Wondai Forest; Boral Timbers, Cooroy

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (14/4/99)—

- (1) Will he explain the reasoning behind the interim allocation to Boral Timbers at Cooroy of 2200 cubic metres to be harvested from Wondai forest before 30 June and given that this allocation from a forest which has an annual sustainable harvest of 2500 cubic metres per year and this allocation is already contracted to the Wondai Saw and Planing Mill and as this allocation to Boral Timbers only leaves 300 cubic metres for the local harvesters who have a twenty year contract of 2500 cubic metres and that contract has still fifteen years to run?
- (2) Will he explain why the contract between the Department of Natural Resources and the Wondai Saw and Planing Mill has been over ridden?
- (3) Why, if it hasn't been over ridden are the Wondai Forest resources being allowed to be plundered by an extra allocation of a 2200 cubic metre cut by Boral Timbers?

- (4) Are contracts between Government and businesses in rural Queensland not worth the paper they're written on?
- (5) Where are the contractor with his full order books, businesses waiting on those orders and employees affected by this Department of Natural Resources decision supposed to go?

Mr WELFORD (14/5/99):

(1) The situation referred to by the Honourable Member arises out of the Interim Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments which is designed to protect forest areas which may be required for a forest reserve system in keeping with commitments made in the National Forest Policy Statement, pending the negotiation of a Regional Forest Agreement for South East Queensland.

Under the Interim Agreement the industry is assured of continuing wood supply while options for the reserve system are not foreclosed. The Agreement was developed with strong support from both the conservation movement and the Queensland Timber Board.

The arrangements for the sale to Allen Taylor & Co Ltd trading as Boral Timbers of 2200 cubic metres of hardwood sawlogs from state forest 12 Wondai is consistent with the Interim Forest Management Agreement, the Forestry Act 1959 and the 20 year sale agreement held by Wondai Saw and Planning Mills Pty Ltd.

(2) The Agreement between the Primary Industries Corporation and Wondai Saw and Planning Mills Pty Ltd has not been over ridden. It is still in place and the Government is honouring its commitment to supply the quantity of sawlogs the subject of the agreement.

(3) Sustained yield estimates are currently the subject of a review as are the major systems in place to deliver sustainable forestry. Within the RFA process the government has commissioned a review of sustainable forest management by an independent expert panel. The report of this panel is due on Friday 16 April 1999.

(4) Contracts with the Government are being honoured.

(5) The Government through the RFA process will put in place an ecologically and economically sustainable timber industry as well as a world class forest reserve system and certainty for industry and communities. The Government is committed to delivering these outcomes from the RFA process.

401. Criminal Justice Commission, Investigations of Police

Mr HORAN asked the Premier (14/4/99)—

With reference to Criminal Justice Commission investigations of police—

- (1) How many complaints were investigated for each of the years 1996, 1997 and 1998?
- (2) How many of these complaints were referred back to the Police Service for its determination?

- (3) How many of the complaints handled by the CJC were resolved in (a) six months, (b) six-12 months, (c) 12-24 months, (d) two years or more and (e) not finalised at this date?

Mr BEATTIE (12/5/99): After decades of political interference in police matters, this Parliament was unanimous in 1989 in deciding that the Criminal Justice Commission should report on operational matters not to a Minister but to the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee as part of a system to ensure the independence of the Commission and to minimise the risk of Ministerial interference in operational matters. The Honourable Member should, therefore, refer his question to the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee.

402. Wivenhoe Dam-Atkinsons Dam, Construction of Pipeline

Mr COOPER asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (14/4/99)—

What progress has been made with the possible construction of a pipeline from Wivenhoe Dam to Atkinsons Dam in the Brisbane Valley, following deputations in November 1998 from the Esk Shire Council, the Buaraba Irrigators Association and the Coominya Abattoir and numerous representations from myself to him and to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources?

Mr ELDER (14/5/99): The Department of Natural Resources recently completed a study to identify the issues facing all water users in the region. It highlighted a number of options to meet existing and emerging needs including: the use of renewed water from Brisbane and Ipswich, the construction of a pipeline from Wivenhoe Dam to Atkinsons Dam and reallocation of supplies among users. Studies are currently under way or are planned to commence in the near future to assess the viability of each of these options.

With regard to supplies from Wivenhoe Dam for use by irrigators, it must be stressed that all regulated supplies from Wivenhoe Dam are managed by the South East Queensland Water Board (SEQWB) whose Act restricts it to selling water to power generating and urban authorities. A review of the functions and operation of the SEQWB is in progress. Necessary amendments to the Act that arise from this review will be considered.

Following this comprehensive review of the Act and the assessment of the viability of each of the supply options, it will be possible to determine the most cost-effective means of meeting the needs of rural, industrial and urban users. The issue of the proposed pipeline will be considered in detail when these investigations are completed.

403. Voluntary Student Unionism Legislation

Mr SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (14/4/99)—

What is the likely impact on regional university campuses of the Commonwealth's proposed Voluntary Student Unionism Legislation?

Mr WELLS (13/5/99): In Queensland the student unions of the universities collect around \$24 million annually. These funds are used to underwrite a wide array of services to students, including health care, food, assistance with employment, assistance with accommodation, the organisation of sporting clubs, debating clubs and a range of other social activities clubs.

Collectively the unions employ some 600 to 700 staff and some of these jobs will be lost with the enactment of the new legislation.

The flow-on effect of the spending power of the unions to the community in general, estimated at a factor of 1.7, will also be lost.

It must be noted that in Queensland in 1998 more than 10,500 of the students study on-campus on a full-time basis were only 17 years of age or younger. A further 22,000 were aged 18 or 19 years. Many of these students live away from home and have a real requirement for the help, encouragement and services which the union offers.

A further impact is likely to be felt in our international student market. International students come to Queensland because of the quality of our lifestyle and our educational institutions and the services they provide. Without an array of good quality student services, this \$275 million industry in Queensland will be in jeopardy.

404. Barkly Highway, Road Trains

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/4/99)—

- (1) Since the Federal Government has honoured its commitment to spend \$32m on the upgrade of the Barkly Highway between Cloncurry and Mt Isa, will he now lift the restrictions placed upon the movement of type two road trains?
- (2) Will he give consideration to the restriction which currently prohibits movement of these vehicles at night to be relaxed to permit movement after 10pm?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/5/99): In October 1998, I inspected the entire Barkly Highway link (Cloncurry—NT) with local Mayors and local industry representatives.

Following the inspection and further consultation with community stakeholders, I announced that type 2 road train operations would be permitted between 6am and 6pm without escort, but with yellow flashing lights on trucks from 1 November 1998 on the section from Cloncurry to Mount Isa. A major consideration in this decision was the inadequate width for road trains over the 11.5km (in sections) of narrow bitumen seal.

Following the Federal Government's formal advice on 30 March 1999 that the \$33m for upgrading the section of the Barkly Highway between Cloncurry and Mount Isa, works will commence in May 1999. Upgrading of the 11.5km of narrow bitumen seal is expected to be completed by December 2000.

The conditions for operation of type 2 road trains will be reviewed at the completion of these works.

Main Roads has advised that due to the terrain which the Barkly Highway traverses further restrictions may be necessary to facilitate construction. Any further restrictions will be minimised through consultation with the contractors and industry representatives.

405. Wolston Park Hospital, Engineering and Maintenance Workers

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (14/4/99)—

- (1) Will she confirm that her Director-General of Health has promised about 23 engineering and maintenance workers at Wolston Park that they will be able to keep working for the department from a building on the campus even though the building is going to be demolished?
- (2) Will she explain what is going to happen to these workers now?

Mrs EDMOND (14/5/99):

- (1) Queensland Health is investigating options for building and engineering maintenance services required by the Department in accordance with the principles of the most recent enterprise bargaining agreement. Building and engineering unions are participating in the development of these options.

The investigation is being undertaken on a District by District basis.

The redevelopment of Wolston Park Hospital is proceeding in accordance with the 10 Year Mental Health Plan, which was endorsed by the former Health Minister, Mike Horan, the Member for Toowoomba South. The land and buildings not required in the redeveloped facility will be handed over to the appropriate Government Department to manage.

- (2) The staffing profile for all categories of staff including building and engineering services in the new Wacol facility is being developed. Staff are being kept fully informed about options for redeployment, retraining, and VERs through the consultation process.

406. Gregory Development Road, Signage

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/4/99)—

With reference to my requests, on a few occasions, that the Northern Division of Main Roads erect more signage on the narrow bitumen seal on the Gregory Development Road both north and south of Charters Towers as these signs are to warn commuters (especially tourists from out of the State) of the dangers in passing or overtaking the large haulage vehicles in the mining industry and stock transporters who use these roads extensively—

- (1) Will he investigate the current position of any action to my requests?
- (2) Will he fast-track this initiative as I fear for the safety of some commuters on this section of the highway?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/5/99): I can advise Mr Mitchell that the special signage that he has

suggested has been designed by the Department of Main Roads and will be erected on the narrow sections of the Gregory Developmental Road, north and south of Charters Towers, by the end of June 1999.

This special signage project will include the erection of a number of signs which will warn motorists to take care when passing road trains on the narrow sections of this road.

407. Workplace Relations and Employment Strategies Unit, Manager

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health (14/4/99)—

Is she intending to employ her industrial relations adviser, Julie Carberry, in the position of Manager of the Workplace Relations and Employment Strategies Unit or will the Premier's man, Tom Barlow, win this powerful industrial position?

Mrs EDMOND (14/5/99): I am not the employer responsible for appointments within Queensland Health. Selection for the position will be undertaken on merit, in accordance with the requirements of the Public Service Act 1996.

408. Labour Adjustment Fund

Mr VEIVERS asked the Treasurer (14/4/99)—

With reference to the Question Without Notice by Dr Watson to the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations on page 413 of Hansard of 10 March—

As the Minister's response to the question indicated that the question should be directed to the Treasurer, will he please furnish a comprehensive response?

Mr HAMILL (12/5/99): The Government has investigated options to assist workers at risk of losing their jobs and details of a worker assistance program will be announced at an appropriate time.

409. Dispute Resolution Centres

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (14/4/99)—

Will he provide the Parliament with details on his department's Community Mediation and Dispute Resolution Program including the amount of requests to use the program on a monthly basis and how many requests are being dealt with and how does this compare with previous years?

Mr FOLEY (13/5/99): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Springborg, I can advise as follows:

1. The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Branch of my Department provides specialist mediation and alternative dispute resolution services through six Dispute Resolution Centres.

2. These services include community mediation, dispute counselling, education programs and work with indigenous communities.

3. The average monthly numbers of requests considered suitable for mediation and mediations held since 1993/94 are as follows:

Year	Mediation Requests	Mediations Held
1993-94	150	48
1994-95	169	65
1995-96	180	70
1996-97	158	59
1997-98	235	87
1998-99	279	112

410. Health Services, New South Wales Residents

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health (14/4/99)—

What has been the net amount the New South Wales Government has paid the Queensland Government for health services used by its residents on an annual basis for the last five years?

Mrs EDMOND (14/5/99): The net amount the New South Wales Government has paid the Queensland Government for admitted inpatient health services used by its residents for the last five years is as follows:

1993/94—\$10.2 million
1994/95—\$10 million
1995/96—\$9.7 million
1996/97—\$9.7 million
1997/98—\$12.6 million

411. Fish Kills

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (14/4/99)—

With reference to the Department of Environment's monitoring of fish kills in Queensland in the last 18 months along the Queensland coastline and to information circulating which indicates there has been approximately 30 such incidents—

- (1) Can this number be confirmed?
- (2) On what date did each of these incidents occur?
- (3) Where did each incident occur?
- (4) What was the cause attributed to each incident and was the data collected sufficient to make an accurate assessment?
- (5) Is there any particular set of circumstances that can be attributed to each fish kill?
- (6) What circumstantial evidence has the department received that could have a bearing on the cause of each fish kill?
- (7) Is there any one industry that should shoulder the blame for these fish kills and is the evidence circumstantial or is there no shadow of doubt about their culpability and what factual information can be provided with regard to the culpability, if that is the case?
- (8) Are there areas that the cause of death may be difficult to attribute to any particular group of

people such as an urban society where a range of activities are conducted?

- (9) Are phenomena which cause de-oxygenation of water one of the reasons for the recent fish kills and what portion of this can be attributed to natural causes and what can be attributed to rural or other activities?
- (10) Although a summit has been announced, when will this occur and where will the summit be held?
- (11) What involvement did the Department of Environment have into the recent Sunfish report on fish kills?
- (12) What finances will be made available to any organisations that need to respond to the cause of fish kills?

Mr WELFORD (14/5/99):

- (1) I confirm that 40 fish kill incidents in the tropical coastal region were reported to and investigated the Environmental Protection Agency (formerly Environment and Heritage) during the past 18 months.
- (2) The dates that these incidents were reported are listed in the attachment. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (3) The locations of those incidents are listed in the attachment.
- (4) For most incidents, the data available to be collected was insufficient to make a comprehensive assessment concerning the cause of the incident.
- (5) Different sets of circumstances apply to those cases which can be explained.
- (6) Many incidents followed heavy rainfall. Investigations regarding some are continuing and evidence is being assessed.
- (7) This is not an issue where "blame" is attributed to a particular industry.
- (8) In some areas the cause of fish deaths may be difficult to attribute to any particular group of people because a range of activities is conducted.
- (9) Deoxygenation of water was apparent at the sites of some incidents after they were reported.
- (10) A suitable date for the summit is being arranged, which allows all stakeholders the opportunity to attend.
- (11) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made publicly available all data collected by its staff on the fish kills.
- (12) The EPA is the lead agency for response to and investigation of fish kills. In many cases this involves the coordination of response and investigation by other organisations such as Local Governments and DPI which have staff available at the locations concerned. To assist in this, the EPA has recently published a manual of procedures to be followed to ensure that wherever possible good quality data is collected, and a staff training program is being conducted. In addition the EPA has committed significant funds to a research program being

designed in consultation with the University of Queensland and James Cook University to better understand the circumstances which lead to fish kills in tropical coastal Queensland.

412. Tree-clearing Guidelines

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (14/4/99)—

With reference to his statement to bring in tree clearing guidelines across all tenures—

When does he expect the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee chaired by Professor John Holmes to report and when does he expect to announce that these guidelines will be implemented?

Mr WELFORD (14/5/99): The Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (VMAC) chaired by Emeritus Professor John Holmes will be meeting at four to six weekly intervals for the remainder of this year. Professor Holmes will report to me after each meeting to ensure good progress is made with the development of a comprehensive framework for vegetation management, with the aim of ensuring planning certainty for sustainable development across all tenures.

Early tasks of the Committee have included comment on and adjustment of the terms of reference, commencement of a process to address outstanding issues regarding improvement of the existing leasehold guideline system, evaluation of frameworks in other states, and means of recognising and promoting the existing and increasing sound land management practices of many landholders and developers.

I have also reaffirmed my commitment to seeing any policy proposals fully proven and consulted at a regional and local level, as occurred previously with the leasehold system. No long term framework or guidelines will be put in place without full regional consultation having occurred.

I expect to receive the Committee's proposals within the next few months on how this consultation should proceed, at which time I hope it will also be possible to announce a timetable for guideline development.

413. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Claims Processing

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/4/99)—

What is the number of departmental (a) full-time (b) part-time and (c) casual staff engaged in processing competitive tendering and user-choice claims each month from July 1998 to February 1999 inclusive?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99):

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| (a) July-98: | Competitive Tendering—10.30
User Choice—9.25
Total per month—19.55 |
| August-98: | Competitive Tendering—10.30
User Choice—9.25
Total per month—19.55 |

September-98:	Competitive Tendering—10.30 User Choice—9.25 Total per month—19.55
October-98:	Competitive Tendering—10.30 User Choice—9.25 Total per month—19.55
November-98:	Competitive Tendering—10.30 User Choice—9.25 Total per month—19.55
December-98:	Competitive Tendering—10.30 User Choice—9.25 Total per month—19.55
January-99:	Competitive Tendering—12.05 User Choice—12.25 Total per month—24.30
February-99:	Competitive Tendering—15.55 User Choice—14.75 Total per month—30.30

(b) & (c) Nil.

414. Public Housing

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/4/99)—

With reference to public housing—

- (1) As at 31 March, how many public housing rental accounts were in arrears in total and percentage terms of the total number of rental accounts by area office and how many of these accounts were in arrears by (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to less than eight weeks, (c) eight 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?
- (2) As at 31 March, how many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?

Mr SCHWARTEN (13/5/99):

(1) Details of accounts in arrears for less than 4 weeks cannot be provided because tenants are not deemed "in arrears" until they are four or more weeks in arrears. See Attachment A for the number and percentage of public housing rental accounts in arrears for (b) four to less than eight weeks, (c) eight to less than 12 weeks and (d) 12 weeks and greater in total and by area office and the monetary value of these categories as at 31 March 1999. The marked improvement in arrears indicates a return to normal after the Christmas/New Year seasonal increase. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The number of public households paying full market rent as at 31 March 1999 is not currently available, but should become accessible within the next few months. The latest available statistics are at 30 November 1998, as the department implemented major computer system changes at the end of November 1998, when there were 2,834 public households paying market rent. This represented 5.9 percent of total public rental households in Queensland.

415. Queensland Health, Staff Travel and Accommodation Expenditure

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Health (14/4/99)—

What is the budgeted cost of travel and accommodation for Queensland Health staff for 1998-99 and what is the year to date expenditure on these items?

Mrs EDMOND (14/5/99): The total travel expenses for all Queensland Health staff including medical staff and staff recruited from overseas at 31 March 1999 was \$12,441,860.36. This includes costs for visiting specialist and outreach clinics and study and conference leave for clinical staff provided for under various awards. This compares with the amount of \$12,020,876.31 at 31 March 1998. The total budget figure across all Districts, State Services and Corporate Office is approximately \$16.5 million. Total travel expenditure for year ended 30/6/98 was \$16,463,380.

416. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Client Purchase Arrangement

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/4/99)—

Will he detail the monthly allocation of training funds through the 'Client Purchase Arrangement' process for each month of 1998-99 and the proposed funding for each of the remaining months of 1998-99?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): The following table details the monthly allocation of training funds through the Client Purchase Arrangement for 1998-99.

Month—Allocation of training funds under the Client Purchase Arrangement
July—\$72,057.05
August—\$95,064.25
September—\$81,377.78
October—\$88,959.95
November—\$210,582.93
December—\$268,937.55
January—\$32,580.00
February—\$331,777.78
March—\$131,854.10
April—\$8,694.50
May—nil
June—nil

417. Bannikoff Review; Workplace Consulting Queensland

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/4/99)—

With reference to his informative response to Question on Notice No. 182—

- (1) Doesn't he regard it as most irregular for one external consultant to the department (Bannikoff) to sign a \$30,284 contract for another departmental consultant (Workplace Consulting Queensland) to undertake a project?

- (2) Has he or the department submitted this matter to the Auditor-General or to Crown Law for opinion as to the appropriateness of the procedure?
- (3) Why were no TAFE or departmental officers considered to be appropriate signatories to this \$30,284 consultancy contract?
- (4) During the period of his consultancy, did Mr Bannikoff sign any other contracts, requisitions or other financial documents on behalf of the Director-General or other senior departmental officers?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99):

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) A detailed examination by the department has not revealed any other contracts, requisitions or other financial documents that have been signed by Mr Bannikoff.

418. Biennial Festival

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (14/4/99)—

With reference to the 1999 Biennial Festival—

- (1) How much money will be contributed by the Queensland Government out of consolidated revenue to this festival?
- (2) How much money has to be raised for the Biennial from (a) ticket sales/box office and (b) corporate sponsorship for the festival to break even financially?
- (3) What is the total budget for the Biennial?
- (4) What is the total value of the indemnity offered by the Queensland Government to festival organisers?
- (5) Which Government agency will underwrite this indemnity?

Mr FOLEY (14/5/99):

- (1) \$2.28 million
 - (a) approximately \$500,000
 - (b) approximately \$670,000 from corporate and other services
- (3) \$3.45 million
- (4) \$500,000.
- (5) Arts Queensland is to underwrite the indemnity from within its existing budget.

419. Building Services Authority, Home Warranty Insurance Scheme

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (14/4/99)—

With reference to the Home Warranty Insurance provided to consumers through the Queensland Building Services Authority—

- (1) What was the average quantum of an insurance claim made against the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme for (a) 1993-94, (b) 1994-95, (c) 1995-96, (d) 1996-97, (e) 1997-98 and from 1 July 1998 until 31 January 1999?
- (2) What was the premium charged to the consumer under the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme for (a) 1993-94, (b) 1994-95, (c) 1995-96, (d) 1996-97, (e) 1997-98 and from 1 July 1998 until 31 January 1999?

Ms SPENCE (13/5/99): The following table provides information on the average insurance claim by type and the premium payable determined by contract value for the years sought. The maximum claim paid compared to the maximum policy benefit is also shown and it is to be noted that in each year the maximum benefit available under the policy was paid. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

420. Racing Development Fund

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (14/4/99)—

With reference to my Question on Notice No. 46 of 3 March—

Will he now advise (a) the individual amounts approved for each recipient listed in his answer, (b) the current balance of the Racing Development Fund and (c) the amount of funds held in reserve and whether these funds are included in the current balance?

Mr GIBBS (13/5/99):

- (a) Name of recipient: Amount approved—Comment
- Queensland Principal Club (QPC): \$5,500,000—Developmental Race Clubs
- Brisbane Turf Club: \$5,000,000—Consideration for sale of Deagon Racecourse to the Racing Development Corporation as part of a plan for having Deagon Racecourse, including the operations of Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre, retained to service the needs of the Queensland Racing Industry
- Queensland Principal Club: \$3,000,000—Super Queensland Racing Incentive Scheme (SuperQRIS) prize money
- Queensland Principal Club: \$2,000,000—Training Track Subsidy Scheme (received into RDF from Consolidated Fund)
- Queensland Principal Club: \$1,600,000—QPC operating expenses
- Queensland Principal Club: \$1,500,000—Thoroughbred code capital works and development projects
- Queensland Harness Racing Board: \$1,500,000—Harness code capital works and development projects

Racing Division: \$1,250,000—To reimburse Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre for capital works at Deagon Racecourse

Queensland Harness Racing Board: \$1,000,000—QBred prize money (harness breeding incentive scheme)

Greyhound Racing Authority: \$750,000—GRA operating expenses and greyhound code projects

Queensland Principal Club: \$500,000—Rebate scheme for unplaced SuperQRIS horses

Greyhound Racing Authority: \$500,000—GRA operating expenses

Queensland Principal Club: \$300,000—Matilda Highway/Fossil Trail Series

Greyhound Racing Authority: \$250,000—Greyhound code capital works and development projects

Gold Coast Turf Club: \$50,000—Promotion of Magic Millions Summer Racing Carnival

Total: \$24,700,000

(b) Current balance (as at 31 March 1999) of the Racing Development Fund is \$3,139,038.

(c) A minimum cash balance of \$1.0 million is maintained in the Racing Development Fund as a prudent budget contingency measure. This amount is included in the current balance figure.

421. Ambulance Service, Defibrillators

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (14/4/99)—

Will she provide details on the progress of the Queensland Ambulance Service defibrillator replacement including the timetable proposed for each Queensland Ambulance Service centre?

Mrs ROSE (12/5/99): Queensland Ambulance Service has 668 defibrillators located in emergency response and patient transport vehicles in each of the stations throughout Queensland. These have been purchased progressively since 1987, \$933,491 having been spent this financial year. Until now emphasis has been on acquiring sufficient defibrillators to equip every one of the 640 Class 1 emergency response vehicles in the fleet. A replacement program will commence next financial year with a goal of ensuring no defibrillator passes a useful life of 8 years. 362 of the units are currently less than 5 years old and only 18 are more than 9 years old. The community and Local Ambulance Committees have strongly supported the defibrillator acquisition program. The defibrillators are replaced on a needs basis, in consultation with LACs.

422. Leichhardt Highway, Theodore

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/4/99)—

With reference to the planning that is currently being undertaken to build a new high level bridge across the Dawson River at Theodore and the road works associated with the bridge approaches—

- (1) How many options have been developed to realign the Leichhardt Highway between the Theodore grain depot and the Dawson River?
- (2) How many of these options bypass the town of Theodore or move the highway further from the town?
- (3) Will he give an undertaking that the social impact of realigning the highway on the Theodore community will be closely considered in this planning process and the obvious detrimental effects of further bypassing the town be considered only as a last option?
- (4) Will he give an undertaking that the consultation between his department and the Banana Shire Council and the people of Theodore will be meaningful and genuine and the views and preferred options of these local people will be given the high level of consideration they deserve in the decision making process?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/5/99):

(1) Essentially, three corridors, including two river crossing sites, were developed. However, in an attempt to determine the best ultimate alignment, as part of the preliminary planning phase, there were many more configurations considered where sections of the various corridors were linked to other corridor sections.

(2) The existing Leichhardt Highway bypasses the town centre of Theodore by approximately 1.5 kilometres. Two of the initially proposed alignment configurations would have moved the access turnout to Theodore, about 700 metres closer to the town than the existing turnout. These options were not favoured by Banana Shire Council and were subsequently disregarded as the highway would have encroached upon Theodore's planned growth zone. The three alignment configurations under consideration move the access turnout 50, 200 and 700 metres respectively further away from the existing turnout to Theodore.

(3) The social impact of realigning the highway is being closely considered by Main Roads in the planning process. Local community needs, improving the flood immunity at the Dawson River crossings and the strategic north/south freight link are major considerations to be taken into account in the upgrade of this section of the highway.

(4) Extensive public consultation has occurred and is continuing. All landholders on the various corridors being investigated have been advised in writing regarding the proposed highway upgrading, face-to-face consultation has occurred with these people, where possible, and a public display of the various corridors under consideration was held in Theodore for two days in October 1998.

I can assure the Member for Callide that consultation among Main Roads, Banana Shire Council and the people of Theodore is meaningful and genuine and the views of the local community are being given the highest level of consideration during the decision-making processes.

423. Education Portfolio, Staffing

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Education (14/4/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 January (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 the education portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?
- (2) At 1 January (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 January (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 January (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 portfolio?

Mr WELLS (13/5/99): 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. Data is not available for January due to inability of pay system to generate historical records. (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 grounds-care), 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.

424. Education Portfolio, Staffing

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Education (14/4/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 February (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 the education portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?
- (2) At 1 February (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 February (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 February (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 portfolio?

Mr WELLS (13/5/99): 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 grounds-care), 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.

425. Public Housing

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/4/99)—

With reference to public housing as at 31 March—

- (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 six months, (b) six to 11 months, (c) one to

two years, (d) two to three years, (e) three to four years and (f) more than four years in total and by area office?

- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 April 1998 and 31 March 1999 in total and by area office?
- (5) How many applicants were allocated public housing during the month of March 1999?
- (6) How many evictions of public housing tenants have occurred during the month of March 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (13/5/99):

(1) As at 31 March 1999, there were a total of 23,994 applicants on the public housing waitlist. 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 waitlist by family type as at 31 March 1999. (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 waitlist by wait time in months, and by area office as at 31 March 1999. (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 April 1998 and 31 March 1999 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 March 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(6) The number of public housing tenants evicted during the month of March 1999 was 9.

426. Public Works Department, Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/4/99)—

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 March in 1998-99?
- (2) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) in March in 1998-99?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 31 March 1999?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for March 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (27/4/99):

(1) The total revenue derived from sales (accrual based) in March in 1998-99 was \$4.013M.

(2) The total expenditure (accrual based) in March in 1998-99 for cost of sales was \$3.089M and operating expenses was \$0.821M.

(3) The value of the inventory on hand at 31 March 1999 was \$4.905M.

(4) The net profit/loss achieved by SDS for March 1999 was \$0.103M.

427. Registered Training Organisations and TAFE Training Contracts, Audits

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/4/99)—

With reference to his answer to part (4) of Question on Notice No.177, which indicated that 16 of the audits conducted in January and February related to training contracts which had expired in 1998 and to the attached table of contractual audits which indicates that only 12 contractual audits were conducted in the January-February period—

As part (4) specifically asked for the number of audits (not the number of contracts being audited) how are these differing responses to be interpreted?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): I am advised by my department that audits are not confined to one month. The figure 16 denotes audits still to be completed in January/February 1999. The figure 12 denotes audits commenced during January/February 1999. Of the 16, 4 audits had commenced in December 1998, but were still being finalised during January/February 1999.

428. Public Housing

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/4/99)—

With reference to public housing as at 31 March—

- (1) How many dwellings by dwelling type and bedroom number were vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four 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 (13/5/99):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of dwellings, by dwelling type and bedroom number, vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) more than 12 weeks in total and by area office as at 31 March 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The vacant turnaround time for maintenance of public housing premises was 9.4 calendar days, as at 31 March 1999.

The vacant turnaround time for allocations of public housing premises was 23.1 calendar days, as at 31 March 1999.

On 26 November 1998, major computer system changes were implemented by Housing Queensland. The new system reports vacant turnaround times in 'calendar days' instead of 'working days'.

429. Kogan Creek Power Station, Water Supply

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (14/4/99)—

With reference to the job creating potential of the CEPA Kogan Creek Power Station proposal for the Chinchilla Shire and the relatively small water requirements of the project—

Will he ensure the necessary water allocation for this project is approved on the basis of economic gains far outweighing any environmental consideration?

Mr ELDER (14/5/99): As with all major projects coordinated by my Department an extensive impact assessment process is under way to ensure the environmental impacts are contained within acceptable levels. CEPA has been working hard to find a water supply solution for the project which is environmentally acceptable. The company is prepared to convert the project to dry cooled technology to reduce the project's demands on the regions water supply and minimise environmental impacts. They are to be congratulated for taking this step.

I am assured by the Department of Natural Resources that, notwithstanding the Condamine WAMP process, it is confident that the very small allocation required can be secured within the project timelines.

430. Railways, Noise Limits

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (14/4/99)—

- (1) What are the details of relevant State legislation pertaining to rail/train noise limits in residential areas?
- (2) What are the details of relevant Federal legislation pertaining to rail/train noise limits in residential areas?
- (3) What are the current levels of noise emissions in Queensland by (a) electric passenger light rail and rolling stock, (b) Brisbane commuter trains and rolling stock, (c) the tilt train and rolling stock, (d) diesel trains and rolling stock and (e) freight trains of any description currently in use in Queensland and rolling stock?
- (4) What is the methodology used to determine likely noise emissions at residential fence boundary level from yet-to-be-constructed rail lines?
- (5) What factors which affect the noise level and the consequent increases of noise level, specifically where (a) such rail will operate within a low-lying valley, (b) such rail will be raised above normal ground level to overcome drainage problems and (c) such rail will operate in a rainforest environment close to low density residential development?
- (6) What are the details of protection against noise pollution available to residential property owners under the Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy or any other relevant legislation?

Mr WELFORD (14/5/99):

(1) State legislation that relates to rail/train noise limits includes the Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 1997 (EPP Noise) and the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act). The legislation, however, does not set specific mandatory noise levels for rail operations.

The EPP Noise specifies planning levels as a guide to deciding a reasonable noise level for the activity. For existing railways, the EPP Noise recognises that planning levels may only be appropriate in the long term to enable an authority to progressively reduce noise levels. Planning levels are not mandatory, they are a guide.

(2) Queensland Rail and the Queensland Department of Transport have advised this Agency that they are not aware of any Federal Legislation in relation to rail noise.

(3) Queensland Rail advises that for noise modelling purposes they use the following levels:

- (a) Electric passenger light rail and rollingstock
No data available, not Queensland Rail rollingstock
- (b) Brisbane commuter trains and rolling stock
6-Car EMU @ 80 kph @ 25m = 86 dB(A) max
6-Car SMU/IMU @ 80 kph @ 25m = 83 dB(A) max
- (c) Tilt train and rolling stock
160 km per hour @ 15m = 88 dB(A)
100 km per hour @ 15m = 82 dB(A)
- (d) Diesel Trains and Rolling stock
Diesel Locomotive @ 25m
Throttle setting—Noise level
Notch 1—74 dB(A) max
Notch 2—76 dB(A) max
Notch 3—78 dB(A) max
Notch 4—80 dB(A) max
Notch 5—83 dB(A) max
Notch 6—86 dB(A) max
Notch 7—89 dB(A) max
Notch 8—91 dB(A) max
- (e) Freight Trains of any class
 - (1) 3900 class Electric Locomotives @ 25m
Throttle setting—Noise level
Notch 1—76 dB(A) max
Notch 2—77 dB(A) max
Notch 3,4—78 dB(A) max
Notch 5,6—79 dB(A) max
Notch 7,8—80 dB(A) max
 - (2) New 2800 class diesel locomotives @ 15m
All throttle settings—Noise level
under self load—87.5 dB(A) max
 - (3) Specification for new generation 4000 class diesel locomotives @ 15m
All throttle settings—Noise level
under self load—85 dB(A) max

No data is available on other Rail Operator's rollingstock noise emission levels in Queensland.

(4) Under Schedule 4 for noise models, a noise assessment of a railway may be made under Australian Standard AS 2377 or the document titled "The Calculation of Railway Noise" published in 1995 by Her Majesty's Stationary Office, London.

Section 15 and Schedule 1 of the EPP Noise specify noise levels (planning levels) that may be used a guide for the operation of a new railway.

(5) Noise modelling at the design stage will take into account topographical influences and introduced noise attenuation devices such as vegetation, earth bunds and screens in regard to noise sensitive places. What constitutes a noise sensitive place is defined in Schedule 5 of the EPP Noise and includes dwellings, educational institutions, hospitals and protected areas, or areas.

(6) In relation to rail noise, Part 4 of the EPP Noise—Abatement of Unreasonable Noise, discusses the options available to residents who believe they are experiencing unreasonable noise levels.

Essentially the process is complaint driven. A complaint about perceived unreasonable noise is made to the Environmental Protection Agency which is then obliged to investigate the complaint and consider whether further action by way of Show Cause and Abatement Notices is appropriate. The provisions of the EP Act in regard to environmental nuisance might also apply in circumstances of unreasonable noise.

In addition to this, Queensland Rail has developed a complaint and dispute handling procedure for complaints received by Queensland Rail about noise from Queensland Rail operations.

431. Community Jobs Plan

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/4/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 172 which he regards as being unclear and in order to clarify the situation—

- (1) Will he explain what is meant by the underlined portion of the following statement, which is taken from document ET 10 "Where the applicant intends to recruit some of the participants for a project from a Flex 3 provider, the applicant will also need to specify in their submission the portion of the Flex 3 providers fee or an in-kind contribution which will be made to the project"?
- (2) In what way does this portion of the Flex 3 providers' fee or in-kind contribution differ from a kickback from the Flex 3 provider to the project?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): Under the Community Jobs Plan guidelines, employees in a project may be clients of a Flex 3 provider. Flex 3 providers may receive Commonwealth payments as a result of their clients being employed through the Community Jobs

Plan, a State Government funded employment initiative.

The State Government requires that applicants for Community Jobs Plan funding specify in their application what other financial or "in-kind" contributions to the project are being made by other organisations, so as to avoid double funding and to stretch State funding so that the maximum number of long-term unemployed can be placed.

Commonwealth operating procedures allow Flex 3 providers to contribute part of their outcome fee to an employer.

432. School Chaplains

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Education (15/4/99)—

With reference to the fact that I have asked him to look into the possibility of funding for chaplains in schools and also the fact that the Labor Member for Lytton has raised the same issue with him—

- (1) What progress has been made towards financial support for our chaplains in schools?
- (2) Is he aware of the vital role that the chaplains play in our schools every day and even after hours?

Mr WELLS (14/5/99):

(1) Chaplaincy Services in state schools is an option, provided by Education Queensland, to local school communities, in those situations where significant local support for the service is evident. It is a community decision and responsibility. Education Queensland requires an employing authority external to the Department to be engaged when paid chaplaincy services are elected by a community. The employing authority is accredited by the Minister for Education. This organisation has the responsibility for the employment conditions, payment of salary and attention to the industrial and professional needs of particular chaplains in Queensland state schools.

The Chaplaincy Services Guidelines state: "Generally, the financial resources needed to support such services also come from outside the school, with the participating religious societies and denominations making the major financial contributions. However, other community groups, the school and the school's Parents and Citizens Association may also make significant contributions to the establishment and maintenance of the service." This framework enables local funding to be accessed ie. contributions from religious societies and denominations, individuals, the school budget, P&C association and fund raising. It also enables the community to access avenues of external funding. These can be contributions from service organisations, donations from business and industry, government grants and others.

It should be noted, however, that it is not proposed to change existing funding arrangements for chaplains in schools at this time.

(2) Recognition, by the Department, of the pastoral role of chaplains has always existed. This was evident in the 1870 Act and has been more greatly

recognised by the Chaplaincy Guidelines of 1993 whereby individual school communities can have full or part-time access to Chaplains. This service can be in a voluntary or paid capacity.

Opportunities for local needs to be accommodated have been provided by Education Queensland requiring that a Local Chaplaincy Committee (LCC) be established when chaplaincy services are operating in a school. This committee defines the responsibilities and tasks of the chaplain, the range of activities in which the chaplain may participate and the hours of duty in the school.

Activities conducted by chaplains are varied and would be influenced by the skills and qualifications of the individual. Currently LCC's define the chaplain's role from one or a combination of models. These can be:

Pastoral Care: assisting students with spiritual, ethical and religion needs and any problems arising from them;

Religious Education: working in one or more of the religious education components of the school's Religious Education program;

Peer Model: interacting with students during extracurricular activities in out-of-class time, providing a role model and developing supportive relationships with and among students.

433. Rural Areas, Economy

Mr BLACK asked the Treasurer (15/4/99)—

With reference to Elizabeth Meryment, the national political reporter of The Courier Mail, reporting the wealth and education gap between rural and urban Australians is growing at an alarming rate—

- (1) Does the Government take responsibility for this sad state of affairs?
- (2) How does the Government explain this woeful state of affairs?
- (3) What is the Government doing to turn back the poverty tide?

Mr HAMILL (12/5/99):

(1) No. The redistribution of economic activity from rural regions of Queensland to urban regions is not new. It has been occurring for most of this century, with the proportion of employed people in agriculture, other rural and mining industries declining from 38% in 1901 to 7% by 1996.

(2) Such changes have been occurring in most developed economies for most of this century. As an economy evolves, there is a shift in activity away from agriculture and other rural and mining activities to manufacturing or secondary industries.

(3) The Beattie Government is strongly committed to reducing poverty associated with economic and structural adjustment. In particular, people experiencing or at risk of long term unemployment are assisted through Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiatives. 24,500 apprenticeships, traineeships and job placements will be created under this initiative. The Government is acting to

ameliorate the effects of unfettered economic rationalism by stringently applying the Public Benefit Test to National Competition Policy reforms and direct assistance with the process of structural adjustment for primary producers is provided by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority. Queensland is the only state in which the majority of residents live outside the capital city and the Government constantly monitors economic and social conditions outside Brisbane through the Offices of Regional and Rural Communities.

434. Gulf of Carpentaria Fishery

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (15/4/99)—

With reference to the new fin fish management plan for the Gulf of Carpentaria as per the subordinate legislation tabled in Parliament on 13 April—

- (1) When can the fishermen in the Gulf have the new 'N9' licences issued?
- (2) Will this issue be based on the history of fishing activity in the Gulf?
- (3) Is it the intention of his department to reduce the number of operators in the Gulf?
- (4) Are any of the areas subject to native title claim; if so, when does he expect these claims to be settled?
- (5) Has his department carried out any investigations into the spawning cycle of grey mackerel in the Gulf; if so, what are the findings of these investigations?

Mr PALASZCZUK (13/5/99):

1. It is expected that N9 fishery symbols will be issued before the end of the year.
2. In March 1999 an Expression of Interest was sent to all N3 fishery symbol holders. As a result, the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) received interest for a total of 7800 metres of net for the fishery. There will need to be an allocation process because the total sustainable net length is considered to be 6000 metres.
3. It is the intention of the QFMA to reduce the number of N3 fishery symbols in the Gulf of Carpentaria net fishery. The main objective of the reduction is to ensure the future sustainability of inshore finfish stocks and at the same time improve industry viability.
4. The Gulf of Carpentaria is currently subject to a number of native title claims. Native title is a complex issue, which will be resolved through negotiation with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Native Title Tribunal, claimants and other affected parties including fishers.
5. The Department has carried out investigations into the spawning cycle of grey mackerel in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Investigations show that the spawning period for grey mackerel coincides with that of barramundi. As a result, spawning stocks of grey mackerel are protected via the annual netting closure (approximately three months) implemented to protect spawning population of barramundi.

435. Rosewood-Toowoomba Rail Line

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/4/99)—

- (1) What is the expected time frame for the electrification of the Rosewood to Toowoomba rail line?
- (2) Is the rail line to be built to a standard for a tilt train; if so, when is the projected commencement date for a tilt train service?
- (3) Has there been any proposal or study carried out for the re-opening of the Brisbane Valley rail line from Ipswich to Esk; if so, has a study been carried out to open a rail line from Rosewood via Marburg to Lowood?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/5/99):

- (1) The specification for the Grandchester to Toowoomba Rail Corridor Study includes an allowance for electrification. However the current focus is on identifying and preserving the necessary land corridors. It is anticipated that this planning Study, including an Environmental Impact Assessment will be completed in 18 months. No timeframe has been established for construction at this time.
- (2) It is expected that the Grandchester to Toowoomba Rail Corridor would be built to a standard suitable if required for the operation of a tilt train. One of the principle objectives of the study is to define a corridor suitable for future high speed (160 km/h) operation and allow for modern container stacking. There is no planning for the use of a tilt train on the corridor to Toowoomba at this time.
- (3) Brisbane Valley rail line corridor has been preserved for the future whether it be for establishment of commuter rail services or freight purposes. There are no existing studies current for the Brisbane Valley rail line. However interest has been expressed in using the land in the interim as a recreational riding trail. This use of the rail line is being discussed with the Esk Shire Council. The demands and needs of the community will be taken into account in determining the future role of the Brisbane Valley rail line.

436. Caboolture Electorate, Electricity Blackouts

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to his misleading of the House in his answer to a question on 14 April from the Member for Mackay and as again, residents of Toorbul, Elimbah, Donnybrook, Ningi and Beachmere lost power several times on 14 and 19 March and they have lost faith in his previous responses to me concerning outages in September, October, November and December 1998 when power was lost during these months some 14 to 15 times with his response blaming outages on falling tree foliage —

- (1) How should I respond, on his behalf, to the owners of a chicken hatchery in my electorate

that lost power on two occasions on 14 and 19 March 1999?

- (2) Do we really have that many falling tree branches or is a more rational response and admission that faulty equipment and possible poor maintenance is still causing problems?
- (3) Will he assure the residents of my electorate that they should experience no further power losses?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99):

(1) The interruption to the electricity supply on 14 March 1999 affecting the Toorbul, Elimbah, Donnybrook, Ningi and Beachmere areas was a momentary outage lasting between 15 and 20 seconds. Investigations by ENERGEX were unable to identify the cause of the outage, and there were no reports from the public witnessing the incident, or reports of damage to equipment. To ensure the public's safety, the electricity distribution system is designed to disconnect the power supply should tree branches, wildlife or wind borne material contact the overhead lines. This protection equipment automatically restores supply (where the line is cleared of the fault), after 15 to 20 seconds, reducing outage times to a minimum. The interruption on 19 March 1999, lasting 2 hours 30 minutes, resulted from a bird clashing wires together, causing the wires to short and fall. Both these outages were caused by external forces beyond ENERGEX's control.

(2) Between 14 September 1998 and 19 March 1999, a number of power interruptions affected these areas. Seven of the interruptions were attributed to vegetation related incidents, and a further three to severe winds and storm damage. In some cases, trees fell across the power lines days after significant rainfall due to the soft ground around their bases. A further three momentary power interruptions also occurred where no cause was identified, however, experience indicates that these types of incidences are usually caused by vegetation or wildlife contacting briefly with the overhead network. A special tree lopping project to trim vegetation along the feeder supplying these areas commenced on 14 January 1999. However, poor weather hampered progress resulting in additional resources being employed during February 1999, with the project completed in late February. Only two power interruptions to these areas were caused by equipment failure. These were due to a broken crossarm on 14 November 1998, and a broken clamp on 8 February 1999.

(3) No, as no matter what preventive measures are employed by ENERGEX, there will always be events such as storms, high wind, vehicular accidents and the like which will have the potential to impact on power supply reliability in any area. ENERGEX takes every effort to improve the reliability of its electricity supply network through its maintenance and vegetation control programs, and is committed to providing good customer service.

437. Milk Industry, Deregulation and Pricing

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (15/4/99)—

With reference to the rise in the retail price of milk to consumers flagged by the big three supermarket chains—

- (1) What happened to the promise that deregulation would actually provide cheaper milk to the consumer?
- (2) Was it not the chief selling point during the deregulation debate that the consumer would actually be provided with cheaper milk; if so, then what will he do to stop this six cents per litre price rise?
- (3) If he cannot stop it, will he inform me how much of the price rise will be passed on to the farmer?

Mr PALASZCZUK (13/5/99):

1. This Government has never suggested that post farm gate deregulation of milk prices would provide consumers with cheaper milk.

2. The recent deregulation debate, initiated because of National Competition Policy requirements, has been about whether to retain a farm gate price and related regulation for market milk. In response to the recommendations of the Queensland Dairy Legislation Review Committee, this Government has legislated to extend farm gate price regulation for a further five years. With respect to retail prices, this Government strongly supports fair trading practices throughout the milk processing and marketing chain. The Premier has publicly welcomed the decision of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to examine possible collusion within the industry in relation to the recently announced retail price increases for milk.

3. The price paid to farmers for market milk has not changed since post farm gate price deregulation and I am not currently considering any change to the farm gate price. This price is above the farm gate price paid in New South Wales and Victoria and is thus unlikely to increase in the near future.

438. Tannum Sands Police Station

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (15/4/99)—

With reference to the increase in incidents of break and enters, vandalism and perceived lack of police presence in the Boyne Tannum region—

Will he approve the much needed increase of police from four to six at the Tannum Sands Police Station from new policing personnel and not re-allocation of existing regional numbers?

Mr BARTON (17/5/99): The number of police stationed at Tannum Sands has recently been increased from four to five officers. The newly appointed officer shall commence duty in the near future.

This new position has been granted as an additional position to the Central Police Region and not as a reallocation of existing regional numbers.

Tannum Sands Police Division is supported by police personnel from the Gladstone Criminal Investigation Branch, Gladstone Juvenile Aid Bureau and the Gladstone Traffic Branch.

The number of police stationed at the Gladstone Criminal Investigation Branch has recently been increased by one officer, with an additional two officers being approved to perform work from the Gladstone Juvenile Aid Bureau. These three positions are additional police officers to the Central Police Region and not as a re-allocation of existing regional numbers.

439. Disability Services, Funding

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (15/4/99)—

With reference to her recognition, as Minister for Disability Services, of the plight of the disabled and the impending crisis situation due to insufficient funds for unmet needs—

What are the results of the meeting in Canberra on 9 April regarding funding made available from the Commonwealth and the strategies proposed to cope with this issue?

Ms BLIGH (12/5/99): As I have already provided this information to the House, I suggest the Member for Thuringowa refer to my Ministerial Statement of 15 April 1999.

440. Rural Areas, Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health (15/4/99)—

- (1) Is she aware of the growing drug and alcohol abuse in rural areas and will she explain what measures are in place to combat the following issues confronting the Barambah electorate and other rural electorates who are suffering from low socio economic status, increasing population and increasing drug abuse?
- (2) Will she replace the Needle Available Program with a Needle Exchange Program and supply staff education in awareness and options to change in areas of addiction for those who operate these programs?
- (3) Will she address the critical shortage of places and beds in detoxification and rehabilitation facilities for those sixteen years old and under who show a motivation to be "clean" as recent inquiries revealed only four beds in Queensland for under sixteen year olds?
- (4) Will she address the situation in rural areas whereby there are no after hours service facilities for those exhibiting mental illness as a result of drug abuse and address the situation whereby rural hospitals are not adequately equipped to handle these crisis cases?

Mrs EDMOND (17/5/99):

(1) Queensland Health has a range of both public health and clinical services to address alcohol and drug issues in rural Queensland. Alcohol and drug interventions are also available through Queensland Health's community health centres. Detoxification protocols and services (as required) have been developed for many smaller rural hospitals. South Burnett District Health Service has three alcohol and

drug positions: a registered nurse, a social worker and an Aboriginal health worker.

(2) The aim of the Queensland Needle Availability Support Program is to contain the spread of communicable diseases. Staff who distribute sterile injecting equipment undergo a comprehensive training program on the safe disposal of used equipment, the assessment of people who present to the Program, and appropriate referrals to treatment agencies. Programs report a high rate of return of used injecting equipment.

(3) People sixteen and under can access the full range of alcohol and drug services provided by both Queensland Health and the non-government sector. The State Government has provided \$1.425 million over three years for a new five-bed facility at the Mater Hospital to provide alcohol and drug detoxification for youth.

(4) Care is available at rural hospitals 24 hours a day. In rural centres with no locally based mental health services, staff can liaise with specialist mental health professionals in mental health services in major centres. This can include contact with the on-call psychiatrist after hours.

441. Moreton Bay Islands, Land Resumptions

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (15/4/99)—

With reference to the consultation process undertaken by the State Government in relation to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands draft Land Use and Development Strategy and as many residents and landowners are aware that a population cap needs to be arrived at for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and some land resumptions will have to be enacted—

- (1) Why has the consultation focused on land purchasing and a range of amalgamation incentives, instead of being up front and discussing the hard issue of compulsory land acquisitions?
- (2) Why have the background scientific reports for the planning report not been made available in the consultation process?

Mr MACKENROTH (13/5/99):

(1) The draft Strategy recommends the reduction of the Islands' potential population to 22,000 as one way of seeking to achieve ecological sustainability. Implementation strategies investigated by the Study include a number of options for acquisition of approximately 5,400 allotments, including voluntary purchases, amalgamation incentives and compulsory acquisition.

The option of compulsory land acquisitions was included in the final round of community consultations in late 1998. Some 14,000 newsletters were distributed and 917 submissions were received. Additionally, over 700 inquiries were received during this final consultation phase. It would have been inappropriate, however, to notify individuals of the possibility of their land being acquired, ahead of the

State Government endorsing the draft Strategy and its implementation recommendations. The State Government is yet to finalise its consideration of the draft Strategy and the various implementation options.

However, as I responded to Mr Hegarty Questions Without Notice on 29 April 1999, I do not support compulsory acquisitions and have requested further investigations into alternative implementation mechanisms such as voluntary sales, lot restructuring, amendments to the Redland Shire Planning Scheme and Infrastructure charging.

(2) The Technical Reports were available for perusal during the final two consultation phases at Redland Shire Council's Customer Service area as well as the offices of the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning. A summary document outlining the findings of the Technical Reports was available at Redland Shire Council's library and could have been purchased at a cost of \$10.00. This summary document was also available on the internet site established as part of the consultation process. Additionally, these findings were summarised in newsletter number five, which was posted to every landowner from the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

442. Employment Initiatives for Women

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/4/99)—

With reference to the "Employment initiatives for Women" document which comprised part of the Government's Budget papers—

- (1) What progress has been made in relation to the \$4.1m project to increase support for women in rural and remote Queensland?
- (2) How many of the 60 planned jobs have been provided?
- (3) In what areas have these jobs been created?
- (4) How much has been allocated to the pilot mentoring program for indigenous women on Palm Island and how many women have been enrolled in this program?
- (5) How many additional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female apprentices have been employed in the construction trades?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): (1-5) This initiative is not administered by my department.

443. Water Police, Unofficial Use of Police Boat

Mr JOHNSON asked the Premier (15/4/99)—

What was the date on which a Water Police Officer was reported to the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) for the use of a police boat for crabbing?

Mr BEATTIE (12/5/99): After decades of political interference in police matters, this Parliament was unanimous in 1989 in deciding that the Criminal Justice Commission should report on operational

matters not to a Minister but to the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee as part of a system to ensure the independence of the Commission and to minimise the risk of Ministerial interference in operational matters. The Honourable Member should, therefore, refer his question to the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee.

444. Electricity Industry, Restructure

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to his claim in the Dalby Herald on 26 February, and I quote "We will not be amalgamating the human resources section, the wages section or any other section in each corporation" and to claims by Mr Cliff Jones on ABC radio on 17 February that, and I quote, "At the moment we have multiple corporations and there are duplicated costs because everyone has their own computer system, everyone has their own head office and support functions and things of that nature. A lot of these duplicated costs will simply be eliminated by having a bigger corporation" and to a statement from a NORQEB employee in the Townsville Bulletin on 20 February that "You can't tell me they are going to run six payroll systems. Private enterprise would not work that way and nor would the public expect our industry to work that way" and given his claim that he "has no authority over the electricity industry corporations"—

- (1) How will he ensure these sections are not amalgamated as anticipated by such senior industry executives and industry employees?
- (2) Is it a responsible use of funds to run separate administrative sections as he has claimed?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99):

(1) I have clearly made a commitment that the restructure will not affect the job security of employees. That is, apart from some changes at the most senior levels, the jobs of all employees are secure. There will be no job losses and no forced relocations.

A Steering Committee has been established to oversee implementation of the new structure. A Board will soon be appointed to the new Ergon distribution corporation which will oversee resolution of the detailed issues associated with the amalgamation of the existing six distribution corporations.

Any changes implemented by the new Corporation, however, will be required to comply with the policy framework set down by Government and cannot involve staff retrenchment or forced relocation.

A key outcome of the industry restructure is that the existing governance arrangements, particularly in relation to the State's regional electricity sector, will be simplified. The amalgamation of the regional distribution corporations will give Shareholding Ministers greater control over the activities of the new corporation and will ensure that the Government has the ability to ensure that its policies are adhered to.

(2) Where appropriate, the Board of the new distribution corporation may wish to pursue efficiency measures. Any changes implemented by the new Corporation, however, will be required to comply with the policy framework set down by Government and cannot involve staff retrenchment or forced relocation.

445. Electricity Blackouts

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

Will he provide a log of all power failures across Queensland since 1 September 1998 to 22 March, including reasons for each failure, remedial action taken and repair response times?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99): It is not practical to provide the specific data requested due to the difficulties and the substantial time and manpower involved in extracting the information from the system records of the network corporations. These are planned outages for maintenance purposes, and unplanned outages of various durations from a momentary nature to a lengthy time depending on the circumstances surrounding the interruption.

When power outages occur, each network corporation gives the highest priority to restoration of supply to affected customers. The restoration time can be affected by a number of circumstances, including the difficulties faced in locating, accessing and repairing the fault, particularly in extreme weather conditions. In many cases, employees work extended hours in difficult situations to minimise the disruption to customers as a result of supply interruptions.

Programs introduced by network corporations to improve supply reliability include improved asset maintenance and enhanced vegetation management methods. These programs are supported by regular inspection programs, including pole inspections and ground and air patrols of feeders, to identify any deteriorating components or vegetation issues that may lead to potential network faults.

Nonetheless, the Government is well aware of the electricity supply problems experienced throughout the State in recent years. For this reason, the Government owned electricity sector is being restructured to provide better service in line with community expectations and to ensure greater reliability of the State's electricity system.

As part of this restructure, the Electricity Monitoring Unit will be established in the Department of Mines and Energy to oversee and audit the implementation of the McGuigan recommendations and audit power station maintenance practices on an ongoing basis. The unit will include engineering experts from Austa Energy who will ensure that maintenance is carried out to a high standard across the industry.

The formation of the Electricity Monitoring Unit (EMU) means that, for the first time, individuals or communities in Queensland will be provided with a means to have their complaints investigated by a

third party if they are not satisfied with the response from their electricity distributor.

Of course, regardless of what industry structure is put in place and no matter what preventive measures or other practices are employed by the electricity corporations, there will always be events beyond the corporations' control such as storms, high winds, wildlife and vehicular accidents that will have the potential to impact on power supply reliability in any area.

446. Callide C Power Station

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to the construction of the Callide C Power Station at Biloela and to his repeated commitment to the Parliament and Estimates Committee E on 6 October 1998 that this project would proceed according to its original timetable which would see the first unit on line by June 2001—

- (1) What progress has been made on the Callide C project to date?
- (2) How much has been spent on the Callide C project in 1998-99?
- (3) What is the current timetable for completion of the first operating unit?
- (4) Will his repeated commitment to the Parliament that the project will be on line by June 2001 be met?
- (5) Will he reconsider his answer to my question in Estimates Committee E on 6 October 1998 where I asked "What will be the consequences for the consumers of Queensland if this project is not on line by June 2001" and his reply that "The project will be on line"?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99):

(1) The Callide C Power Project is on schedule. Almost 15% of construction had been completed by the end of March 1999, which is ahead of the projected construction timetable.

(2) The Callide C Power Project is a joint venture arrangement between CS Energy, a Government-owned corporation responsible to the shareholding Ministers, and Shell Coal Australia, a private company. As such, the expenditure to date of the joint venture is confidential information. Expenditure is, however, within budget and in accordance with the project completion status on this \$800 million project.

(3) The first operating unit is scheduled for commercial operation on 25 May 2001.

(4) With the project currently on schedule, it is expected that the first unit will be operating by June 2001, and that the second unit will follow by the end of December 2001.

(5) The Callide C Power Project is only one part, albeit a substantial part, of the continuing projected increases in power generation capacity to meet the needs of Queenslanders in 2001. In the unlikely event of the first unit of this project not being fully

operational by June 2001, sufficient power will be available from both existing sources and other projects due to come on line before June 2001 to ensure adequate supply to consumers.

447. Electricity Industry, Restructure

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to the report titled "Reform of the Queensland Electricity Supply Industry" handed to the former Borbidge Government in 1996 which estimated that \$60 to \$80m would be saved by collapsing the six regional electricity supply corporations—

- (1) Apart from savings he has attributed to the abolition of the boards and a number of senior industry executives, what are the anticipated savings from the rationalisation?
- (2) Will those savings be retained in the industry and, for example, directed towards extending the mains power network in rural and remote Queensland and/or improving regional power supplies; if not, where will those savings be directed?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99):

(1) The Electricity Restructure was announced on 16 February 1999. The structure we are putting in place is not about cost cutting and saving money. It is about doing things better and allowing more effective input from both Government and the communities we serve. By delivering better electricity services with better response times and better communication and coordination, Queensland can look forward to a stronger, more reliable electricity industry

(2) As a result of the amalgamation of the regional distribution corporations, cost savings could result through lower overheads, common computer systems, greater purchasing power of the new organisation, common use of materials and better utilisation of high cost capital equipment.

(3) Any cost savings achieved as a result of the amalgamation will be passed on to consumers through reduced power prices. The distribution function is a regulated activity whereby returns are regulated by a Regulator. In calculating the DUOS, (Distribution Use of System) charged, the Regulator takes into account current cost structures of the distributor which means that cost savings will result in lower distribution charges overall.

The Regulator is also responsible for setting the revenue price cap for the distribution corporations. The revenue price cap of the new corporation will be closely examined and set at a level which is designed to allow appropriate investment in the augmentation of regional distribution networks and the delivery of service which ensures suitable levels of reliability and meets customers expectations.

448. North Queensland, Electricity Supply; Koombooloomba Dam

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to complaints over the last year by constituents in the Silkwood-Japoonvale area regarding numerous power outages and to businesses finding it difficult to operate and as I have had a good response from officers of FNQEB now to be made redundant from regional boards—

- (1) Has the failure of power been bought about by inadequate finances?
- (2) What has been done to ensure this will not re-occur?
- (3) Will maintenance be increased to ensure a reliable supply is maintained?
- (4) With the advent of cyclones will the necessary funds be provided to keep vegetation along power lines to a safe level?
- (5) Where will the future generating capacity for North Queensland come from particularly with the development of industry in Townsville?
- (6) Is the Government considering building the Tully Millstream?
- (7) Is the release of water from Koombooloomba Dam adding to flooding on the Bruce Highway?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99):

(1) No. There have been a number of power outages in the Silkwood-Japoonvale region over the past 12 months affecting customers in these areas. These outages were caused by Cyclone Rona, storm activity, high winds, a harvester bringing down wires, and equipment failure including burnt off connections, blown fuses, damaged conductors, recloser failure, and broken crossarms. In addition, there have been 13 planned outages along various sections of the Silkwood feeder to allow for maintenance works.

(2) FNQEB is undertaking two significant programs to ensure that the quality of supply available to residents in the Far North of the state improves and continues to improve. The first program targets vegetation which is the prime cause of interruptions to electricity supply. The second is a reliability improvement program which involves progressively upgrading the regions network to meet customer expectations of a reliable electricity supply.

(3) The reliability of supply will be maintained by ongoing programs. The vegetation management program has introduced a comprehensive schedule of total tree removal where a tree poses a long term problem for the electricity lines. This program includes tree replacement, and suitable low growing trees are provided to replace those removed. Completion of this program, with the ongoing cooperation of the local councils and landowners, will assist in substantially reducing the incidence of interruptions to electricity supply caused by interference from vegetation.

The Corporation's reliability improvement program has been in progress for some 12 months, and has targeted the overhead network.

Both of these programs will compliment FNQEB's ongoing maintenance program to ensure the optimum supply of electricity to its customers.

(4) Yes. FNQEB has a major vegetation management program under way at the present time. This is expected to be completed in the next two years. Thereafter, FNQEB will have an ongoing vegetation management regime designed to ensure a reliable supply of electricity to consumers.

(5) North Queensland generation capacity was expanded recently by 448MW with the commissioning of the 288MW Mt Stuart Power Station and 160MW Townsville Power Station.

With regard to future development, Stanwell Corporation has proposed the development of a 400 MW combined cycle gas turbine in Townsville. This power station is proposed to be commissioned in mid 2002. Options for gas supply to this power station include the proposed gas pipeline from PNG or from Coal Seam Methane piped from central Queensland.

Work has also commenced on Stanwell Corporation's mini hydro project at Koombooloomba Dam. The project involves the installation of a 7 MW turbine on an existing water storage dam which is expected to be commissioned in early 2000.

Additionally, power supply to north Queensland will be available through the State's transmission grid and drawing on existing generating sources.

(6) No.

(7) The catchment area of the Koombooloomba Dam is only about 10% of the entire Tully River catchment. The other 90% of the catchment include major tributaries such as Koolmon Creek, Cochable Creek, Jarra Creek, Davidson Creek and Echo Creek. All these contribute to flooding on the lower flood plain of the Tully (which impacts on the flooding on the Bruce Highway). Stanwell Corporation does everything possible not to add to any flood situation and, in reality, its practice is to capture and hold as much water as possible during the wet season. When the water level of the dam rises, a fabridam (which acts like an inflatable wall) is put in place. The fabridam is about 2 metres high and increases the dam's capacity by approximately 7%. With the fabridam in place, the dam has a capacity of more than 200,000 megalitres. Prior to the wet season, the Corporation decreases the dam water level to enable maximum retention of rainfalls. Recently, during Cyclone Rona, the dam went from holding water equal to 30% to 88% of capacity in a couple of days, and became completely full within 7 days. The capture of this enormous amount of water by the Dam actually prevented further flooding in the Tully River. Any water releases from the Dam at this time of the year are only undertaken when the water level is too high and is flowing more than 30 centimetres over the fabridam. For safety reasons the water is released from the cone valves rather than by running over the fabridam.

Despite the flood mitigation strategy used in managing Koombooloomba Dam, it is possible that under some unlikely circumstances, water may have to be released that may add to the flooding of the Bruce Highway.

449. Queensland Racing Industry Training Centre

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (15/4/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 70 from 3 March (parts 4 and 5) where he indicated that the information required was commercial-in-confidence and given that the 1999 international course is due to commence in May and that recruiting activity must certainly be completed—

- (1) How many previous international students of the QRITC have re-enrolled for additional or further courses during 1999?
- (2) What fees have been received as a result of these re-enrolments?
- (3) What fees are still outstanding from these courses?
- (4) How many new international students have enrolled for the 1999 Basic Horse Management Course?
- (5) What fees have been received as a result of these enrolments and what fees are still outstanding from this course?
- (6) What is the budgeted cost of providing facilities and conducting courses for international students in 1999?

Mr GIBBS (13/5/99):

- (1) Nineteen (19)
- (2) This information is commercial-in-confidence.
- (3) This information is commercial-in-confidence.
- (4) Thirty (30)
- (5) This information is commercial-in-confidence.
- (6) This information is commercial-in-confidence.

450. Electricity Industry, Voluntary Redundancies

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to his abolition of Queensland's six regional electricity supply and transmission corporations and to his public promise that, and I quote, "... there will be no job losses—no sackings, no forced redundancies and no forced relocations"—

- (1) Will voluntary redundancies be offered on request?
- (2) How many voluntary redundancies have been offered so far and from where?
- (3) Does his commitment extend to a commitment to replace all staff who leave?

- (4) Will he guarantee there will be as many jobs in the power distribution industry in Queensland in twelve months as there are today?
- (5) If he still stands by his promise, will he also put his job on the line and resign if he breaks that promise?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99): In response to the specific question made by Mr Mitchell, I can advise as follows:

(1) Voluntary redundancies will not be offered upon request. Such offers will only be made in special circumstances, for example where the legal obligations of the new amalgamated corporation require an offer of a redundancy.

(2) Since 16 February 1999, a number of employees of the distribution corporations have been granted voluntary redundancies. These redundancies were granted based on the normal business considerations and were not related to the industry restructure. I am informed that the following voluntary redundancies were agreed to after 16 February 1999:

One voluntary redundancy in South West Power. The application came from Toowoomba. The employee in this case occupied a position servicing equipment no longer used by South West Power. His redundancy was approved in March 1999 after careful consideration of the circumstances. An additional apprentice position was then provided in another area, so that there was no reduction in staff numbers.

Five voluntary redundancies in CAPELEC. Three applications came from Rockhampton, one from Monto and one from Emerald. These redundancies applications were accepted by management only after careful consideration of the individual circumstances of each case, and were in accordance with the voluntary redundancy agreement, which is part of CAPELEC's enterprise bargaining agreement with the unions.

Four voluntary redundancies in NORQEB. All four applications came from Townsville. These redundancies have allowed increase staff numbers in another area to better meet the strategic needs of the organisation. Overall NORQEB staffing numbers have not decreased but actually increased by 20 for this financial year.

(3) I believe that this matter is best handled by the management of the new amalgamated distribution corporation based on the needs of the organisation.

(4) No, I cannot absolutely guarantee that there will be exactly the same number of jobs in the industry in twelve months time as there are today. Nor could the previous Government lay claim to such a guarantee. I will guarantee that no employees will be forced to leave or to relocate as a result of the industry restructure.

(5) I stand by my promise that there will be no forced job losses.

451. Ergon Energy; Regional Electricity Councils

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to the Government's amalgamation of the six regional power supply and transmission corporations and his decision to sack the boards of the electricity industry corporations and appoint a series of Regional Electricity Councils—

- (1) Where will the board and headquarters of the amalgamated Ergon Energy be based?
- (2) What specific powers and responsibilities will the Regional Electricity Councils have?
- (3) What obligation, if any, will the Ergon board have to implement any recommendations by the Regional Electricity Councils?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99):

(1) The location of the Board and headquarters for the new regional electricity distribution corporation, Ergon Energy, is a commercial decision and will therefore be determined by the Board of the new corporation rather than the Government.

(2) Regional Electricity Councils will provide a voice for regional Queensland on how the electricity system performs and operates. They will be responsible for providing advice to the Board and senior management of the new Ergon Energy corporation and the existing Energex corporation on a range of regional electricity issues.

The Councils will monitor and advise on issues such as power outages and customer connection matters, gauge the effectiveness of the industry in their regions, and help to identify community issues and solutions. They will also have the ability to report to the Minister for Mines and Energy and to the Electricity Monitoring Unit which will be established within the Department of Mines and Energy.

(3) The Regional Electricity Councils will be advisory bodies. While the Boards of the distribution corporations will not, due to corporate governance reasons, be obliged to implement recommendations put forward by the Regional Electricity Councils, it is expected that decisions of the Boards will be strongly influenced by the advice provided by the Councils due to their ability to report to the Minister for Mines and Energy and to the Electricity Monitoring Unit.

452. Electricity Industry, Restructure

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to the fact that when the former Coalition Government restructured the power industry in 1997, it did so on the basis of a two volume review of the industry, which was a public document, and to his own recent restructure and to his claim that Queensland's power stations have a maintenance problem, based on the secret report which he says confirms that view—

- (1) Will he provide a copy of that report?
- (2) Why has he not made that report public to date?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99):

(1) I will not be releasing the full McGuigan Report on generator maintenance practices. However, the Report's executive summary, which was made available when the Report was completed in October 1998, can be obtained from Department of Mines and Energy upon request.

(2) The detailed Report contains commercial-in-confidence information about the operations of the three Government-owned generation corporations. The release of such detailed information would place the Government-owned generation corporations at a competitive disadvantage.

453. Coal Royalties

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to the Government's new coal royalty regime—

- (1) Will he detail the consultation process undertaken with mining companies before his implementation of the new regime?
- (2) Will he provide a schedule of all coal mines including their current royalty rates?
- (3) Will he provide his department's analysis of the impact of the new regime on job numbers and mine expansion?
- (4) Will the Government renegotiate existing royalty agreements with mining companies adversely affected by the new regime?
- (5) What assistance will be offered to workers if retrenched as a result of the new regime?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99):

(1) The New Directions Statement issued by Queensland Labor prior to last year's State election advised that "Labor is committed to a fair and realistic royalty regime". During December 1998 the Chief Executive Officers of coal mining companies were advised of the Government's concern about the current and continuing disparities in effective royalty rates paid by export coal mines, and comments thereon were invited. The possibility of accelerating the uniform 7% royalty implementation process by shortening or truncating transitional arrangements was mentioned in this letter. A number of coal mine operators took the opportunity to provide comment. Prior to this, the issue of a level playing field was also raised at a Coal Mining Task Force meeting in Moranbah in September 1998.

A Regulatory Impact Statement has been compiled and forwarded to the same companies as in December 1998. All companies are invited to provide formal submissions, and these will be duly considered.

(2) Yes. Ignoring for the moment those mines supplying domestic coal only, which attracts a rate of 6% for 1999, the royalty rates paid by various mines

if no changes to the current arrangements are made, are as follows:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) Both the Departments of Mines and Energy and Treasury are concerned at the potential impact of the current transitional regime on employment at some of the mines currently paying effective royalty rates of 20%. A detailed assessment of both employment impacts and mine expansion on the various mines will be considered following detailed written submissions in response to the Regulatory Impact Statement.

(4) No. However, firstly, it is important to clarify an apparent misconception that is evident from the phrasing of this question. The rates of royalty payable by coal mines are determined by regulation, and not by private agreement between the Government and respective companies. Whilst the present regulations allude to a particular clause, (Resource Utilisation Charge, or RUC), within certain rail contracts, which currently allows certain mines to enjoy a royalty advantage compared to others, it was always within the Government's scope to amend the regulations to remove such concessional treatment. Accordingly, there is no intention to renegotiate royalty agreements, which do not in fact presently exist in agreement form as such.

(5) The effect of the change in royalty rates on those mines currently paying below the standard 7%, which incidentally will not occur until April 2000, is likely to result in an additional royalty of \$1.00 per tonne on average being payable. What seems to have been overlooked so far is that these mines have already enjoyed some financial benefits in their royalty payments over the past 5 years due to their rail haulage contracts containing a RUC clause. In addition, under the new regime, the potential liability of these mines to make additional payments under the RUC provisions of their rail contracts will be waived. Accordingly, the Government would require strong evidence to be convinced that an additional \$1.00 per tonne on average is the sole determinant of some mines initiating retrenchment of workers, as opposed to other contributing factors. Furthermore, as mentioned, the proposed changes would not be in place until April 2000. This provides those mines with almost twelve months to adjust other factors, apart from employment levels.

454. Amamoor and Goomboorian Areas, Electricity Supply

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to a comment in the Gympie Times, regarding electricity maintenance, that power work could mean power cuts—

Is the work to be carried out in the Amamoor and Goomboorian area, bearing in mind the consistent loss of power being suffered in these two districts?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99): In response to the specific question made by Mr Stephan, I can advise

as follows. Unfortunately, there has been a number of interruptions to electricity supply to customers in the Amamoor and Goomboorian areas, and Energex have put in place measures which will reduce the number of interruptions in the future.

The majority of power interruptions were caused by severe storms and high winds forcing trees into or falling over the powerlines, and by lightning strikes causing equipment failure. In addition there have been a number of momentary interruptions lasting 20 seconds when Energex's protective equipment operated to prevent long term damage to the public's and Energex's electrical equipment.

Amamoor and Goomboorian areas have had maintenance inspections to identify components that may be damaged or deteriorating so they may be replaced before failure. Additional foot patrols of the Goomboorian feeder is also planned for the coming months.

Although Energex currently employs world class live line maintenance techniques, which in many cases eliminates the need to interrupt supply, some electricity maintenance repairs still require power interruptions to customers due to terrain and electrical safety reasons. Every effort is made to minimise the length of these interruptions.

Maintenance work is currently under way in the Amamoor and Goomboorian areas, and customers will be notified of the planned interruptions in their area. Energex takes into account the types of customers affected and will program the interruptions to limit the number and effect on customers.

Furthermore, an extensive tree lopping program to ensure trees are cleared from around the power lines, in accordance with industry policy and environmental guidelines, is under way with planned tree trimming in the Goomboorian area now completed. Parts of Amamoor are planned for speed trimming using live line practices soon after June 1999.

455. Education Review

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (15/4/99)—

With reference to the 10 year education review announced by the Premier and himself—

- (1) What are the precise timetables for this review (including dates scheduled for reports/interim reports, implementation, etc)?
- (2) What are the terms of reference for this review and who is responsible for drafting these terms of reference?
- (3) What is the budget for this review (please provide a yearly breakdown for the ten year period) and out of which departmental program will this funding be derived?
- (4) Who will be responsible for conducting this review (including public service classification, or pay levels, and details of substantive position) and to whom will they report?
- (5) What additional remunerative benefits will be offered to this person?
- (6) How many (i) public servants, (ii) primary school principals, (iii) secondary school principals, (iv) teachers and (v) other people will work on this review (including public service classifications, or pay levels, and details of substantive positions for each person)?
- (7) What arrangements will be made to appoint people to act in the positions held by those working on the review and what is the expected cost of these relieving arrangements?
- (8) How many external consultants will be commissioned to work on this review and what is the budget for consultants?
- (9) When and for what period will these consultants be appointed?
- (10) How much money has been spent to date on publicity and advertising for this review?
- (11) What is the total advertising and promotional budget for this review?
- (12) What are the details of the processes that will be followed for this review (including details of who will be consulted, how consultation will occur, who will conduct the consultation, any committees that will be established, etc)?

Mr WELLS (14/5/99):

1(a) The project Queensland State Education 2010 is intended as a major examination of the key issues that will shape the nature, purpose and delivery of state school education for Queensland students in ten years time. The choice of time horizon reflects the need for a longer perspective than the traditional three-year strategic planning allows, in order to shift the focus away from today's concerns and on to the future. It also recognises that major reforms to an education system cannot be implemented overnight. They require careful planning, thoughtful consideration for the staff of the organisation and above all a commitment to safeguarding the interests of students passing through during a time of change.

(b) A discussion paper, *The Next Decade: A discussion about the future of Queensland State Schools*, was published on 23 April 1999. It was inserted into the departmental newspaper, *Education Views*, and additional copies were mailed to school Parents & Citizens committees, school councils, district offices and a wide range of constituents. Its purpose is to stimulate, and provide a framework for, a series of consultations in schools, in district forums, and with external stakeholders, focused on the discussion of a preferred future for public education. This is being undertaken by a project team of departmental officers.

(c) The state-wide consultations are taking place mainly between 4 May and 18 June with a wide range of groups including teachers, principals and other school-based staff, parents and parents' groups, students, district and central office staff. A parallel consultation process with stakeholder groups includes unions, employer associations, industry groups, portfolio groups, universities, government departments and other community organisations.

(d) The closing date for submissions is 25 June.

(e) The project team will prepare a report on the consultations in early July, which will inform the development of a draft strategy.

(f) Publication of this draft is planned for early August. Consultation with stakeholders on the draft will take place during August and September.

(g) The project team will prepare a final draft for consideration by Cabinet later in the year.

2(a) The aims of the project are:

- (i) To identify the strategic issues that will affect the nature, purpose and delivery of education of Queensland State school students in 2010 and beyond.
- (ii) To consult widely with staff, stakeholders and the broader community on their views.
- (iii) To develop a strategy incorporating future policy directions and improvements in the education of Queensland State school students.
- (iv) To build agreement on and support for the strategy.

(b) The Director-General of Education is responsible.

3(a) The budget for the calendar year in which the review is being carried out is \$800,000. Of this total, \$376,000 is expected to be incurred in the current financial year and \$424,000 is budgeted for in 1999-2000. This year's expenditure has been funded by a rearrangement of priorities within departmental programs. Expenditure for 1999-2000 will be funded within the budget for the Office of Strategic Planning and Portfolio Services.

(b) Expenditure for the years beyond 1999-2000 will depend upon the yet-to-be-determined recommendations in the final strategy and the decisions of Cabinet in respect of those recommendations.

4(a) Mr Warren Davis, Assistant Director-General (SES3), the Office of Strategic Planning and Portfolio Services, is responsible for conducting the project.

(b) Mr Davis reports to the Director-General of Education, Mr Terry Moran.

5. None. The project is part of his responsibility for strategic planning.

6(a) Officers of the Strategic Policy Branch are working on the project, in the course of their regular strategic planning duties as members of the Branch. The Branch consists of:

- (i) a Director, SES2, taking up duties on 17 May;
- (ii) a Principal Advisor, Strategic Planning, SO1;
- (iii) a Principal Advisor, Strategic Planning, SO2;
- (iv) two Principal Policy Officers, Strategic Planning, AO8;
- (v) Research Officer, AO6;
- (vi) Research Officer, AO5
- (vii) Executive Secretary, AO3;

(viii) Administrative Assistant, AO2;

(ix) a deputy primary principal Band 6;

(x) a primary principal Band 9 and a primary principal Band 10, seconded to the Branch for another project;

(xi) a project manager has been contracted for six months.

(b) Seconded to the project for six weeks as facilitators of the school and district consultations are:

(i) four primary principals (2 x Band 9, 1 x Band 7, 1 x Band 5);

(ii) two secondary principals (1 x Band 11, 1 x Band 9);

(iii) one middle school principal, Band 9;

(iv) one special school principal, Band 9.

(c) Seven departmental officers from branches other than Strategic Planning have also been seconded to the project for six weeks to act as recorders to the consultations. They are:

(i) one AO6;

(ii) four AO5s;

(iii) two PO4s.

7(a) Relieving arrangements have been made only for the seconded principals. The secondment of departmental officers has been achieved through management of priorities and temporary reallocation of duties within their respective branches.

(b) The cost of relieving arrangements is estimated at \$10,000.

8. Two consultants have been commissioned to undertake research. The total cost is \$89,010, which will be paid progressively on receipt of invoices for work to date, falling in the current and next financial years.

9. The consultants were appointed on 5 April 1999. The research will be completed by the end of September.

10(a) No money has been spent on publicity or advertising in public media. An introductory brochure was carried in Education Views of 9 April at a total cost for printing 60,000 copies, insertion and mailing of \$13,500.

(b) A regular feature is appearing at no cost in Education Views to report on progress and provide information related to the review.

(c) A website has also been created for public access through the Education Queensland Internet home page. An identical site can be accessed through the EdInfo home page on the Department's own Intranet. The cost of initial design, graphics and text conversions is estimated at \$967 in total, of which \$817 will fall in the current financial year. The \$150 falling in 1999-2000 will cover the cost of adding further articles in text form to the sites. These costs are entirely internal to the department and represent vote code transfers between branches.

11. There is no further allocation for advertising and promotion within the total budget for the project.

12(a) The facilitators and recorders are conducting consultations in over 50 individual schools, meeting with parents, teachers, school administrative staff and students.

(b) They are also running three forums in every one of the 36 education districts for parents, school-based staff and district office staff.

(c) A further eight discussion groups are being held with departmental staff in the central office.

(d) The attached 'Statewide Consultation for Queensland State Education 2010' lists groups outside the department to whom the discussion paper was mailed with an invitation either to make a written submission or to meet members of the project team. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(e) All facilitated consultations are following a common format based on seeking responses to the thirteen key issues identified in the discussion paper.

(f) Feedback will be provided to each group involved to confirm the accuracy of the recording.

(g) A research program is in place to inform the consultations and support the process of policy development. This consists of the two commissioned papers by the external consultants, internally developed papers prepared by departmental officers and other Government agencies, and literature searches.

(h) The project is overseen by the Cabinet Human Services Committee, chaired by the Premier. A reference group, chaired by the Director-General of Education, includes representatives of parent, rural and community groups and community agencies, principals' associations, employer groups, unions, TAFE, distinguished academics and Education Queensland.

(i) The draft strategy will be published and a lengthy interval allowed for comment. Specific consultations will be held with the same groups contacted in the initial phase.

456. Police to Population Ratios

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (15/4/99)—

With reference to the issue of police to population ratios—

- (1) What is the latest national police to population ratio average?
- (2) What is the latest Queensland police to population ratio?
- (3) What are the latest 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. 886?

Mr BARTON (17/5/99):

(1) As at 30 June 1998, the estimated national police to population ratio average was 1:464.

(2) As at 1 April 1999, Queensland's estimated police to population ratio was 1:493.

(3) As at 1 April 1999, the estimated police to population ratios in all police regions and districts were as follows:

Far Northern	1:451
Cairns	1:487
Innisfail	1:528
Mareeba	1:484
Northern	1:482
Mt Isa	1:254
Townsville	1:586
Central	1:570
Gladstone	1:609
Longreach	1:237
Mackay	1:675
Rockhampton	1:572
North Coast	1:723
Bundaberg	1:807
Gympie	1:584
Maryborough	1:672
Redcliffe	1:809
Sunshine Coast	1:738
Southern	1:604
Charleville	1:203
Dalby	1:514
Ipswich	1:643
Roma	1:360
Toowoomba	1:838
Warwick	1:547
South Eastern	1:655
Gold Coast	1:625
Logan	1:742
Metropolitan South	1:734
Oxley	1:746
South Brisbane	1:684
Wynnum	1:984
Metropolitan North	1:565
Boondall	1:1124
Brisbane City	1:68
Clayfield	1:742
Ferny Grove	1:1131
Fortitude Valley	1:181
Indooroopilly	1:1167
Petrie	1:784
Sandgate	1:892

It should be noted that the National and State police to population ratio figures are inclusive of sworn officers undertaking duties that are centrally located, including many support functions for the whole state, such as the Property Crime Squad, the Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) and the Public Safety Response Team. However, these officers, although included in the overall figure and an integral part of the operational activities of Districts and Regions, are not included in the figures listed in (3) above.

457. Dalby Hospital; Chinchilla Hospital

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Health (15/4/99)—

With reference to the ongoing level of human resource problems associated with both the Dalby and Chinchilla hospitals and the lack of any obvious

success with the action taken to date to overcome the identified problems—

What action is she now prepared to undertake to create higher staff morale and a lift in public confidence in these two health facilities?

Mrs EDMOND (17/5/99): The Northern Downs Health Service District is consulting with the community it serves to ensure appropriate services are provided to meet the needs of the community. This is being achieved by the provision of skilled staff and enhanced facilities, particularly in Dalby. These initiatives are directed at increasing both staff morale and community confidence.

458. Ms R. M. Kelly

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/4/99)—

With reference to all work and/or services performed or provided in any and/or all capacities by Ms Raelene Marie Kelly, within his portfolio areas during the past 10 years up until 25 March—

Will he list (a) the individual payments received by Ms Kelly, the nature and date/date range of all the work/services provided and the level of payment and (b) any other benefits or supplementary remuneration (vehicles, office space, mobile phones etc) received by Ms Kelly during the performance/provision of work or services against each individual date or date range?

Mr BRADY (13/5/99): I am advised by my department that there is no record of Ms Kelly having been employed by the Department.

459. Emergency Services Department, Enterprise Agreement

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (15/4/99)—

- (1) How does the department propose to fund the proposed wage rises being negotiated in the Enterprise Agreement?
- (2) Will she detail what financial impact the 38 hour week (promised at the EA Statewide workshop in Brisbane in July 1998) will have on the department's budget and how the department intends to fund this?

Mrs ROSE (14/5/99):

(1) The Department proposes to fund the proposed wage rises being negotiated in the Enterprise Agreement through the budget process.

(2) The financial impact of the 38 hour week is estimated to be \$5.16M in the first year and the Department intends to fund this through the budget process.

460. Caloundra, Rail Corridor

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/4/99)—

With reference to his decision on 1 April that a rail corridor for Caloundra would pass through Pelican

Waters, Golden Beach, parts of Little Mountain, Caloundra West and Aroona—

- (1) Will he release to me, as the local State Member of Parliament, a copy of all the submissions made including those of the Departments of Environment, Lands, State Development and Primary Industries, so that it can be readily evaluated on what basis he made his decision?
- (2) Will he explain the inconsistencies in allowing the Transport Department to eliminate rain forest that the Department of Environment would not allow to happen with a current application before the Caloundra City Council for a much needed retirement village?
- (3) Will he detail all costs to be entailed in building the rail corridor in his desired option compared with the cost of the alternate option at Corbould Park?
- (4) Will he detail precisely where he intends to relocate the Golden Beach part of the corridor so that Golden Beach residents will know if they are going to have a rail line in their back yard?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/5/99):

(1) On receipt of an application in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act the Member for Caloundra will be provided with those documents to which she is entitled under that legislation.

(2) The environmental assessment in the Caloundra Options Assessment Report did not identify any impacts by any corridor option that would contravene Federal or Queensland State legislation, nor did it identify any impact that could not be managed.

Throughout this final stage of the study Queensland Transport will be working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Primary Industries and key stakeholders and interest groups to identify impact mitigation measures which reduce the degree of impact. This stage will also include the preparation of an Environmental Management Plan.

(3) & (4) I refer the Member to the Caloundra Options Assessment Report.

461. Coal Industry, Productivity Commission Report

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/4/99)—

With reference to the Productivity Commission report on the Australian Black Coal Industry and specifically to recommendations 5, 6 and 7 regarding rail access regimes, rail freight pricing and the Ports Corporation—all of which have a major impact on the international competitiveness of the Queensland coal industry—

- (1) Will he give his position on each of these recommendations?
- (2) Will he make representations to his colleague the Minister for Mines and Energy in support of them; if not, why not?

- (3) What action will the Government take to implement these recommendations?
- (4) If the Government will not implement them, how does he propose to reduce the cost pressures on the mining industry and safeguard mining industry jobs?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/5/99):

- (1) In response to Recommendation 5 about the facilitation of a rail access regime.

The certification of such a regime in Queensland hinges on the acceptability of the Queensland Rail access undertaking. Queensland Rail has now submitted its draft access undertaking to the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) and the QCA is now seeking stakeholder comment, with the closing date for receipt of comment being 14 May 1999. My Department and Treasury are actively considering the undertaking and will be providing comment to the QCA prior to the deadline.

In response to Recommendation 6, the Queensland Rail draft access undertaking contains details of asset valuation and pricing principles.

In response to Recommendation 7, about the publication of target rates of return for port corporation assets.

The port authorities in Queensland are required to act in a commercial manner. The commercial environment in which they are involved would not be regarded as a level playing field if the port authorities were required to publish their target rates of returns. If public sector entities, such as port corporations were required to publish such commercial information, competitive neutrality would require the private sector involved in ports to also publish their target rates of return. The port authorities do publish their annual reports from which an understanding of the achieved rates of returns can be determined.

(2) Responsibility for the issues dealt with in the questions rests with my colleague, the Treasurer and myself, as the Shareholding Ministers in the port authorities. This responsibility is of course, undertaken on a whole of Government basis.

(3) The existence of the Queensland Competition Authority has created the necessary medium to implement the recommendations.

(4) Steps have been taken to assist the coal mining industry cope with global changes in the coal market by way of a commitment of \$40 million in coal rail freight relief.

462. Education Portfolio, Staffing

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Education (15/4/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 December 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 sub-program, by sub-program and (f) how many of these were on secondment to organisations (i) within the

education portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?

- (2) At 1 December 1998 (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 December 1998 (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 December 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 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 portfolio?

Mr WELLS (14/5/99): 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. Data is not available for December as pay system is unable generate historical records (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 grounds-care), 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.

463. Education Portfolio, Staffing

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Education (15/4/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 November 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 sub-program, by sub-program and (f) how many of these were on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?
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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.

464. Bundamba, Subsidence Caused by Underground Mines

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to residents in Bundamba and particularly those in Tibbits Street, whose homes have suffered damage including collapsing roofs and cracked walls as a result of subsidence caused by underground mines—

- (1) What action is his department taking to address the problem?
- (2) Will he consider paying those residents compensation; if not, when and on what basis would the compensation be paid?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99):

(1) Upon receipt of a claim concerning alleged damage to a home caused by subsidence from underground mines, the Department of Mines and Energy immediately instigates an investigation to establish the extent, if any, that mining subsidence contributed to the damage.

(2) The degree of assistance to residents is dependent on the results of investigations into each claim.

465. Valhalla Uranium Project; Summit Resources and Resolute Limited

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to the Valhalla uranium vanadium project in north-west Queensland for which he previously issued exploration permits between February 1993 and February 1999—

- (1) When did he advise Summit Resources and Resolute Limited that a Labor Government would not allow uranium mining or processing in Queensland?
- (2) When did his department advise Summit Resources and Resolute Limited that a Labor Government would not allow uranium mining or processing in Queensland?
- (3) Will the Government provide compensation to the company for denying them a mining lease and the right to develop the mine after issuing exploration permits?
- (4) What legal precedent is there for compensation on these grounds?

Mr McGRADY (20/5/99): (See also 991026QN)

- (1) I met with Summit Resources representatives on 1 December 1998 and I explained Labor policy on uranium to them. Subsequently, the Government's position on leases for uranium mining was confirmed to Summit on 21 December.
- (2) Summit Gold (Australia) Pty Ltd was granted a number of Exploration Permits for Minerals in 1993 and 1994. The applicant applied to explore for all minerals, as is usual for most explorers.

During a meeting with Summit Resources on 29 August 1997, Departmental officers alerted Summit Resources of the potential change of policy if Labor was elected.

At another meeting with Summit Resources in December 1997, the company canvassed the situation should there be a change in government. Department officers confirm that from this discussion, it was apparent that Summit was well aware of the commercial risk related to a change of government.

In August 1998, during telephone calls between Summit and Departmental officers, Summit inquired as to what action they should take. They were aware of the new Directions Statement and were concerned over what action to take.

On 1 December 1998, Mr Alan Eggers of Summit Resources met with the Deputy Director-General, who again restated the Government's policy regarding uranium mining leases and processing and indicated that this policy is highly unlikely to be changed in the near future.

(3) Let me clearly say that an Exploration Permit only confers a right to explore. The granting of an

exploration permit does not imply that a Mining Lease will be granted. It is not the intention of this Government to provide compensation.

(4) The company has no legal rights to mine uranium as it only has a permit to explore. I am not aware of any legal precedent for compensation on these grounds.

466. Mining Exploration Permits

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to calls by the Queensland Mining Council on the Queensland Government to amend mining exploration permits to include any restrictions on mining activity, for example, the Labor Party's anti-uranium mining policy—

- (1) Will he agree to amending these permits to ensure they are not misleading and do not result in mining companies investing capital in resource exploration on mines which the Government will not allow to be fully developed?
- (2) When will these amendments be made?

Mr McGRADY (20/5/99):

- (1) Exploration Permits are normally issued for all minerals and industry is perfectly at liberty to explore and assay for whatever element they wish. It is incumbent on industry to understand the policies of Government wherever they explore in the world, and Queensland is no exception. However, I have instructed the Department to include a notification of the Government's uranium policy in letters of grant and renewal of exploration tenures.
- (2) I instructed the Department on 1 May 1999 to include the notification of the Government's uranium policy.

467. Mining Industry, Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and his pre-election promise to transfer the responsibility for environmental monitoring and enforcement from the Department of Mines and Energy to the EPA—

- (1) When will this transfer take place?
- (2) Will staff from the Environment and Monitoring Unit within his department also be transferred?
- (3) Will the responsibility for issuing mining exploration permits and mining approvals remain with him and the Cabinet or transfer to the EPA?
- (4) What other initiatives is the Government implementing for environmental monitoring and enforcement in the mining industry?
- (5) Other than the structural changes, what other changes will be made to environmental

monitoring and enforcement in the mining industry?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99):

(1) This is still being finalised, given the complex operational and administrative issues involved, and the need for amendment of relevant legislation. It is expected that these matters will be finalised in the next few weeks. In the meantime the EPA and DME are working cooperatively in progressing environmental management issues.

(2) Yes it is anticipated that a number of the Environmental Compliance Division staff will be transferred to the EPA. However, until there is final agreement on the relative roles and responsibilities of the DME and the EPA, a firm indication of the exact number of staff transferred can't be given.

(3) Yes, this responsibility remains with the Minister for Mines and Energy.

(4) The Government's first budget, last August, committed an additional \$8.8 million over four years for additional environmental monitoring and regulation of the mining industry. That new initiative is already being utilised through the appointment of nine additional environmental officers based in DME's regional offices.

(5) In addition to the structural and organisation changes, a number of other broad changes are proposed. Again the details and operational characteristics of these are still being negotiated, however in broad terms, the major changes will include:

- (a) replacing the Mining Warden's Court with the Land and Resources Tribunal;
- (b) more open and transparent environmental assessment and consultative processes, particularly for high impact projects;
- (c) more resources provided to increase compliance monitoring; and
- (d) development of a strategy for the progressive rehabilitation of abandoned mine sites.

468. Valhalla Uranium Project; Summit Resources

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to the Labor Party's policy on uranium mining and his refusal to grant a mining lease to Summit Resources for the Valhalla uranium vanadium project in north-west Queensland—

- (1) Does he personally support the Labor Party's policy regarding uranium and the loss of 300 permanent Mt Isa-based jobs?
- (2) How does his denial of 300 permanent jobs reconcile with the Government's stated platform of 5 per cent unemployment rate?
- (3) Why has the Labor Party supported certain uranium mines (eg Olympic Dam) but will not support the Valhalla project?
- (4) Given the Government's preparedness to change its policy on issues (such as TAB privatisation), will he change his policy on uranium mining?

Mr McGRADY (18/5/99):

(1) The uranium policy is the policy of the Labor Government and, as a member of that Government, I support it.

(2) The Valhalla project is at feasibility stage with no guarantee that the deposit is economic or that it would create any jobs, let alone permanent jobs.

The Government is more than addressing its community obligations in the north-west, with the unprecedented development already taking place. The State Government has already established the North-west Queensland Community Benefits Strategy to maintain and increase the regional skills training and social infrastructure as part of the general development of the region. This will ensure that the regional workforce is better equipped to not only sustain employment but to increase regional employment in the long term.

Recently this Government announced the creation of a second development process called the North-west Queensland Development Initiative. This Initiative will be facilitated by a joint Industry/Government team and will build on the work of the Goss Government Initiative in 1992, taking a broader perspective to identify opportunities for skills and expertise development, infrastructure development opportunities and other business opportunities.

In addition, the Government's Exploration Initiative will promote exploration investment and improve the likelihood of new mineral discoveries.

(3) I cannot speak for the South Australian Government. It was a decision made by that Government. However, the Queensland Governments position is clear. Therefore, we cannot support the Valhalla Project.

(4) The uranium policy is a Government-wide policy, not just a policy of mine or of my Department's. There are no plans to change the policy but such matters could be debated at future party conferences.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**469. Mud Crabs**

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Primary Industries (27/4/99)—

With reference to a media release by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) on 12 April headed 'Mud Crab Paper Seeking Public Comment'—

- (1) Is it prohibited to take female mud crabs?
- (2) What is the current minimum legal size for mud crabs?
- (3) Where is the size measured on mud crabs?
- (4) What is the bag limit of mud crabs for recreational crabbers?
- (5) What is the bag limit of mud crabs for commercial operators?
- (6) What is the bag limit of mud crabs for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders?
- (7) Is it prohibited for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders to take female mud crabs?
- (8) Do Aboriginals or Torres Strait Islanders have to comply with the minimum size when they take mud crabs?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/5/99):

1. The provisions of the Queensland fisheries legislation prohibit the taking of female mud crabs in Queensland.

2. Male mud crabs must be fifteen centimetres or more across the back shell or carapace.

3. At present, the minimum legal size for mud crabs can be measured in two alternative ways as described in the Fisheries Regulation 1995.

- (a) the widest part of its carapace, that is from spine tip to spine tip.
- (b) if its carapace is damaged or missing, an underside body measurement may be taken. However, because mud crabs rarely have damaged shells, and as they are usually marketed whole this second measurement is seldom used.

4. The bag limit for recreational fishing is ten mud crabs per person in possession.

5. There is no bag limit on mud crabs for commercial fishers.

6-8. Section 14 of the Queensland Fisheries Act 1994 provides for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders to take, use or keep fisheries resources under Aboriginal tradition or under Island custom, unless a regulation or management plan expressly applies to specific activities by Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. Certain consultative procedures are required under Section 14 to introduce such a regulations or management plan.

At present no such regulation or management plan is appropriate and therefore bag limits on mud crabs and the ban on taking female mud crabs would not apply to Aboriginals or Torres Strait Islanders who take, use or keep these fisheries resources under tradition or custom.

In conclusion, I would draw to attention that all of the above matters, including traditional and customary use of mud crabs are raised in the Discussion Paper on the Queensland Mud Crab Fishery, recently released by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority.

I would encourage any interested persons to provide submissions to the Discussion Paper.

470. Royal Brisbane Hospital, Child Development Unit

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

- (1) Will she explain to constituents of mine who are the parents of a disabled child, why there is a three-year waiting list at the Child Development Unit at the Royal Children's Hospital and why there is only one such unit in Queensland?
- (2) Will she also explain how having to wait three years just to have your child assessed will assist parents needing direction and assistance with the educational requirements of their disabled children at this very point of time?
- (3) As these are parents who have been dealt a savage blow by nature, who are wanting to provide the very best opportunity for their disabled child, why are they being dealt an even greater unkind cut with this lengthy wait?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99):

1. Almost three quarters of the children on the waiting list for team assessment have already been assessed by the specialist Paediatricians at the Child Development Unit and appropriate management commenced. This ensures that all necessary medical investigations have been completed and children are reviewed as required. The district advises the waiting time for an appointment is four to six weeks. This is not the only multidisciplinary service in Queensland. Multidisciplinary Child Development assessment services are also available in other Health Districts, for example at the Mater Children's Hospital, the Inala Community Health Centre, Gold Coast, Cairns and Townsville.

2. Parents of children with disability may need direction and assistance throughout their child's preschool and school years, and perhaps beyond. Parents may access a range of support services available in the community, including services such as the Child Development Unit. The educational requirements of children with disability are best assessed through the Education system, with Health and other services providing complementary support and advice.

3. The developmental and educational needs of children with disability are usually complex. Parents require support from a range of Health services, as well as services from other Departments. No one service can meet all of the child's needs. At present the Child and Youth Health Policy Unit of Queensland Health is reviewing the Department's responsibility for children with disability, and defining key health outcomes for this group of children.

471. Borallon Correctional Centre

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/4/99)—

With reference to recent complaints regarding the sewage seepage from Borallon Correctional Centre at Borallon—

- (1) As a matter of urgency, will he investigate these allegations?
- (2) Will he ensure that this health hazard is rectified?
- (3) Will he also extend his investigations to the nearby Sandy Creek as it would appear to be contaminated by the same sewage leaking from Borallon Correctional Centre?

Mr BARTON (27/5/99):

1. The Department of Public Works on behalf of the Department of Corrective Services is currently investigating the matter of alleged sewage seepage from the Borallon Correctional Centre.

2. The Department of Corrective Services has recently completed a major refit and upgrade of the on-site effluent treatment plant under the supervision of the Department of Public Works. Immediately upon the receipt of the claim from a neighbouring property, water samples were collected. As at close of business 26 May 1999, the results of the test had not been received by the Department of Public Works and Housing. If rectification work is required it will be undertaken as a requirement under legislation. This will be treated as a matter of high priority.

3. My department regards its relationship with neighbouring properties as paramount. As a good neighbour, my department will ensure that it is doing the right thing. Any problems associated with the discharge of effluent from the Borallon Correctional Centre will be rectified as soon as possible.

472. Vision Airlie Project

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (27/4/99)—

- (1) Will the Vision Airlie Project be approved?
- (2) Will adequate funding be made available during the term of this Government for this project?
- (3) Does he agree that the proposal will create many jobs within the region?
- (4) Does he agree that the completion of this project will benefit the mainland tourism industry and residents by offering a much needed mainland attraction?

Mr GIBBS (13/5/99):

- (1) The approval of the Vision Airlie Project does not fall under my portfolio responsibilities.
- (2) The funding of the Vision Airlie Project does not fall under my portfolio responsibility.
- (3) The proposal is likely to create jobs.
- (4) The proposal is likely to benefit the tourism industry.

473. Cunningham Highway, Maintenance

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/4/99)—

With reference to the Cunningham Highway between Warrill View and the Kalbar turn-off which contains sections of road in a shocking state, and an area just south of Silverdale which has disintegrated to resemble what could only be described as a dirt track—

- (1) What immediate action is his department undertaking to repair these sections of road and when?
- (2) Will it be only another "patch up" job or will correct reconstruction be carried out?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of repair to this part of this very important interstate arterial link?
- (4) How much Federal funding is being provided for this highway in the next two years?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/5/99): (1-4) The Cunningham Highway is a part of the National Highway network and is federally funded. The Department of Main Roads has programmed expenditure of over \$15 million over the next two financial years for construction, rehabilitation and programmed and routine maintenance for the Cunningham Highway in Ipswich City and Boonah Shire. However, this expenditure will be subject to the concurrence of the Federal Minister for Transport.

474. Nursing Homes, Federal Subsidy

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (27/4/99)—

With reference to the anomaly concerning the Commonwealth Department of Health subsidy paid to nursing homes for the aged in Queensland being less than that paid to other States and to the investigation recently conducted by the Commonwealth Productivity Commission into the subsidies paid throughout Australia—

- (1) Will she explain why there has been a delay in releasing this report to the industry and in implementing the Commission's report?
- (2) When will it happen?

Ms BLIGH (30/4/99): As the responsibility for this matter falls outside my portfolio responsibility, I suggest the Member direct his question to the Minister for Health.

475. Tablelands, Land Valuations

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (27/4/99)—

With reference to some considerable and justified community anger over the Beattie Government's decision to increase valuations on the Tablelands—

Will he assure me that he will meet with the Tablelands primary industry forum as soon as possible?

Mr WELFORD (27/5/99): My Department of Natural Resources issued approximately 1 million valuations this year as part of its annual revaluation program. Contrary to the Member's claim, valuation changes were not determined by the Government. These valuations were determined through an independent process based on recent local property sales and were issued under the Valuation of Land Act 1944. However, increases in land valuations do not necessarily mean increases in rates which are a matter for local governments.

The Act provides a transparent and readily accessible objection and appeal process for landowners concerned with the new valuation of their properties. In addition, officers of my Department are currently discussing a range of matters with industry groups to resolve concerns with the valuation increases in the local governments of Mareeba and Atherton.

Notwithstanding the Member's recent political antics and false representations to his local constituents about this matter, I have discussed this issue with local Atherton industry representatives. Furthermore, I will be making a personal to address the matter first-hand in the first week of June.

476. Rockhampton, Speech Therapy Services

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

Will she guarantee that a three-year-old Rockhampton deaf boy of whom she is aware will receive no lesser access to speech therapy service at the community health centre than he received at Rockhampton Hospital before his parents were informed he could no longer receive a service there?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99): The child concerned has received regular speech therapy at the Rockhampton Hospital since October, 1997. He also receives specialist assistance from a teacher for the Hearing Impaired through the Education Department.

The parents have been advised that regular therapy will be suspended to enable another child to be offered a block of treatment, however a further block of treatment will be offered when available.

I am advised that the decision to place the child on review for a period of time is clinically appropriate and common practice, particularly where other specialist support services are available.

The parents were, however, advised of possible alternative Speech Pathology services and made contact with the Rockhampton Community Health Service.

This service is liaising with the hospital regarding the most appropriate speech therapy management for this child.

I can advise that initiatives are under way to further optimise speech therapy services within the District both at the Rockhampton Hospital and the Rockhampton Community Health Service.

477. Caloundra, Rail Corridor

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/4/99)—

- (1) Will he explain how, as reported in the CAMCOS Stage 3 Report, his preferred Caloundra rail corridor has "the best ability to absorb visual impacts"?
- (2) How can his preferred corridor, which traverses environmentally sensitive areas, residential areas, public areas, hospitals and open spaces, better absorb visual impacts than the community-preferred corridor which does not impact on already developed areas, but has the potential to be included in strategic land usage planning?
- (3) How can he accept an ugly bridge with lengthy approaches to accommodate necessary gradients at the entrance to the town and a rail track at gable height through an industrial area as visually attractive?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/5/99):

(1 & 2) As you may be aware the CAMCOS Caloundra Options Assessment Report explains how the relative impacts of the corridor options were assessed. The report acknowledged that there were sections of each option that would be more visible than others.

The preferred Caloundra corridor contains sections where the corridor is well screened by either the existing environment or the proposed form of construction.

As I have previously advised the House, the corridor options in Caloundra were evaluated on the basis of a number of factors, one of which was visual impacts. The option which gave the best overall public transport outcomes was eventually selected.

(3) All the options considered had sections of bridging. For example, the Corbould Park option also involved a bridge over Caloundra Road. The public transport corridor will be designed in a way that it blends in as best as possible into existing developments in this area.

The detailed Impact Assessment Study is looking at these visual issues. An Environmental Management Plan to address all the impacts will be produced as part of this study.

478. Queensland Rail, Pensioner Travel Vouchers; Mr P. Pottle

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/4/99)—

With reference to the present situation whereby Mr Peter Pottle, an aged pensioner of Kingaroy, is entitled to a Queensland pensioner travel voucher (x-four) for his use within a twelve-month period and Mr Pottle's wife is, apparently, not eligible to travel with him on the railway unless she pays the full fare and to visit their son, who resides in Cairns, it would mean that Mrs Pottle has to pay the return fare of \$270 and as she receives only partner allowance, she is unable to afford this and due to her younger age and the fact that she is female, it would seem that Mrs Pottle

will not be eligible for these travel benefits for another twelve years—

- (1) Will he explain to Mr and Mrs Pottle and to any other person who finds themselves in, what to them, seems such a ridiculous and hurtful situation (a) why the partner cannot use two of the four travel vouchers, (b) what could be the harm in a pensioner and his wife/partner using the vouchers for one trip per year, rather than the pensioner taking two trips unaccompanied as the cost factor would be the same and (c) why a dependent partner can't be nominated on the application for Queensland Rail travel when he or she, after all, is named on the pensioner card as a dependent?
- (2) Is the Government attempting to save money by forcing pensioners who are unable, or find it difficult to travel alone, to forgo their concession because their wives or partners cannot afford to accompany them?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/5/99):

(1) The Queensland Government provides Pensioner Travel Vouchers to permit individuals in need to access long-distance rail travel to maintain a level of mobility and to function within the community. To ensure that this scheme is targeted to those people most in need, access to the concession is linked to a person's eligibility to hold a Pensioner Concession Card issued by either Centrelink, on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The vouchers are provided to people based on their ability to meet the relevant criteria.

(2) The Queensland Government currently spends approximately \$200 million per year providing concessions to holders of Pensioner Concession Cards and Seniors Cards. These cover such areas as health, education and recreation, rates, electricity, motor vehicle and boat registration, as well as rail and bus concessions. In 1997-98, there were approximately 200,000 free rail journeys undertaken by pensioners using the Travel Voucher scheme at a cost of approximately \$16.5 million.

479. Public Works and Housing Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (21/5/99):

(1) As at 1 July 1998, a total of 26 Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in the Department of Public Works, at the following SES levels: SES4 = 1; SES3 = 5; SES2 = 11; and SES1 = 9.

As at 1 July 1998, a total of 6 Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in the Department of Housing, at the following SES levels: SES3 = 1, SES2 = 3, SES1 = 2.

(2) As at 31 March 1999, a total of 21 Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in the Department of Public Works, at the following levels: SES4 = 1; SES3 = 3; SES2 = 12; and SES1 = 5.

As at 31 March 1999, a total of 5 Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in the Department of Housing, at the following SES levels: SES2 = 3, SES1 = 2.

480. Emergency Services Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mrs ROSE (26/5/99): Senior Executive Service (SES) positions are created under the Public Service Act 1996 in Departments and Public Service Offices. Equivalent-type positions in Statutory Authorities are not true SES roles and have therefore not been included.

(1) As at 1 July 1998, my Department employed seven (7) SES public servants, at the following levels: SES1—5 officers; SES2—1 officer; SES3—1 officer.

(2) As at 31 March 1999, my Department employed seven (7) SES public servants, at the following levels: SES1—5 officers; SES2—1 officer; SES3—1 officer.

481. Health Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99):

(1) As at 1 July 1998 there were 21 Senior Executive Service public servants employed in the Health Department at the following levels: Chief Executive Officer—1; SES4—3; SES3—3; SES2—11; SES1—3.

(2) As at 31 March 1999 there were 18 Senior Executive Service public servants employed in the Health Department at the following levels: Chief Executive Officer—1; SES4—2; SES3—2; SES2—10; SES1—3.

482. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Ms BLIGH (27/5/99):

1. At 1 July 1998, a total of 17 Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in my portfolio. These officers were employed at the following levels:- 1 x CEO2; 2 x SES1; 12 x SES2; 2 x SES3.

2. As at 31 March 1999, a total of 14 Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in my portfolio. These officers were employed at the following levels:- 1 x CEO2; 2 x SES1; 10 x SES2; 1 x SES4.

483. State Development and Trade Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr ELDER (27/5/99):

1. As at 1 July 1998 there were a total of 23 SES officers at the following levels: CEO2—1; SES3—4; SES2—14; SES1—4

2. As at 31 March 1999 there were a total of 27 SES officers at the following levels: CEO3—1; SES4—2; SES3—4; SES2—15; SES1—5.

484. Mines and Energy Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr McGRADY (31/5/99):

(1) As at 1 July 1998, the Department of Mines and Energy employed 12 Senior Executive Service public servants including the Director-General. These comprised one at CEO2 level, three at SES3 level, six at SES2 level and two at SES1 level.

(2) As at 31 March 1999, the Department employed 13 Senior Executive Service public servants including the Director-General. These comprised one at CEO2 level, three at SES3 level, eight at SES2 level and one at SES1 level.

485. Tourism, Sport and Racing Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr GIBBS (27/5/99):

(1) CEO2—1; SES3—1; SES2—2; SES1—3; TOTAL—7.

(2) CEO2—1; SES3—2; SES2—2; SES1—3; TOTAL—8.

486. Treasury Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr HAMILL (21/5/99):

(1) The following numbers of Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in the Treasury portfolio at July 1998: CEO3—0; SES3—4; SES2—13; SES1—12; Total—29.

(2) The following numbers of Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in the Treasury portfolio 31 March 1999: CEO3—1; SES3—11; SES2—6; SES1—10; Total—28.

487. Education Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr WELLS (26/5/99): (1) CEO3—1; SES3—6; SES2—27; TOTAL—34. In addition there were 17 officers, (formerly SES1) receiving SES conditions under salary maintenance.

(2) CEO3—1; SES4—1; SES3—5; SES2—27; TOTAL—34. In addition there were 16 officers, (formerly SES1), receiving SES conditions under salary maintenance.

488. Justice and Attorney-General and The Arts Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr FOLEY (13/5/99):

- (1) There were 42 Senior Executive Service public servants employed in the Justice and Attorney-General and the Arts portfolio as at 1 July 1998 and these are broken up as follows :-

Classification—Number of Senior Executive Service public servants

CEO2—1
SES4—1
SES3—4
SES2—21
SES1—15

Total number of Senior Executive Service public servants—42

- (2) There were 41 Senior Executive Service public servants employed in the Justice and Attorney-General and the Arts portfolio as at 31 March 1999 and these are broken up as follows :-

Classification—Number of Senior Executive Service public servants

CEO—1
SES4—1
SES3—4
SES2—21
SES1—14*

Total number of Senior Executive Service public servants—41

* One SES1 officer retired on 1/3/1999

489. Communication and Information, Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr MACKENROTH (21/5/99):

- (1) As at 1 July 1998, the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning, employed the following Senior Executive Service public servants (that is, SES

positions approved by Governor in Council and occupied by the appointee at this date): SES1—7; SES2—3; SES3—3; TOTAL—13.

(2) As at 31 March 1999, the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning employed the following Senior Executive Service public servants (again, SES positions approved by Governor in Council and occupied by the appointee at this date): SES1—6; SES2—2; SES3—3; TOTAL—11.

490. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Women's Policy and Fair Trading Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Ms SPENCE (13/5/99):

- (1) The SES levels as at 1 July 1998 were: 1 x SES3; 2 x SES2.

(2) The Departments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development (DATSIPD) and Equity and Fair Trading (DEFT) were not fully set up until after 1 July 1998, following the creation of this portfolio. Positions that were subsequently transferred were 1 x SES2 from the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care to DATSIPD, 1 x SES2 from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to DATSIPD and 2 x SES2 from Queensland Treasury to DEFT. The SES levels as at 31 March 1999 were: 1 X CEO2; 2 X SES3; 5 X SES2.

491. Premier and Cabinet Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr BEATTIE (27/5/99):

(1) Number of people appointed to position level: SES4—1; SES3—10; SES2—14; SES1—4; CEO—0; TOTAL—29.

(2) Number of people appointed to position level: SES4—1; SES3—11; SES2—11; SES1—3; CEO—3; TOTAL—29.

492. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr BRADY (27/5/99):

I have been advised by my department the following information:

- (1) SES officers as at 01.07.98: CEO—1; SES4—1; SES3—8; SES2—20; SES1—11; TOTAL—41.
- (2) SES officers as at 31.03.99: CEO—1; SES4—1; SES3—8; SES2—20; SES1—9; TOTAL—39.

493. Transport and Main Roads Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/5/99): Department of Main Roads and Queensland Transport

The following shows the establishment of SES Public Service Positions:-

- (1) At 1 July 1998 there were: 2XCEO; 2XSES4; 17XSES3; 30XSES2; 12XSES1.
- (2) At 31 March 1999 there were: 2XCEO; 2XSES4; 17XSES3; 30XSES2; 12XSES1.

I would also note that the recent reorganisation within Main Roads will not result in any permanent increase in SES positions.

494. Primary Industries Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/5/99):

1. There were 35 Senior Executive Service public servants employed in the Department as at 30 June 1998. Details are as follows: CEO2—1; SES4—1; SES3—8; SES2—17; SES1—8; TOTAL—35.
2. There were 27 Senior Executive Service public servants employed in the Department as at 31 March 1999. Details are as follows: CEO2—1; SES4—1; SES3—6; SES2—16; SES1—3; TOTAL—27.

495. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/4/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 1 July 1998?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at 31 March 1999?

Mr BARTON (27/5/99):

Queensland Police Service—

(1 & 2) The number of Senior Executive Service public servants employed in Queensland Police Service as at 1 July 1998 and 31 March 1999 is outlined below:

As at 01.07.98: SES3—1; SES2—4; SES1—5

As at 31.03.99: SES3—1; SES2—5; SES1—4.

Department of Corrective Services—

On 1 July 1998 and 31 March 1999, the Corrective Services Commission and Queensland Corrections were not government departments and therefore did not employ SES officers.

- (1) Zero
- (2) Zero.

496. District Health Councils

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

With reference to the very important community-recognised structure of the State-wide district health councils—

Will the district health council structure continue or will the councils not continue after their expiry date in 2000?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99): A number of councils have raised this issue with me because of a lack of clarity about their roles and responsibilities. When I met with the Chairs of the Councils in February 1999, I advised them that District Health Councils would have to work within the current legislative framework to carry out their roles and responsibilities.

497. Wolston Park Hospital, Surplus Land

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

With reference to a Queensland Times newspaper article which referred to the proposed disposal of surplus land at Wolston Park with an anticipation of private sector involvement—

Has any official interest from the Minister for Tourism been registered in relation to acquiring the land for tourism or heritage purposes?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99): On 24 December 1998, the Department of Natural Resources, on behalf of Queensland Health forwarded correspondence to each state government department requesting whether they had an interest

in acquiring surplus land (including buildings) identified on the Wolston Park Hospital site. Departments have been requested to express their interest.

This practice was undertaken in accordance with the Government Land Management System (GLMS) guidelines for the disposal of property whereby departments may express an interest in purchasing state owned property prior to being publicly offered.

498. Wolston Park Hospital, Staffing

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

With the redevelopment of Wolston Park Hospital, how many nursing and auxiliary positions will be lost at Wolston Park?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99): The redevelopment of Wolston Park Hospital is proceeding in accordance with the 10 Year Mental Health Plan, which was endorsed by the former health minister Mike Horan, Member for Toowoomba South.

The new facility at Wacol is expected to be operational by October 2001. By that time also, a number of existing beds will be relocated to new facilities throughout the State providing services closer to home for regional and rural Queenslanders. Existing staff will be given the opportunity to transfer to these facilities. This Government is also expanding community based mental health services with a record \$29 million increase in the 1998/99 budget.

The West Moreton District Health Service is developing a staffing profile incorporating all categories of staff for the new Wacol facility in consultation with the various health unions. Staff are being kept fully informed about options for redeployment, retraining, and VERs through the consultation process.

499. Wolston Park Hospital, Engineering and Maintenance Workers

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

What continuity of employment arrangements has been made for the building and engineering maintenance workforce currently at Wolston Park?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99): The redevelopment of Wolston Park Hospital is proceeding in accordance with the 10 Year Mental Health Plan, which was endorsed by the former health minister Mike Horan, Member for Toowoomba South. The land and buildings not required in the redeveloped services for the new Wacol facility will be handed over to the appropriate government department to manage.

The West Moreton District Health Service has initiated numerous processes to assist all staff, potentially affected by the redevelopment of Wolston Park Hospital, to access alternative employment opportunities. These opportunities include employment in the private sector and other public sector organisations. In addition, further assistance is provided by way of access to training and financial assistance is provided if staff wish to

relocate to other areas of the State. The ability for existing staff to access similar positions in other Queensland Health facilities has been greatly enhanced by modification of existing transfer and relocation policies.

The staffing profile for all categories of staff including building and engineering services in the new Wacol facility is currently being developed.

Options for all future building and engineering maintenance services in Queensland Health is being investigated in accordance with the principles of the most recent enterprise bargaining agreement. Building and engineering unions are actively participating in the development of these options. Staff are being kept fully informed about options for redeployment, retraining, and VERs through the consultation process.

500. Queensland Health, Directors of Nursing

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

With reference to the Enterprise Bargaining III Agreement struck for Queensland Health Employees—

- (1) How many directors of nursing will receive enhanced packages which include the private use of motor vehicles?
- (2) What will be the cost of this enhanced package?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99):

(1) There are currently 15 Directors of Nursing employed by Queensland Health at Grades 5 and 6 that will receive an entitlement to a motor vehicle in accordance with the Senior Executive Service Private Use of Motor Vehicles Policy when the Agreement is certified. It should be noted that Directors of Nursing may elect not to participate in these arrangements.

If an eligible Director of Nursing does choose to take up this option, they will be required to contribute an amount of between approximately \$4,000 and \$6,000 per annum from their existing salary. This amount is yet to be determined but will be in line with the Senior Executive Service policy.

(2) Ultimately, the final cost will be determined by the number of Directors of Nursing taking up this option and the translation of the SES Policy to Directors of Nursing. The total cost of EBIII will be \$134.86 million full year effect. It is fully supplemented by Treasury, unlike EBII which left \$25 million that hospitals were expected to find in savings from the last enterprise agreement. EBII under the Opposition emerged from weeks of disruptive industrial action, while EBIII was achieved without a single act of industrial disputation.

501. Queensland Health, Visiting Medical Officers

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

Following the completion of negotiations with Queensland Health Employees' Enterprise Bargaining

III Agreement, what is the current position of the visiting medical officers' agreement?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99): The total cost of EBIII will be \$134.86 million full year effect. It is fully supplemented by Treasury, unlike EBII which left \$25 million that hospitals were expected to find in savings from the last enterprise agreement. EBII under the Opposition emerged from weeks of disruptive industrial action, while EBIII was achieved without a single act of industrial disputation. Negotiations for a replacement agreement covering terms and conditions of employment and commitments to service delivery initiatives for Visiting Medical Officers are progressing and it is anticipated it will be finalised in the near future.

502. Bowen Health District, Staffing

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

Does she sanction the Bowen Health District's decision not to fill vacant staff positions for a psychologist, psychiatric nurse, community nurse (Ayr), part-time child health nurse and social worker (Ayr) in order to keep to budget?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99): The community mental health positions are vacant because there have been no suitable applicants despite a national recruitment campaign. The positions are two of the 200 extra community mental health positions funded in the Labor Government's record 1998/99 mental health budget.

The Community Nursing positions have not been relinquished. The present employees term of engagement have expired. Some of the duties are being continued by a part-time child health nurse supplemented by other staff who continue to provide services such as immunisation, baby weighing and discharge liaison.

The incumbent in the social work position is on leave, and it is not the normal practice of the Bowen District to replace this position during periods of leave.

503. Taxi Subsidy Scheme

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

With reference to the State Government's pledge to expand the eligibility criteria for taxi subsidies to needy people—

- (1) Will she outline the new criteria as well as how much this will cost and whether this is being paid out of existing HACC allocations?
- (2) What is the regional breakdown of this cost?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99): The Taxi Subsidy Scheme is administered by Queensland Transport. The review of the eligibility criteria for Scheme was undertaken by that Department in consultation with Queensland Health. I would therefore refer your question to my colleague the Honourable Steve Bredhauer MLA, Minister for Transport.

While I am unable to comment on the breakdown of costs for the Taxi Subsidy Scheme I can advise that the HACC program contributes a total of \$526,161 to the subsidisation of taxi fares for eligible clients.

504. Dental Services

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

What is the wait-time for appointments at each of the centres or State clinics throughout the State offering State dental services?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99): Waiting times for general dental services and dentures vary across the State, although emergency and immediate oral health needs are addressed within 24 hours in most cases.

Public sector oral health services completed 327,000 courses of care for adults and 320,000 school students in 1997/98. This was an additional 46,800 adult patients or a 17% increase over 1996/97. To date this financial year the service is on track to exceed last year's performance.

Despite the increase in productivity demand for services remains high. The Federal Government's cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program in December 1996 withdrew \$19.8m of Commonwealth funding from public sector oral health services in Queensland. Queensland was the only state to replace the Commonwealth funds to maintain the existing level of services. Other States reduced services and some introduced co-payments. The Federal Government stated when it ceased the Commonwealth Dental Health Program that it had achieved its objective of reducing waiting times and improving access and indicated that it considers oral health services a State responsibility.

The State Government continues to lobby the Federal Government for an equitable share of health funding including funds for oral health. Queensland put a submission to the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee into Public Dental Services which identified disadvantaged groups and high risk groups whose dental health is below national averages. The recommendations of the Report are in line with Queensland's position of a Commonwealth/States partnership to minimising inequities in oral health in the population.

Other factors contributing to this are the socioeconomic climate, high population growth and increased awareness of the availability of public sector services. Innovative and flexible options, such as outsourcing to the private sector, overtime and flexible working hours, aimed at reducing waiting times to acceptable levels continue to be explored in areas of high demand.

505. Speech Therapists

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

What are the wait-times for hearing-impaired children to see speech therapists in the various State health facilities offering the service?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99): Few severely to profoundly hearing impaired children are referred to Speech Pathologists in State health facilities because more appropriate specialised services, including early intervention for very young children, are provided by the State Education Department, Catholic Education and other specialist agencies such as St Gabriels. There is usually no waiting time involved.

There is no wait time for hearing impaired children referred to Speech Pathology services for assessment of suitability for cochlear implant.

In provincial and rural areas children with hearing impairment may be referred to State health facilities where there is no available specialist service or where this facilitates a more coordinated approach to the child's overall medical management. Waiting times vary according to the level of priority assigned to each referral by the Speech Pathologist.

506. Wolston Park Hospital, VERs

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health (27/4/99)—

With reference to the redevelopment of Wolston Park Hospital and the promised redeployment or redundancy of existing staff following the Premier's intervention and discussions with union representatives—

Has an enhanced voluntary employment package, similar to that offered to Queensland Rail employees, been offered to Wolston Park staff?

Mrs EDMOND (27/5/99): Approximately 31 Voluntary Early Retirement packages will be offered to existing employees at Wolston Park Hospital before 30 June 1999. The packages offered incorporate the standard Government provisions. Cabinet has approved that incentives for training purposes will also be offered to those employees to access alternative employment.

507. Queensland Health, Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

Mr GOSS asked the Premier (27/4/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Health Enterprise Bargaining Agreement III and to the fact that on 15 April the Minister for Health enthusiastically told the Parliament that "The Labor Government has fully funded this Enterprise Agreement" and further, "It is an underestimation to say that the cashable savings mentality of the Coalition's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement II was a disaster"—

Will this Enterprise Bargaining Agreement III be the benchmark for other Queensland Government Enterprise Bargaining Agreements; if not, why not?

Mr BEATTIE (27/5/99): My Government is committed to a harmonious and cooperative approach to industrial relations and is confident that it can work with the trade union movement representing employees in the public sector to achieve reasonable and responsible wage outcomes.

Officers of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations are currently in the process

of consulting with agencies and unions on the wages policy most appropriate for the public sector.

The issue of supplementation will be considered in the development of policy.

508. Spanner Crabs

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries (27/4/99)—

With reference to the contents of the Ministerial Statement of 27 April—

What re-assurance will he give that (a) any fishermen demonstrably disadvantaged will have their allocation reviewed, (b) any fishermen not advised of the 'investment alert' will have their allocation reviewed and (c) the implementation of ITQs will not see large fishing operators force smaller fishing interests out of the market because of an imbalance in access to the fishery in favour of large operators in relation to the allocation of ITQs?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/5/99): While I cannot give an unqualified assurance that everyone in the spanner crab fishery will be happy with all elements of the new Management Plan, I can reassure Members that a considerable amount of effort has been put into ensuring that the introduction of ITQs to this fishery is as fair as possible and that any adverse effects on individuals are minimised.

The allocation formula set out in the Plan was developed by an Independent Allocation Assessment Committee (IAAC) which had significant legal, economic and industry expertise. The IAAC specifically addressed the issue of fairness and recommended the allocation formula which has now been incorporated into the Plan.

The IAAC also considered the issue of exceptional circumstances such as those that the Honourable Member has identified and its recommendations on this have been incorporated into the Plan.

The allocation formula comprises a fixed component plus an amount based on an operator's catch history in the fishery. This will allow each operator to maintain fishing activities at around established levels and this will minimise any disruption in the fishery and in the processing sector.

Most importantly, the allocation formula will avoid the inequity of any redistribution of wealth within the fishery.

There are established procedures for the review of all decisions made by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) and these procedures will ensure that spanner crab quota allocations are carried out fairly, appropriately and in accordance with the Plan.

Fishers who disagree with QFMA's decisions on their quota allocations may ask for those decisions to be reviewed. Such internal reviews would apply to matters which are specified in the Spanner Crab Management Plan, for example, where there is dispute as to what catch information has been used to calculate the quota allocation.

Appeals against QFMA's decisions may also be made to the Fisheries Tribunal, an independent body

established under the fisheries legislation, or through the Courts.

As I have said, the use of catch history as the main basis for quota allocation avoids a redistribution of wealth. It also ensures that there will be no change in the 'market share' of individual operators as a result of the introduction of ITQs.

There will undoubtedly be trading in spanner crab quota in the future and it is by such changes that the fishery will now be able to adjust to better suit prevailing economic and market circumstances. This capacity for self-adjustment within the fishery is a key advantage that ITQs will provide.

I would remind the Members that it has always been possible for people with the necessary financial resources to acquire a larger involvement of the spanner crab fishery by purchasing additional licences. The introduction of ITQs will not change this fact. What it will do, however, is protect the rights of access to the resource of all operators by guaranteeing them a known share in the catch. This is a significant advance in protecting the interests of small spanner crab operators, and ensuring the sustainability of the spanner crab resources.

509. Environmental Protection Policy for Waste Management

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (28/4/99)—

With reference to local governments in the electorate of Western Downs who need certainty in the design and management of their rubbish tips and financial assistance in meeting environmentally acceptable standards—

- (1) When will he release an Environmental Planning Policy for Waste Management to provide this direction to councils?
- (2) Does he intend to provide financial assistance to local governments for this issue?

Mr WELFORD (27/5/99):

(1) The drafting of the Environmental Protection Policy for Waste Management has been completed by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel. When I am satisfied that the proposed legislation adequately address waste issues, it will be released to enable review by key stakeholders, which are comprised of members from the private sector and State and Local Government, to complete the final round of consultation.

(2) The Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the Departments of Communication and Information and Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities has established a financial assistance scheme that provides funding of up to 50 percent of the costs incurred by Local Governments in determining the environmental risk of their landfills. The scheme will provide Local Governments with data on how to best manage their facilities. This program is continuing and no further assistance will be considered until the outcomes of the program are assessed.

510. Correctional Centres, Knives and Violent Videos

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (28/4/99)—

With reference to a prison officer who came to my office with what he considered a serious problem in the Stuart Prison system and who was extremely concerned with violent videos which prisoners are permitted to watch and the prisoners' reaction to the violence shown and firmly believes these videos should be banned from prisons and to three stabbings of prison officers in the past twelve months as a result of which the prison officer stated that prisoners had easy access to large knives and believes foodstuffs like pumpkins, steak, carving etc. which require the use of large knives should be pre-cut away from prisoners who pose a risk to the guards well being and believes knives should be chained to benches further reducing risk—

Will he investigate these matters and take the necessary steps to ensure prison officers feel more secure?

Mr BARTON (28/5/99): Categories R & X videos are not permitted to be shown in Queensland Correctional Centres under any circumstances. Videos brought into the centre are confined to G, PG, M and MA censorship categories. If in the opinion of the Manager, Offender Development, a movie classified MA has a degree of violence with which the officer is uncomfortable, or the movie displays prison violence, riots or a high degree of violence against civil authorities, the movie is not permitted to be shown.

A review of major incidents at the Townsville Correctional Centre has revealed no stabbing incidents in the last year. The most recent incident involving a knife at that correctional centre occurred in March 1998; well over a year ago. The officer wasn't stabbed or in any way injured on that occasion. There is clearly no evidence of three stabbing incidents in the last year as claimed in the honourable member's question. However, the safety of officers remains of paramount importance to prison authorities. Management continues to work with staff on workplace safety issues on a regular basis. Knives are numbered and prison officers are charged with issuing and then receipting the return of all prison knives.

511. Regional Forest Agreement

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (28/4/99)—

With reference to the Social Assessment Report prepared to support the RFA process which is seriously flawed, through poor methodology, the use of out-of-date statistics on wages and which ignores the dollar value of flow-on effects to dependant communities—

- (1) What steps will he take to ensure that any decision on this crucial matter is based on accurate information and a proper

understanding of the ramifications for Queensland communities?

- (2) Will he agree to re-open the assessment process to ensure that the true position is ascertained?

Mr WELFORD (27/5/99):

(1) The Social Assessment Report was based on four Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) reports. These four reports were commissioned during 1997 and completed in 1998. The project proposals were developed in consultation with stakeholders through the Social and Economic Technical Committee, with methodologies recognised as good practice in social assessment work. Recognised experts in the field of social assessment were employed in the completion of the projects, with the work supervised by social assessment professionals from both the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments. Projects included extensive surveying of forest industry participants across the region. Twelve detailed community case studies, involving community work shops and focus groups, were completed. The progress of the social assessment projects was regularly monitored by the Technical Committee, which included stakeholders, and draft reports were circulated to Reference Panel members for comment and review and further input before finalisation of the projects.

The release in March 1999 of both the Comprehensive Regional Assessment Report and the Social Assessment Report has allowed the general community to review the information contributing to the development of the RFA. The public consultation period to follow the release of the RFA Directions Report will allow for all interested parties to place before the two governments any additional information that may be relevant to the negotiation of an RFA for South-East Queensland.

(2) The target date for signing of a RFA is 30 June 1999. Re-opening any assessment would delay the negotiation and signing of any RFA. The Queensland Government does not support initiating further assessments at this point. The public consultation period to follow the release of the RFA Directions Report will allow interested parties to provide any information they consider relevant to the negotiation of a final RFA.

512. Pialba State School, Asbestos

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Education (28/4/99)—

With reference to an event on 1 April in which a hole was smashed in the asbestos roof above two classroom doors in the Pialba State Primary School to allow the installation of a plumbing vent pipe and hanging asbestos fibres were left unsealed as was the smashed hole and whereby smashed asbestos was left at the entrance to the two classrooms and was inadvertently trampled into both classrooms throughout the course of a school day—

- (1) Will he guarantee the health of students in the affected classrooms was not compromised as a result of these continued breaches in the requirements of the handling of asbestos?

- (2) Will he guarantee the teachers and their union that the teachers affected have not had their health compromised in these circumstances?
- (3) Will the Pialba State Primary School Parents and Citizens Association continue to be treated as fools and will their pleas for urgent additional maintenance funding continue to be treated as foolish whimpering requests of little consequence?
- (4) Will he agree to meet personally with the P&C to apologise for this harrowing set of circumstances the students and teachers are forced to endure?
- (5) Will he guarantee that there will be no further abuse of the regulations in regard to the handling of asbestos?
- (6) As in early March he was handed a copy of a detailed file describing the asbestos maintenance nightmare experienced at the Pialba State Primary School and as the P&C are frustrated in their commitment to carry out their duty of care to the students and teachers, will he accept the responsibility of this continuing farce and now make clear directions to end the situation by ordering the immediate replacement of the two asbestos roofs on the classrooms at the Pialba State Primary School?

Mr WELLS (26/5/99): I met with the member and representatives of the Parents and Citizens Association on site on Friday 14 May 1999 to discuss these matters and at that time confirmed that the asbestos roofs on N and S block would be replaced. Funding has been provided to replace asbestos awnings and roofs. These actions demonstrate the commitment of the government to providing a safe and healthy workplace at Pialba State School of substantial safety concerns at Pialba State School.

513. Milk Prices

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (28/4/99)—

- (1) How has the deregulation of the dairy industry reduced the price of milk in grocery stores in Queensland, as alluded to, as his Government embraced competition policy?
- (2) As the farm gate price per litre is 58.9 cents, ie. the price the farmer gets, will he explain, especially to the residents of Caboolture, why the price of two litres of milk can be \$1.99 at the Buy-Rite Grocery Store and yet be \$2.46 at Coles, Bi-lo and Franklins, whose buying power exceeds that of Buy-Rite and substantially reduces the cost from the factory to that store?
- (3) Will he explain why the cost rose immediately at the super stores, prior to Easter, when the factory price only took effect on 19 April?
- (4) Is this the cost factor to the public of his Government's total commitment to the National Competition Policy?

Mr BEATTIE (27/5/99):

- (1) I share the concern at the recent milk price increases. These increases were, however, not associated with National Competition Policy (NCP).

Following deregulation of post-farm-gate arrangements, milk processors and retailers are able to set prices for milk in much the same way as processors and retailers of any other product.

This Government has no controls over retail milk prices. This is the same situation in other Australian States.

I have expressed concerns at the actions of the existing milk processors regarding the price increases. However, the restrictions to new processors entering the market have now been removed, and a third processor plans to commence operations in Queensland this year following a significant infrastructure investment in new facilities. There are also other proposals by intending entrants, and overall, more competitive conditions can be expected in the future in the processing sector.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has jurisdiction over the behaviour of firms in the market place and my Government has supported the ACCC announcement that an inquiry be conducted regarding the circumstances surrounding the recent milk price rises. This is the proper forum for such investigation and will be closely monitored by this Government to ensure that the interests of consumers are not overlooked.

(2 & 3) These two questions essentially relate to individual commercial retail pricing decisions which are not under the control of this Government.

The ACCC remains the most appropriate forum for firms' pricing behaviours.

(4) While my Government recognises that competition can bring benefits to the community, we will continue to ensure that competition is not pursued for competition's sake and that a considered and pragmatic, case-by-case approach is taken to NCP.

514. Burtons Bridge, Borallon

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (28/4/99)—

With reference to Burtons Bridge on E Summervilles Road, Borallon crossing the Brisbane River which was severely damaged in the recent floods—

- (1) Has his department been approached by the Esk Shire Council for funding for a bridge replacement; if not, will he indicate if any assistance will be given to the Esk Shire Council for the replacement of this dangerous old wooden bridge?
- (2) Will he make approaches to the Main Roads Department on behalf of the Esk Shire Council for funding for replacement of this bridge?

Mr MACKENROTH (21/5/99):

(1) On 5 March 1999, my Department invited Esk Shire Council to submit an application for Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA) assistance towards the total estimated cost of restoring damaged public assets

resulting from the declared natural disaster event "South East Queensland Storms and Flooding February 1999". Council officers have advised my Department the cost of restoring Burtons Bridge will be included in its detailed application for NDRA assistance. The level of funding to be provided will be determined from the application which has not as yet been received by my Department.

(2) As it is expected that funding assistance will be provided under the NDRA, it is not intended to approach the Main Roads Department for funding for the replacement of this bridge.

515. Health Services in Rural Areas

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Health (28/4/99)—

With reference to the continuing rural health crisis—

What policies and funding initiatives has her department adopted to address problems in the following areas (a) the attracting of general practitioners to rural and remote communities, (b) the attracting of specialists to rural and regional areas from the south-east corner and (c) the training of nurses at rural hospitals?

Mrs EDMOND (28/5/99):

(a) The initiatives Queensland Health employ to attract general practitioners to rural Queensland include—

an increase in the number of locums in the Rural Coordination Units to provide additional relief for rural doctors providing public hospital services;

an increase in the Scholarship Fund from \$1.088 million to \$2.443 million and the introduction of four year scholarships to ensure longer bonded periods resulting in 30 medical scholarship holders graduating each year. Benefits include a living allowance of \$7,000 per academic year, a tertiary grant of \$3,500 and an annual travel allowance of \$500;

continuation of the Rural Medical Indemnity Scheme for rural private general practitioners. Medical indemnity assistance (i.e. a subsidy of up to \$3,500) is provided to private rural GPs who perform procedures such as obstetrics, anaesthetics and surgery, in certain towns where there is no specialist available to provide the required procedure/s. Indemnity cover is also extended to Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice for procedures performed on private patients in public hospitals or in their private rooms. This has assisted in maintaining the number of rural doctors performing procedures in both the public and private sectors. Since the establishment of this scheme there has been an increase in the number of doctors participating in the scheme. In the first year of operation there were 61 private GPs in the scheme and last financial year the grant was given to 71 GPs;

a review on accommodation for rural doctors is currently being conducted by Queensland

Health to upgrade accommodation to suitable standards;

an overseas recruitment drive by Slade Recruitment for Temporary Resident Doctors to work in Queensland's public hospitals. This has been a very successful recruitment campaign enabling doctors to fill most vacancies that have occurred, within the public hospital system, over a nine year period;

temporary Resident Doctors are also allowed to work in the private sector in areas of need under the "Ministers Area of Need Policy"; and

Queensland Health is forming innovative strategic partnerships with all levels of government and other stakeholders such as the Australian Medical Association Queensland, Medical Superintendents Association Queensland, Rural Doctors Association Queensland and the Rural Medical Workforce Support Agency in developing appropriate models of health care.

(b) Incentives to attract full-time specialists to remote Queensland include—

the specialist remuneration package advantages country specialists who receive an additional 45% of base salary compared to 35% for metropolitan specialists;

free accommodation (which is currently being upgraded) through the capital works program and private use of vehicles;

changes to the method of advertising vacant positions (e.g. highlighting the total remuneration package of approximately \$200,000 rather than the base salary of around \$100,000). These changes in particular have led to a decrease in the number of full-time specialist vacancies from 125 in June 1995 to only 32, which includes six newly created positions, as at the end of March 1999. It should also be noted that 27 new positions have been created since June 1998. The increase in the number of full-time specialist vacancies has enabled additional training positions. In fact, there has been 29 new training positions accredited and filled since April 1997. This increase is reflective of Queensland Health's good relationship with the specialist Colleges.

(c) The policy and funding initiatives adopted to address problems in the training of nurses at rural hospitals include—

the Enrolled Nurse Course in Medication Practice—616 nurses employed in rural areas are involved with this course. Queensland Health is paying the per capita cost of \$1,200 and supports participants to undertake the 20 hours clinical component during work time;

transition support funding of \$247,400 provided to 57 graduate nurses recruited to rural areas in 1999;

one scholarship up to the value of \$10,000 provided annually to a nurse working in a rural area;

four scholarships awarded to indigenous nursing students;

critical care in-service provided to nurses in rural hospitals by provincial hospitals at Townsville, Mackay, and Toowoomba;

a rural midwifery upskilling program conducted through a Commonwealth Rural Health Support Education Training Program (RHSET) Grant to Queensland Health. A total of \$708,000 is available for this program and it is estimated that 236 midwives working in rural hospitals will participate over two years;

a skills enhancement program provided to nurses working in rural hospital operating theatres by the Cunningham Centre at Toowoomba through a Commonwealth RHSET Grant of \$32,000;

50% funding of a nursing Chair in Rural Health based at Toowoomba at a cost of \$60,200 per annum;

a consideration of initiatives for rural nurses by the Ministerial Taskforce—Nursing Recruitment and Retention currently in progress.

516. Barambah Electorate, Meetings with Premier and Ministers

Mrs PRATT asked the Premier (28/4/99)—

- (1) How many requests for meetings and/or visits from the Mayors and other representative bodies from the Barambah Electorate has he and other Ministers received?
- (2) How many of these requests for meetings and/or visits were granted to those Mayors or representative bodies (a) in the electorate and (b) in his office or other?
- (3) When and where were they held?

Mr BEATTIE (28/5/99):

1. I have received 11 requests for meetings and/or visits from mayors or representative bodies in the Barambah electorate. I have also received hundreds of invitations from mayors and representative bodies in Queensland's 88 other electorates. It is impossible to accept all of these invitations. If the Honourable Member requires information about requests for meetings made to Ministers, then the Member should contact the Ministers individually.

2. I have made time to meet mayors or representative bodies in the Barambah electorate on three occasions and also made time for a visit.

3. My Government's Community Cabinet meetings, held on a Sunday and Monday throughout Queensland, create opportunities for many people in regional Queensland to meet Cabinet Ministers. Two of the meetings were held at Community Cabinet meetings—in Toowoomba and Bundaberg.

4. One meeting was held in my offices at Parliament House on 11 November 1998.

On Saturday, April 10, I committed the entire afternoon to a visit to Kilkivan to officially open the Kilkivan Great horse Ride. Many local mayors were present for this function and I made a point of making

myself available to all of them for a considerable period. I thank them for their hospitality and look forward to our next meeting.

517. Queensland Health, Vehicles

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (28/4/99)—

How many cars does Queensland Health own and/or lease on behalf of employees?

Mrs EDMOND (28/5/99): Queensland Health currently has 926 cars on lease from Q-Fleet that are allocated to officers with an entitlement to privately use the vehicle. These vehicles are allocated to the following groups of officers—

23 cars are leased for Senior Executive Service officers located in Corporate Office

43 cars are leased for District Executive Service officers. Six of these are in Statewide Health Services and 37 are in District Health Services

860 cars are allocated to senior medical staff in Health Service Districts.

As at 30 June 1998, there were a total of 895 cars on lease from Q-Fleet that were allocated to officers with an entitlement to privately use the vehicle. These vehicles were allocated to the following groups of officers:-

23 cars leased for Senior Executive Service officers located in Corporate Office

42 cars leased for District Executive Service officers. Six of these are in Statewide Health Services and 36 are in District Health Services

830 cars allocated to senior medical staff in Health Service Districts.

518. Rocky Ponds Area, Permits to Occupy Huts

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (28/4/99)—

With reference to the cancellation of permits to occupy huts at the Rocky Ponds fishing area in the Burdekin Electorate—

- (1) On what grounds does he justify these cancellations when these huts have been used by generation after generation and have existed for decades?
- (2) Why has this area suddenly become an issue of grave environmental concern and where is the overwhelming evidence that suggests the existence of such permits has had an adverse impact on conserving the natural values of the land?

Mr WELFORD (27/5/99):

(1) While it is acknowledged that these huts have existed for a considerable time they have never been issued with any form of tenure. They have therefore been unauthorised structural improvements on what was a "grazing only" tenure of Occupational Licence.

As the area has now been recognised as having some unique environmental values both my Department of Natural Resources and my Environmental Protection Agency prefer that the area be properly protected.

Accordingly the Occupational Licence has been cancelled and a reserve for "environmental purposes" under the trusteeship of my Environmental Protection Agency will be issued. The unauthorised huts and their usage may not be compatible with this tenure and their future will be determined by my Environmental Protection Agency once they take up its role as trustee.

(2) The use of this area was recognised as being of environmental concern following the release of a report compiled by my Environmental Protection Agency on 26 September 1994.

The report stated that there were five vegetation types on the Occupational Licence, some of which were unique to that part of the coast. They were open beach scrub, low vine thicket on rocky headland, low open forest of *melaleuca viridiflora* and other species, mangroves and salt flats and grasslands.

The report also indicated that the Occupational Licence has low lying wet lands and erosion prone areas which should be protected by the State.

519. Rockhampton, Speech Therapy Services

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health (28/4/99)—

How many clients are waiting for speech therapy services at Rockhampton Hospital and the community health centre?

Mrs EDMOND (28/5/99): Clients referred to the Rockhampton Hospital for Speech Pathology services are given an appointment for assessment within a few weeks of referral. Following assessment an appropriate therapy program is offered.

There is no waiting list for clients referred to the Rockhampton Community Health Centre for Speech Pathology services. All clients referred are contacted immediately to arrange an assessment. Clients are offered ongoing services based on individual need.

520. Labour Adjustment Fund

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

Does his response to Question on Notice No. 169, which refers to the failure of the Government to put in place one of its most significant pre-election promises indicate that (a) this fund will appear in the forthcoming State Budget for 1999-2000 and (b) the fund will be introduced some time before the end of December 2000?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): I am not in a position to pre-empt the State Budget for 1999/2000.

521. Labour Market Regulation

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his press release of 27 November 1998 in which he states: "Published research by independent observers confirms that replacing external regulation, such as awards, with internal regulatory control by management is likely to increase inefficiency and inequality in the labour market. On the other hand, external forms of regulation promote international competitiveness as well as equity."—

Who are the authors and what are the titles and publication dates of each item of published research referred to?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

OECD Employment Outlook July 1997

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 1997

Efficiency and equity at work: the need for labour market regulation in Australia/Buchanan-John and Callus-Ron (Journal of Industrial Relations, v.35, no.4, Dec 1993: 515-537).

World Labour Report 1997-98 Industrial Relations, Democracy and Social Stability/International Labour Office (Geneva: International Labour Office, 1984).

Changes at work: the 1995 Australian Workplace Industrial Relations Survey: a summary of the major findings/Alison Morehead ... [et al.] (Canberra: AGPS [for] Dept. of Workplace Relations and Small Business, 1997)

What does enterprise bargaining mean for gender equity? Some empirical evidence/Boreham-Paul; and others (Labour & Industry, v.7, no.1, June 1996: 51-68).

Enterprise bargaining and the transformation of Australian industrial relations/Callus-Ron (Asia Pacific journal of human resources vol 35 no 2 1997 pp16-25).

Enterprise bargaining and women workers: the seven perils of flexibility/Charlesworth-Sara (Labour & Industry, v.8, no.2, Dec 1997: 101-115).

522. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Staffing

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

During the first nine months of his administration, from 1 July 1998 to 1 April, what has been the net increase or decrease in the number of (a) full-time, permanent departmental staff, (b) part-time departmental staff, (c) contract staff and (d) casual staff?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): The Department is implementing a new human resource management system. When fully implemented the information requested will be provided. (See also p.6367)

523. TAFE

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 265—

- (1) Will he now indicate, for each Institute and for each category of staff, the number of permanent full-time staff who left TAFE in the same period?
- (2) As the figures he has provided for Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE (SQIT) vary significantly from the 24 teachers, 4 tutors and 32 staff (other than trainees and those on higher duties) indicated in SQIT's March Newsletter as new appointments, does this variation indicate that the additional appointees on the SQIT list are part-time or casual appointments, rather than permanent, full-time?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): See also p.6367)

- (1) The Department is implementing a new human resource management system. When fully implemented the information requested will be provided.
- (2) The SQIT newsletter reported on all movements of employees who are temporary, casual, permanent and who are both part-time and full-time.

524. Employment Task Force

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

- (1) What is the date on which the Employment Taskforce within his department first commenced operations?
- (2) Why were positions within the taskforce not gazetted until April?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

- (1) 1 July 1998.
- (2) The Employment Taskforce was created to establish policies, guidelines and operational procedures to implement the Government's employment policies. It was not until early January, when all programs became fully operational, that the staffing requirements to maintain and administer these programs were identified. In early January approval was given to permanently fill these positions. An ongoing process of creating Position Descriptions and evaluating these positions has occurred, with the final Gazetting of these jobs in April 1999.

525. Coorparoo TAFE Campus

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No.27—

- (1) Will he table a copy of all documents prepared for, distributed to, prepared by or distributed by the reference group?

- (2) Will he indicate for the period October 1998-April 1999 (a) the number and category of staff relocated from the Coorparoo Campus, (b) the number and category of staff relocated to the Coorparoo Campus, (c) the names of all TAFE programs relocated from the Coorparoo Campus and (d) the names of all TAFE programs operated at the Coorparoo Campus?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

- (1) The reference group does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities.
- (2) (a) 13 teachers; 2 tutors; 3 administration officers; 2 cleaners; 1 kitchen hand; 1 stores person
- (2) (b) No staff were relocated to the Coorparoo Campus.
- (2) (c) Certificate in Small Business Catering (part time); Associate Diploma in Business (Catering); Cooperative Programs (with state and private secondary schools); Community Literacy for people with a disability with high support needs; Work Access for people with a disability with low to moderate support needs; Certificate in Vocational Access.
- (2) (d) The programs listed above in 2(c) were offered at the Coorparoo Campus until the end of December 1998.

526. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 183—

- (1) To which document is he referring when he states it is a draft document and is wrong?
- (2) Doesn't he mean both documents contain wrong information?
- (3) Isn't it of concern to him that he is being provided with briefing papers that contain incorrect information?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

- (1) Both documents were draft documents. The draft copy of ET 9 contained the incorrect information.
- (2) The information contained in ET 15 is correct.
- (3) It would be of grave concern to me if I was provided with incorrect information, however, I was not provided with either document. Departmental processes ensured that the final information provided to me in ET 9 was correct.

527. Bannikoff Report

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 179 part 1(b) in which he indicated that no detailed costs were kept in relation to postage incurred in distributing the Bannikoff Report and as from the number of recipients on the mailing list, knowledge of the number of copies distributed and the weight per

copy, it should be easy to calculate a fairly accurate estimate—

What is that estimate?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): No estimates are available as no central point of distribution was established.

528. Industry Task Forces

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 178—

Will he indicate those different circumstances and strategies pertaining to (a) engineering, (b) tourism, (c) hospitality and (d) furnishing which prevent him establishing task forces to address skill shortages in those industries, as he has in the building and construction industry?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): The need for taskforces in any industry sector other than Building and Construction has not yet been established.

529. TAFE

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No.188—

- (1) In answering this question, has he interpreted 'won' as meaning 'provided to'?
- (2) Has he included in the figures, moneys finally paid to TAFE and non-TAFE providers for user choice or other contracts won and fully delivered in 1998?
- (3) Is he aware that amounts for TAFE and non-TAFE providers indicated for January 1998 (\$9,139,146 and \$15,181,964) add up to a total of \$24,321,110 and not \$26,008,894 as indicated?
- (4) In the absence of simple addition skills, what faith can be placed in the accuracy with which each amount and each percentage shown in his response has been calculated?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

(1) In answering the original question the figures provided reflect the value of contracts awarded under the Competitive Purchasing Program and User Choice in the months of January and February. In relation to user choice, the dollar amount reflects the nominal contract value for delivery in the respective year, whereas the contracts awarded under the Competitive Purchasing Program reflect the actual value of contracts awarded following competitive tendering processes.

(2) The figures reflect the dollar value of contracts awarded, not the payments made within the months of January and February.

(3) I acknowledge that an error was made by the department in totalling the figures for January 1998.

Upon correction the percentage figures for contracts awarded is 38% of the total to TAFE and 62% of the total to non-TAFE providers.

(4) The department advises that the error is simply that and does not reflect any flaw in the overall results or the process for reporting them.

530. TAFE

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 742—

- (1) Will he table the page(s) of the Ministerial Program Statement for 1997-98 and the pages of the Ministerial Program Statement for 1998-99 from which he obtained the information that TAFE institutes "lost \$31m as a result of the haste to introduce user choice and competitively funded training"?
- (2) Will he table the "further information" which was made available to Mr Bannikoff, enabling him to increase the allegedly lost amount by a further \$3m to achieve a total of \$34m.
- (3) Will he answer part 2(b) of the original question (if a breakdown on an institute-by-institute basis is not available, the total figure will suffice)?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

(1) The information about the \$31m lost to TAFE is to be found on page 10 of the 1998-99 Ministerial Program Statement (MPS).

(2) At the time that the 1998-99 MPS was prepared, the status of the contestable funding program was as follows:

User Choice

TAFE	\$39.1m	55.9%
Other providers	\$30.85m	44.1%

TAFE lost \$30.85m of User Choice training funding.

Competitive Tendering

TAFE	\$20.1m	60.5%
Other providers	\$13.1m	39.5%

TAFE lost \$13.1m of Competitively Tendered training funding.

The amount of \$34m lost to TAFE may be a typographical error in the Report on the TAFE Review as the above calculations indicate the amount lost was approximately \$43m.

(3) Neither Question on Notice No. 742 nor Estimates Committee F Government Question on Notice No. 10 contains a part 2(b).

531. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Grants to Unions

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

Will he give an undertaking to provide within a fortnight of the end of this financial year a complete

list of grants, in-kind support (costed), projects (costed) made available to various unions, union-supported agencies and the ACTU by his department during this financial year (in-kind support would include items such as access to the Government's phone network, salaries of departmental staff seconded to undertake union duties or projects, departmental full or part subsidisation of salary costs of union staff, etc)?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): I will be pleased to provide a response to this question as close to the end of the 1998-99 financial year as possible. (See also p.6367)

532. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No.183 and 170, in which he indicated that the document, Employment Task Force Brief, obtained under FOI is a draft copy and is wrong—

- (1) Why was a draft copy provided through FOI when the final copy would have been available?
- (2) Will he provide the final copy of that brief?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

(1) The Member for Clayfield applied for total access to all briefing notes (including access to all source documents) that were prepared for my use for the 1998 Estimates Committee Hearings. Although the two documents in question were not final briefings to me, they appeared to come within the scope of the Member's application.

(2) A final copy of ET 9 was provided to the Member for Clayfield. ET 15 did not form part of the briefing material to me so a final copy of this brief does not exist.

533. Caloundra, Rail Corridor

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (28/4/99)—

- (1) In view of the ever-changing statements being made by himself and CAMCOS on the mode of public transport planned for Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast corridor, will he give a clearer planning timetable for the following in respect of his preferred public transport corridor for Caloundra (a) light rail services, (b) Brisbane type suburban trains, (c) heavy rail, (d) tilt trains and (e) freight services?
- (2) Will planned gradients on the route accommodate or be able to be modified to accommodate freight trains?
- (3) If he still maintains that freight services are not planned for the route, what assurances will he give that planning or design changes will not be incorporated to allow future freight services?

Mr BREDHAUER (28/5/99):

(1) My statements and those of CAMCOS have been consistent. CAMCOS has been investigating the feasibility of a heavy rail line, as rail has the most

stringent planning requirement, but other public transport modes have always been considered. No decision has been made at this time about the preferred transport mode nor about the likely staging of services. A recommendation will be made at the completion of the study in the final report

(2) All engineering planning work is being undertaken on the basis of a maximum grade of 2%. The inclusion of 2% grades would effectively exclude the operation of freight trains along this corridor, which requires a maximum grade of 1%.

(3) The Integrated Regional Transport Plan and the brief for CAMCOS calls for the investigation of passenger rail services on a new corridor. The possible introduction of freight trains in this corridor has only been raised by community groups generally opposed to the new corridor in their area. I have never supported the operation of freight trains in this corridor and no such option is being investigated by CAMCOS.

534. TAFE Queensland

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

Will he table those original departmental source documents on which he relied when making the assertions (a) that TAFE Queensland had two outstanding loans which related to voluntary early retirement (VER) commitments and (b) that these two loans totalled in excess of \$30m?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): No. The statement was based on Treasury advice. The inadequate record keeping practices of the Borbidge Administration has meant that no departmental source documents are available on this issue. However, my department briefed me on this matter when I assumed responsibility for the portfolio after the 1998 State election.

535. TAFE

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

- (1) What was the gross value and comparative percentage of contestable funds won by the TAFE through user-choice and other contacts awarded in each of the months of January, February and March 1998?
- (2) What are the figures for the months of January, February and March 1999?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

(1) The total value of contestable funds contracted to TAFE in the months of January, February and March 1998 was \$19,109,957. This is compared to the percentage of the total contract value awarded to non-TAFE providers in the same period.

January 1998: Total awarded TAFE—\$9,139,146; Total awarded non-TAFE—\$15,181,964; Total—\$24,321,110; % of total to TAFE—38%; % of total to non-TAFE—62%

February 1998: Total awarded TAFE—\$3,403,256; Total awarded non-TAFE—\$4,592,026; Total—\$7,995,282; % of total to TAFE—43%; % of total to non-TAFE—57%

March 1998: Total awarded TAFE—\$6,567,555; Total awarded non-TAFE—\$4,482,045; Total—\$11,049,600; % of total to TAFE—59%; % of total to non-TAFE—41%

(2) The total value of contestable funds contracted to TAFE in the months of January, February and March 1999 was \$51,052,935. This is compared to the percentage of the total contract value awarded to non-TAFE providers in the same period.

January 1999: Total awarded TAFE—\$34,778,270; Total awarded non-TAFE—\$13,341,740; Total—\$48,120,010; % of total to TAFE—72%; % of total to non-TAFE—28%

February 1999: Total awarded TAFE—\$13,439,015; Total awarded non-TAFE—\$4,136,105; Total—\$17,575,120; % of total to TAFE—76%; % of total to non-TAFE—24%

March 1999: Total awarded TAFE—\$2,835,650; Total awarded non-TAFE—\$1,058,847; Total—\$3,894,497; % of total to TAFE—73%; % of total to non-TAFE—27%

The majority of TAFE User Choice contracts were not awarded in the first quarter of 1998, as was the case in the first quarter of 1999.

536. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his media statement of 20 April 1999 titled "Beattie Government Initiatives Boost FNQ Jobs Growth"—

- (1) How many of the 41 traineeships and 9 apprenticeships to be offered by local councils were filled by 1 May?
- (2) How many of the 119 traineeships and 2 apprenticeships to be offered by State Government departments were filled by 1 May?
- (3) What was the total number of (a) trainees and (b) apprentices employed at 30 September 1998 by the 100 employers and group training companies he mentions?
- (4) What was the total number of (a) trainees and (b) apprentices employed by those same 100 employers and group training companies at 20 April 1999?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

- (1) 19 traineeships and 5 apprenticeships.
- (2) 68 traineeships and 5 apprenticeships.
- (3) (a) 56 trainees and (b) 655 apprentices.
- (4) (a) 116 trainees and (b) 793 apprentices.

537. Apprentices and Trainees

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to the Government's choice to use as its base-line, for purposes of calculating additional numbers of private sector apprentices and trainees resulting from his employment initiatives, the numbers employed at 30 September 1998—

How will he index that base figure to take account of increases occurring as a consequence of economic growth factors that are totally divorced from the Government's subsidies and incentives?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): It is not intended to index the base figure to growth.

538. TAFE

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

During the first nine months of his administration, from 1 July 1998 to 1 April 1999, what has been the net increase or decrease in the number of TAFE staff in each of the following categories and sub-categories (a) teachers (i) full-time, permanent, (ii) on contract, fixed term, (iii) part-time and (iv) casual, (b) tutors, (i) full-time, permanent, (ii) on contract, fixed term, (iii) part-time and (iv) casual, (c) administration, (i) full-time, permanent, (ii) on contract, fixed term, (iii) part-time and (iv) casual and (d) ancillary and support, (i) full-time, permanent, (ii) on contract, fixed term, (iii) part-time and (iv) casual?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): The Department is implementing a new human resource management system. When fully implemented the information requested will be provided. (See also p.6367)

539. Salination Research

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (28/4/99)—

With reference to preventive and remedial measures for salinisation and to the following—

In 1996 Queensland had an estimated 10,000 hectares of salt affected land and an area of 74,000 hectares which could become saline unless correct management measures are put in place rapidly.

A 1997 study has shown that the required land management changes are not occurring because there is market failure, institutional failure and technical failure (Hayes, Greg (1997), LWRRDC, Occasional Paper No 16/97.

The market is failing because land managers are not receiving sufficient incentives to change their practices and the impact of the changed water balance is not generally experienced by those responsible and prophylactic action will not benefit them, however, without a change in land use, the national cost of dryland salinity will continue to increase.

Institutional failures include the failure to establish a national approach, poorly developed linkages

between States and Federal agencies and within States, the lack of integrated implementation of resource management policies, neglect of rural change and a failure to consider alternative policy instruments.

The major technical failure is insufficient knowledge and decision making information. The National Dryland Salinity Program Management Plan is a response to this situation. It targets the development of understanding of work by other programs such as the Salinity Action Plan in Western Australia, Salt Action in New South Wales and Victoria and Bushcare and Landcare, which are components of the National Heritage Trust.

The market, institutional and technical impediments must be addressed by farmer organisations and by State and Federal Governments, but with the Canberra based push for economic rationalism, the majority of our farmers are struggling to become more efficient and to survive. Whilst going through their adjustment to a free market economy, are they also expected to foot the bill for the necessary research and development and the integrated resource management necessary, or is this a Government responsibility, surely, a responsible Government has to lead the way in incentive funding, research, extension, co-ordination and co-operation—

- (1) What related research and development is taking place in Queensland, who is doing it and who is funding it?
- (2) What market incentives are being provided or will this Government provide to facilitate the integrated implementation of resource management on a broad scale and further what incentives will be provided to the individual implementing farmers?
- (3) What linkages will the Government provide to overcome the institutional failure identified in the LWRRDC paper?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/5/99): I have to inform the Honourable Member for Maryborough that responsibility for salination research in Queensland rests with the Hon, Minister for Environment and Minister for Natural resources, and advise him to so direct his question.

I can inform the Honourable Member, however, that DPI field staff are always on the lookout for land degradation problems and work closely with their DNR colleagues to find solutions.

540. WorkCover Queensland, Staffing

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to the union representing WorkCover employees which has confirmed that there has been an 18 per cent reduction in the total number of WorkCover staff over the past six months and that this has included staff reductions in Dalby, Gympie and Mt Isa—

- (1) What will be the anticipated number and classification of WorkCover staff by December 1999?

- (2) What is the anticipated number and classification of WorkCover staff by December 1999 in each regional centre?
- (3) What is the number and classification level of staff who have left each of the three regional offices listed above and all other WorkCover offices since 1 July 1998?
- (4) Will he detail all other regional WorkCover offices where WorkCover plans to shed staff between now and December and the number and classification of staff which are to be shed in each of the regional WorkCover offices?
- (5) What is the number and classification level of all staff who have left WorkCover via the VER process and via natural attrition since 1 July 1998?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): WorkCover Queensland has advised me that the answers to the questions are as follows:

(1) The anticipated number of equivalent full time staff is 800. The classification of WorkCover staff will be determined as implementation of the Futuris project progresses.

(2) The anticipated number of equivalent full time staff by December 1999 in regions outside the Brisbane metropolitan area are as follows:

Bowen—2; Bundaberg—4; Cairns—23;
 Dalby—2; Emerald—4; Gladstone—4;
 Gympie—2; Kingaroy—2; Mackay—18;
 Maryborough—25; Mt Isa—2; Nambour—6;
 Palm Beach—5; Rockhampton—28; Roma—2;
 Southport—30; Toowoomba—32;
 Townsville—27; Warwick—2

(3) Separations of permanent and sessional employees from 1 July 1998 to 30 April 1999 are as follows:

Dalby—Nil; Gympie—2; Mt Isa—1; Other WorkCover—163

Classification information is not readily available.

(4) WorkCover does not plan any further reductions in the number of equivalent full time staff by December 1999.

(5) 74 employees holding the following classification levels had separated by VER between 1 July 1998 and 30 April 1999:

AO2—13; AO3—7; AO4—6; AO5—9; AO6—3;
 AO7—5; PO2—9; PO3—3; PO4—4; Medical Officer—5; Nursing Sister—2; Non Award employees—4; Rehabilitation Case Manager—4

92 permanent employees separated through natural attrition.

Classification information not readily available.

541. Springfield, TAFE Campus

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his media release of 31 March concerning the establishment of a TAFE campus at Springfield—

Will he provide appropriate documentation which indicates (a) the first mention of this project on the department's 1998-99 Capital Works plan, together with subsequent planning documentation, (b) the "partnership deal struck between the Bremer Institute of TAFE and Mission Employment", (c) leasing costs and other financial arrangements and (d) the number of permanent TAFE managerial, administrative and teaching staff who will be based at the campus?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

(a) The building is not on the Capital Works plan as it is owned by the Springfield Land Corporation.

(b) There is no formal partnership between The Bremer Institute of TAFE and Mission Employment. The two organisations have an informal alliance where enrolled students may be registered for employment assistance.

(c) I am unable to release this document as it contains commercially sensitive material. However I can advise that an agreement has been made to lease the space upon completion of the building at a cost of \$220 per square per annum which is expected to incur \$80,000 a year in rental.

(d) It is unknown at this time how many staff will be based at Springfield as this will be determined in line with the training programs to be delivered at the Campus.

542. Professor Viviani

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 184 (2) (28/4/99)—

Precisely what experience of the TAFE project team enabled the Director-General to belatedly sign an uncapped consultancy agreement with Professor Viviani for \$1,000 per day, secure in his belief that the uncapped consultancy fee would not exceed \$16,000?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): Almost a 100 years of combined experience of the TAFE project team in vocational education and training enabled the Director-General to sign the consultancy agreement with Professor Viviani.

543. Coorparoo TAFE Campus

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to the Coorparoo TAFE Campus and Queen Alexandra Home—

(1) Was the meeting at the office of local Member Mr Gary Fenlon, 10-11am, 20 August, 1998, to discuss the future of the campus; if so, what was the determination of the meeting in relation to the future of the campus?

(2) If the meeting was rather to determine "the future location of the programs and staff who were physically located at the campus during this time", was it appropriate for the local

Member and a member of the Minister's staff to be involved in such a meeting, determining such operational TAFE issues?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

- (1) The meeting was to confirm the Institute's intention to relocate programs and staff from the Coorparoo site as at 1 January 1999.
- (2) It was not the Institute's intention to make any determination at this meeting. No member of the Minister's personal staff other than the departmental liaison officer was involved in this meeting.

544. Coorparoo TAFE Campus

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 27—

- (1) Why does he indicate in part (2) of his response that senior managers of Southbank were not at the Coorparoo Campus to outline the future of the campus when his weekly briefing document "Matters for the Ministers Attention" clearly States, "Southbank Institute of TAFE—Coorparoo Campus, Director Rachel Hunter and Deputy Director Rob Setter will address Coorparoo Campus staff on Tuesday 27 October 1998 outlining the future of the Coorparoo Campus site and addressing issues raised by staff" and in addition, both officers' diary notes for 27 October obtained through Freedom of Information indicate "Future of Coorparoo Campus" as the topic of their 3-4pm meeting at the campus?
- (2) Was the local Member or any member of his Ministerial staff at that meeting?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

(1) The primary purpose of the meeting with Coorparoo Campus staff on Tuesday 27 October 1998 was to provide staff with advice on the future location of the programs that were operating from Coorparoo Campus and therefore the future location of their roles within the SouthBank Institute of TAFE. During this meeting, the Director and Deputy Director advised staff that the future use of the Coorparoo site was yet to be determined.

(2) I am advised that neither the local member nor any member of my personal staff attended this meeting.

545. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to the following important caution which has been repeated to him several times in his weekly document "Matters for the Minister's Attention"—

"Where industry groupings are shown, the statistics are created using Australian Standard Classification of Occupation (ASCO) codes.

During the period 1993—1998 these codes have undergone at least 2 separate major reviews (last in September 1997). As a result, an exact comparison of the attached statistics by industry over the requested periods may not be an accurate match. In addition the introduction of a number of new traineeships since 1994 and the introduction of New Apprenticeships/Training Packages from January 1998 has meant that the historical distinctions between a number of traineeships and apprenticeships is no longer clearly defined. For these reasons it is best when comparing year to date statistics to only consider the total figure"—

Why is he consistently ignoring this advice by promulgating traineeship and apprenticeship figures that are probably not comparing like with like?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): The approach taken uses a nationally agreed methodology which has been used by all State and Commonwealth Ministers over recent years.

546. Construction Industry, Cement Packaging Costs

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 565 and Question on Notice No. 32 relating to his un-costed pre-election promise to the Builders Labourers Federation—

By what date does he anticipate being able to answer both parts of both the above questions?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): The Workplace Health and Safety Board has now completed a major part of the regulatory review of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations. The issue of the abolition of 40kg bags of cement is on the agenda for the next Board meeting to be held on 25 May 1999.

In the interest of proper consultation and the processes under the Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995, I await the findings of the Board and am unable, at this stage, to say when this will be.

547. Bannikoff Report

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to source documents provided to the Bannikoff review which indicate the following numbers of delivery and non-delivery staff in TAFE—

1996-97: Delivery—3102; Non-delivery—3036;
Document ID—14.10.98 TAFE Qld Cover Sheet 4

1997-98: Delivery—3057; Non-delivery—3112;
Document ID—14.10.98 TAFE Qld Cover Sheet 4

Delivery—3057; Non-delivery—3112;
Document ID—5.10.98 TAFE Qld Data Sheet 2

Delivery—2615; Non-delivery—3038;
Document ID—14.10.98 TAFE Qld
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1998-99: Delivery—2640; Non-delivery—2981;
Document ID—14.10.98 TAFE Qld Cover
Sheet 4

Delivery—2667; 2956; Document
ID—5.10.98 TAFE Qld Data Sheet 2 22

and in light of the numbers of non-delivery staff indicated in these documents—

Does he not believe that the Bannikoff Report was deliberately wrong in its claim that the number of public servants employed in institutes increased by 313 in the two years to July 1998?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): The Bannikoff Report is not wrong. According to data from the Human Resource Management System database, the total number of public servants employed by TAFE Institutes at 1 July 1996 was 1712, compared to 2025.37 public servants at 1 July 1998.

548. Oxford Park TAFE Campus

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

- (1) Has the Member for Everton, Mr Welford, sent him any form of written communication(s) concerning the Oxford Park TAFE Campus; if so, will he table all such communication and his response(s)?
- (2) What TAFE rural training programs have been conducted at this campus during semester 1 of this year?
- (3) What TAFE rural training programs are planned for this campus in semester 2?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99):

- (1) No.
- (2) Certificate II in Agriculture (Beef Cattle) (full time course), Certificate II in Agriculture (Beef Cattle) (part time) Ferny Grove State High School (full day each Wednesday), Tractor/Machinery Operation Competencies Ferny Grove State High School.
- (3) TAFE intends to offer Certificate II in Agriculture (Beef Cattle) on a full time and part time basis as listed above.

549. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to the list of industries and occupations provided in the attachment to the answer to Question on Notice No. 166 which does not correspond with the list of industries and occupations endorsed by the Government's Jobs Policy Council on 23 September and specified in the question—

Will he retract this irrelevant document and answer Question 166(a) as specified?

Mr BRADY (28/5/99): I will not retract the document as it gives a relevant answer to Question 166 (a).

550. Owanyilla Bridge-Mungar, Rail Line

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (29/4/99)—

- (1) Are there any proposals to upgrade the railway line between the Owanyilla Bridge and the Mungar township?
- (2) Are there any plans to realign the railway line at this location; if so, will he provide full details, including map, of the proposed amendments to this section of railway line?

Mr BREDHAUER (31/5/99):

- (1) There are no current proposals for further upgrading of this section.
- (2) Improving this alignment has been identified in the long term strategic planning of Queensland Rail's network, but no plans for a new alignment have yet been prepared.

The timing of the construction of a new alignment and/or a new bridge would be dependent on the availability of funds and an evaluation of the benefits to be gained.

551. Prostitution in Brunswick Street, New Farm

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the commitment given by the Premier, in answer to a question by the Honourable Member for Bulimba on 29 April and to a meeting on 27 April with a concerned resident of the area, Mr Sam Tornatore at which it was shown and was clearly evident, that street prostitution in this area has not missed a beat since the two highlighted police operations on 25-26 March and 29 March-2 April and as this resident, and other equally concerned residents of this area have asked for a consistent police presence targeting this offence be established to drive this activity out of their residential area and in light of the risks raised in relation to drug needles located in the streets, school yards and residential yards of this area—

- (1) What strategies have been put in place by the Queensland Police Service, to drive street prostitution from the Brunswick Street, New Farm residential area?
- (2) What reassurances will he give these residents that this activity will be the target of continued ongoing police action?

Mr BARTON (31/5/99): With the full support of this government, the Queensland Police Service continues to target offences associated with prostitution. In particular, police from the Metropolitan North Region target offences relating to street prostitution in the New Farm area on a regular basis with proactive enforcement by officers from the Fortitude Valley Division and the Metropolitan

North Region Prostitution Squad and other police drawn from across the region as needed.

The enforcement of prostitution laws has resulted in the detection of numerous offences in recent times. This has included offences committed by both prostitutes and their clients and has also included offences other than just prostitution offences.

On 25 and 26 March 1999 police attached to the Fortitude Valley Division and Metropolitan North Region Prostitution Unit conducted Operation 'Ambush' targeting street prostitution in the Fortitude Valley Division.

From 29 March to 2 April 1999 a team of officers drawn from across Metropolitan North Region conducted Operation 'Taper' which also targeted street prostitution in the Fortitude Valley Division.

As a result of the two operations 233 persons were charged with 308 offences. This included 186 clients and 24 street prostitutes charged with publicly soliciting for prostitution.

Police actions in the area of the operations included random breath testing activities and a number of other charges were also preferred against persons, with outcomes including—

- 6 charges of supply heroin;
- 3 charges of supply cannabis;
- 5 charges of possess heroin;
- 3 charges of possess cannabis;
- 3 charges of unlawful use of a motor vehicle;
- 2 charges of state false name;
- 1 charge of possession of drug utensils;
- 1 charge of disorderly conduct;
- 60 warrants of commitment satisfied to a total value of \$23,385.00;
- 7 persons arrested on outstanding mesne warrants;
- 300 random breath tests performed.

Since Operation Taper police in the Metropolitan North Region have charged a number of persons for publicly soliciting for the purpose of prostitution in Fortitude Valley Division.

These figures should not be seen as the result of one-off actions by police. In the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, for the whole of Queensland, 415 prostitution charges were laid. Of these, 303 were in Metropolitan North Region, and 238 of these were for publicly soliciting for prostitution. This demonstrates the commitment which exists in the Metropolitan North Region to address this particular policing issue.

The residents of New Farm can be assured that police from Metropolitan North Region will continue to address offences associated with street prostitution in Fortitude Valley.

552. Tarong Power Station

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Tarong Power Station—

- (1) Is the coal fired extension going to progress; if so, what is the commencement date?
- (2) Is the gas fired extension still under consideration; if so, what is the commencement date?
- (3) Has Tarong Energy purchased an alternative coal source to that of Tarong Coal; if so, what are the implications for Tarong Coal and its employees?
- (4) Have all the departments approved this project?

Mr McGRADY (31/5/99): In response to the specific question made by Mrs Pratt, I can advise as follows:

(1) Following completion of a feasibility study, an approvals process involving the Tarong Energy Board, the Shareholding Ministers and other relevant authorities has been initiated. Shareholding Ministers are currently considering the project proposal.

The commissioning date for the new plant is contingent upon endorsement by Shareholding Ministers following resolution of any significant issues identified during the proposal review. Tarong Energy is currently targeting plant commencement in mid 2002.

(2) The gas fired extension option is no longer under consideration.

(3) Tarong Energy is currently examining options for future coal supplies for the Tarong Power Station including the proposed Tarong North Extension. Tarong Energy has purchased a coal deposit in the Chinchilla area as one option while continuing commercial negotiations with Pacific Coal Pty Ltd. Any impact on the Pacific Coal workforce will depend on the commercial negotiations about the amount and price of coal to be sourced from the Meandu mine for the Tarong Power Station and the proposed extension.

(4) No. The Shareholding Minister's Departments are currently reviewing the detailed project proposal.

553. Klondyke Coal Mine, Ipswich

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (29/4/99)—

With reference to the old coal mines at North Ipswich, in particular the Raymonds Hill area—

- (1) Is he aware of the burning of old coal tailings from the closed Klondyke mine; if so what action is he taking to stop this air pollution within the suburb of North Ipswich and Brassall?
- (2) Is he aware of the serious dangers, such as asthma and breathing problems, to children from St Joseph's Catholic School on Pine Mountain Road, North Ipswich, playing in this area?

Mr WELFORD (27/5/99): There are no records of complaints regarding the Klondyke mine site recorded in the Environmental Protection Agency's

complaint databases, and the Agency is not aware of the burning at the disused Klondyke mine site.

Officers from the Agency have subsequently sought advice from the Department of Mines and Energy (DME). DME is aware of the problem which is apparently caused by spontaneous combustion of coarse coal rejects from a coal wash plant at the site.

To assist in alleviating the situation, some material was removed from the site and sold by an external contractor. Further to this, I am advised there has been a proposal by Ipswich City Council to remediate the site, with funding to be provided by DME. This is currently in the planning phase.

I am aware of the potential health risks associated with the incomplete combustion of coal. The matter of possible health impacts on the children at St Joseph's Catholic School on Pine Mountain Road, will be referred to the Health Department for their investigation.

554. Gatton Bypass; Warrego Highway, Signage

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Gatton by-pass on the Warrego Highway, and, as he is aware, this section's reputation as a black section with many fatal smashes—

- (1) Has his department advanced any further in gaining the necessary Federal funding to divide this highway; if not, has his department considered further investigations into improved signage to warn motorists of the dangers in this section of road?
- (2) In improved signage considerations, will his department consider installing illuminated signage that actually flashes a message, such as used on the freeways around Brisbane?

Mr BREDHAUER (31/5/99):

- (1) The Warrego Highway is a national highway and its duplication is dependent on Federal approval. At this stage, there is no commitment from the Federal government.
- (2) The issue of improved signage is constantly under review; however, the nature and location of previous accidents does not suggest that illuminated variable message signs would be effective in this case.

555. Logan City Council, Motor Dealer's Licence

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading—

- (1) Was a Motor Dealers Licence issued to the Logan City Council?
- (2) Will she give reasons for the bypassing of rules and standard requirements with which other people must comply?
- (3) When a person moves interstate, why can't they transfer their dealers licence?

- (4) Does she intend to provide any other councils with dealers licences?
- (5) Does she intend to change the requirements for everybody wishing to obtain a dealers licence?

Ms SPENCE (1/6/99):

(1) On 16 December 1998, the Auctioneers and Agents Committee granted a restricted motor dealing corporation licence to Logan City Council. While the licence is classed as a motor dealer's licence, the licence is in fact a wrecker's licence restricted to selling motor vehicle parts that have been left at its Browns Plains land fill centre. Logan City Council cannot sell complete vehicles under that licence, nor can it acquire motor vehicles or parts from any other source.

(2) On 26 November 1998, the Governor in Council made regulations that exempted Logan City Council from certain provisions of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971.

As Logan City Council is incorporated under the Local Government Act 1993, its corporate structure is not compatible with the provisions of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971. One of the fundamental differences between Logan City Council and a company recognised under the Corporations Law is that Logan City Council does not have directors. To enable it to be licensed under the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971, it was exempted by regulation from the following provisions—

section 19(3)(a) which requires the holder of corporation licence to be a recognised company under the Corporations Law;

section 19(3)(b) which requires a director of a corporation to be licensed as a motor dealer (wrecker);

section 19(3)(c) which requires a working director of a corporation to be licensed as a motor dealer (wrecker); and

section 125 which makes directors of a corporation jointly and severally liable to compensate the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund in the event claims are paid.

For Logan City Council to undertake the business of selling used motor vehicle parts, it is still required under section 19(3)(d) of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971 to have a person in charge of its business who must be licensed. The way the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971 is structured, the premises requirements are attached to the person in charge and not to Logan City Council itself. However, Logan City Council cannot act beyond the restrictions placed on the licence of the person in charge of its place of business.

As mentioned earlier, the activities being carried on by Logan City Council related to selling motor vehicle parts that have been left at its Browns Plains land fill centre. It is not displaying vehicles for sale like a car yard does. In addition, it cannot acquire vehicles in the same commercial environment as other motor dealers. Therefore, the necessity for the same standard of premises and the same level of experience and qualifications are not as relevant in

this instance. The person in charge at the recycling centre at Browns Plains is exempted from the following provisions of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971:-

section 57(1)(d) which requires the person in charge to have business premises which must, for example, have a display area that faces a roadway and which must be exclusively available for the display of used motor vehicles; and

section 57(2)(b) which requires the person in charge to have prescribed qualifications of three years experience in the last five years as a registered motor salesperson.

The essential purpose of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971 is to provide consumer protection. While Logan City Council is exempted from the requirements of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971 in relation to directors, it is still required to hold a licence under the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971 and comply with all other provisions.

Similarly, while the person in charge is exempted from some of the requirements in relation to qualifications and premises, that person is still required to comply with standards of fitness and propriety and also comply with all other aspects of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971.

These exemptions have been designed to be very restrictive on activities that can be undertaken by Logan City Council. This is to ensure that its activities are limited to only acquiring used motor vehicles and parts left at its Browns Plains land fill centre. Logan City Council cannot acquire vehicles from any other sources or sell complete vehicles like other licensed motor dealers do.

While Logan City Council is exempted from certain provisions under the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971, it should be noted that the exemption regulation does not negate the obligation of Logan City Council to comply with other legislation including environmental protection legislation and the like.

(3) The licensing of motor dealers is dealt with on a State level and, as such, each State has its own licensing legislation. However, under the Mutual Recognition (Queensland) Act 1992, where a person is licensed in another State as a motor dealer, that person can apply in Queensland to have their licence recognised here.

While the person will still be required to hold a Queensland motor dealer's licence, they will not be required to specifically meet Queensland licensing requirements. This is based on the principle under mutual recognition legislation that, if a person has met the education and qualification requirements of their home State to hold a motor dealer's licence, that person is deemed to meet Queensland's requirements. However, the motor dealer is still required to meet all the other legislative requirements when operating in this State, including those for trading premises.

(4) It is possible that other Councils may wish to apply for a restricted motor dealer's licence to

conduct activities similar to Logan City Council. The making of exempting regulations is not taken lightly and, as such, each case will be considered on its merits. The model for this type of exemption was based on the one used by my predecessor, Mr Beanland MLA, when he recommended the making of a similar exemption for Bayersville Resource Recovery Centre Inc., for recovery of material from the Mackay City Council tip. This exemption was granted by the previous Government.

(5) All applications for a licence under the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971 will be considered on their merits and in accordance with the requirements of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971.

556. Artificial Reefs

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (29/4/99)—

(1) Will he undertake to rapidly provide a clear set of guidelines for the construction of artificial reefs and fish attracting devices that satisfy all the involved Ministries—a one stop shop for artificial reefs?

(2) Is he aware of the quantified success, proven by successive fish counts of the Roy Rufus artificial reef in the Sandy Straits as people in my electorate and the Hervey Bay 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, however, their community spirit is continually frustrated by bureaucratic lack of clear answers from the cluster of Ministries involved?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/5/99):

1. The primary responsibility for authority to construct lies with the Federal Environment Australia agency, under the auspices of the Commonwealth Environmental Protection (Sea Dumping) Act of 1981. Environment Australia refers applications for construction of artificial reefs back to State agencies whose clients may have an interest in the proposal. Such agencies would include the Department of Transport, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Primary Industries/Queensland Fisheries Management Authority in Queensland.

Environment Australia considers each application for construction on a case by case basis. The Honourable Member should therefore realise that the application process is relatively simple, and could be readily documented if need be. He should, however, realise that the complications arise in the assessment and review process, which is beyond the control of the State Government.

2. I am aware of the effectiveness of artificial reefs in attracting fish, in enhancing fishing and diving opportunities, and in developing and enhancing local economic activities based on recreational fishing and diving. What is not known is the impact of such activities on local fish stocks. The Department of Primary Industries has been supporting a research project that amongst other objectives seeks to clarify this matter.

As pointed out in the response above, the lead agency directing matters pertaining to artificial reef construction is a Federal agency that reviews applications for each artificial reef on a case by case basis. Given the potential for such structures to create detrimental as well as beneficial effects, such scrutiny is justified.

557. Police Academies, Recruits

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (29/4/99)—

Will he detail the number of graduates from the Brisbane and Townsville Police Academies since 1 July 1998 and the breakdown of numbers that have been sent to each of the police regions and to headquarters?

Mr BARTON (31/5/99): The table below indicates the distribution of recruits from relevant academies to each region for the period 1 July 1998 to 7 May 1999 inclusive. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

558. Townsville Prison Escapees, Use of Police Resources

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the recent breakout from the Townsville low security prison of Gary Mitchell and Trevor Hedland—

What are the details of (a) the number of police involved in the search, (b) the number of police hours taken up in the search, (c) the number of police vehicles used in the search (including helicopters), (d) from which stations police were brought to assist in the search and how many officers from each station and (e) an approximate total cost of the search which includes consideration of police hours, overtime payments and vehicle operation costs?

Mr BARTON (31/5/99): The Police Regions of Northern and Far Northern were involved in the search.

(a) A total of 45 officers were involved in the search.

(b) A total of 290 hours were expended in the search.

(c) The search involved 26 vehicles and the Bureau of Emergency Services helicopter. Staff from Townsville Station (3 members), Townsville District Dog Squad (2 members), Townsville Criminal Investigation Branch (2 members) Townsville Communications Centre (1 member) and Townsville District Office (1 member) assisted in the search from Northern Region.

From Far Northern Region, staff from Cairns CIB (9), Cairns Station (4), Innisfail CIB (4), Innisfail Station (6), Cardwell (2), Mission Beach (2), Coen (2), Cooktown (2) El Arish (1), Silkwood (1), South Johnstone (1), Babinda (1), Cairns Dog Squad (1) were involved.

(e) The approximate total cost of the search in the Townsville District is \$598-95. The approximate total cost of the search in Far Northern is \$13,921.33. These costs include consideration of police hours, overtime payments and vehicle operations costs.

The above costs are estimates only, as police were also fulfilling other duties at the time of the search. When prisoners escape or abscond, the police have a responsibility to pursue the escapees or abscondee regardless of cost. I'm sure this was the view of the Coalition Government at the time of the 1997 break-out from high security of Brendon Abbott and accomplices. The search at that time was conducted at a cost of \$388,361. This figure excluded the subsequent costs associated with investigating the alleged crimes committed by Brendon Abbott whilst 'on the run'.

As the then opposition spokesperson Allan Grice said on ABC radio on 20th October 1998—

"Fortunately those people were rounded up and back inside and it cost a lot of money, but who out there would be concerned about the amount of money it had cost to put these people back in."

559. Ocean Current Monitoring

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (29/4/99)—

With reference to his answer to my question regarding Ocean Current Monitoring and as I am very aware of the organisations wanting to use this equipment and the studies conducted and the need for more equipment that is essential to properly do the job—

(1) Will he talk with the scientists from CRC, AIMS and JCU to understand their need for more monitoring equipment?

(2) Will he advise me if this equipment will be made available for their research?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/5/99):

1. The Cooperative Research Centre, Australian Institute of Marine Science and James Cook University are independent of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI).

2. DPI is not in a position to make the equipment available for their research. However I cannot comment on whether or not the equipment will be available from within these organisations or from other sources. This will be a case for prioritisation by those organisations. Secondly, if the scientists' case is sufficiently convincing they should be able to obtain funding from one of the several competitive research grant schemes funded by the Commonwealth. Thirdly, by working through the Heads of their own organisations, the scientists could consider a formal approach to all those stakeholder organisations with an interest in the results of their research (both Commonwealth and State). In this way an agreed arrangement for the equitable sharing of the research costs may be found.

560. Community Employment Forums

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/4/99)—

With reference to his series of press releases concerning the 28 community forums held in the last quarter of 1998 to discuss unemployment issues and as the media releases indicated that the forums would be hosted by Ministers and local Members of Parliament—

What is (a) the electorate in which that venue is situated, (b) the name of the Minister or local member who hosted the forum, (c) the number of attendees and (d) the total departmental cost of each forum (including venue rental, advertising and administration costs, officers' travel and accommodation costs, etc)?

Mr BRADY (31/5/99):

(a), (b) and (c) Refer Attachment. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(d) The total departmental cost for the Chairman and his assistants for all 31 forums held between October 1998 and January 1999 was \$21,682. This included travel, accommodation, hire and function costs for all but 3 venues for which accounts have not yet been received.

561. Emergency Services Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to Strategic and Executive Services and the Support Services Business Unit within her portfolio—

Will she provide the following details for each (a) individual SES position upgrade since 26 June 1998 (i) date of each upgrade, (ii) name of officer, (iii) old SES level or public service classification, (iv) new SES level and (v) whether there was a formal interview process and (b) new SES position since 26 June 1998 (i) date of appointment, (ii) name of officer, (iii) old SES level, (iv) new SES level and (v) whether there was a formal interview process?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): In relation to part (a) of the question: refer to table 1 and 2. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to part (b) of the question: apart from the upgraded positions highlighted in table 1 and 2, no new SES positions have been established in either Division since 26 June 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

562. Queensland Ambulance Service, SES Public Servants

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to Queensland Ambulance Service within her portfolio—

- (1) Will she provide by sub-program, the following details for each individual SES position upgrade since 26 June 1998 (a) date of each upgrade, (b) name of officer, (c) old SES level or public service classification, (d) new SES level and (e) whether there was a formal interview process?
- (2) Will she provide by sub-program the following details for each new SES position since 26 June 1998 (a) date of appointment, (b) name of officer, (c) old SES level, (d) new SES level and (e) whether there was a formal interview process?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99):

(1) There have been no SES position upgrades within the Queensland Ambulance Service since 26 June 1998.

(2) There has not been any creation of new SES positions, or appointments to SES positions within the Queensland Ambulance Service since 26 June 1998.

563. Emergency Services Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to Office of the Director-General—

Will she provide the following details for each (a) individual SES position upgrade since 26 June 1998 (i) date of each upgrade, (ii) name of officer, (iii) old SES level or public service classification, (iv) new SES level and (v) whether there was a formal interview process and (b) new SES position since 26 June 1998 (i) date of appointment, (ii) name of officer, (iii) old SES level, (iv) new SES level and (v) whether there was a formal interview process?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): In the Office of the Director-General, no SES positions have been upgraded since 26 June 1998.

The Director-General, Mr Michael Kinnane occupies the only SES position in the Office of the Director-General. The position of Director-General is classified at CEO level 2.

564. Emergency Services Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Emergency Services Division within her portfolio—

- (1) Will she provide by sub-program, the following details for each individual SES position upgrade since 26 June 1998 (a) date of each upgrade, (b) name of officer, (c) old SES level or public service classification, (d) new SES level and (e) whether there was a formal interview process?
- (2) Will she provide by sub-program the following details for each new SES position since 26 June 1998 (a) date of appointment, (b) name of officer, (c) old SES level, (d) new SES level and (e) whether there was a formal interview process?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): In the Emergency Services Division, no SES positions have been upgraded since 26 June 1998.

There are two existing SES positions in the Emergency Services Division. The position of Executive Director is classified at SES3 and is occupied by Mr Jack Noye. Mr Noye was appointed on 19 June 1997. The position of Director, Chemical Hazards and Emergency Management, is classified at SES1 and is occupied by Mr Alan Brunner. Mr Brunner was appointed on 8 June 1995. Appointment to both positions was on the basis of merit.

565. Emergency Services Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to Strategic and Executive Services and the Support Services Business Unit within her portfolio—

Will she provide at 25 June 1998 and 29 April 1999 (a) the total number of positions (below SES level) for each unit in number and by FTE, (b) a breakdown of staffing (below SES level) by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit, (c) a breakdown of staffing (below SES level) vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit, (d) the total number of positions (SES level) for each unit in number and by FTE, (e) a breakdown of staffing (SES level) by SES classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit and (f) a breakdown of staffing (SES level) vacancies by SES classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): In relation to part (a) of the question: refer to table 1 and 2. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to part (b) of the question: refer to table 3, 4, 5 & 6. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to part (c) of the question: refer to table 3, 4, 5 & 6. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to part (d) of the question: refer to table 1 & 2. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to part (e) of the question: refer to table 3, 4, 5, & 6. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to part (f) of the question: refer to table 3, 4, 5, & 6. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

566. Emergency Services Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Office of the Director General—

Will she provide at 25 June 1998 and 29 April 1999 (a) the total number of positions (below SES level) for each unit in number and by FTE, (b) a breakdown of staffing (below SES level) by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit, (c) a breakdown of staffing (below SES level) vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit, (d) the total number of positions (SES level) for each unit in number and by FTE, (e) a breakdown of staffing (SES level) by SES classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit and (f) a breakdown of staffing (SES level) vacancies by SES classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): In relation to part (a) of the question: refer to table 1 and 2. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to part (b) of the question: refer to table 3 & 4. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to part (c) of the question: refer to table 3 & 4. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to part (d) of the question: refer to table 1 & 2. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to part (e) of the question: refer to table 3 & 4. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to part (f) of the question: refer to table 3 & 4. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

567. Queensland Ambulance Service, SES Public Servants

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service within her portfolio—

Will she provide at 25 June 1998 and 29 April 1999 (a) the total number of positions (below SES level) for each unit in number and by FTE, (b) a breakdown of staffing (below SES level) by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit, (c) a breakdown of staffing (below SES level) vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit, (d) the total number of positions (SES level) for each unit in number and by FTE, (e) a breakdown of staffing (SES level) by SES classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit and (f) a breakdown of staffing (SES level) vacancies by SES classifications in total positions and by FTE for each unit?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): In relation to (a) the total number of positions (below SES level) for each unit, refer to Table 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to (b) a breakdown of staffing (below SES level) by public service classifications, refer to Table 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to (c), a breakdown of staffing (below SES level) vacancies by public service classifications, refer to Table 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to (d) the total number of positions (SES level) by SES classifications, please note there are no SES level positions within the Queensland Ambulance Service public servant establishment.

In relation to (e) a breakdown of staffing (SES level) by SES classifications, please note there are no SES level positions within the Queensland Ambulance Service public servant establishment.

In relation to (f) a breakdown of staffing (SES Level) vacancies by SES classifications, please note there are no SES level positions within the Queensland Ambulance Service public servant establishment.

568. State Emergency Service, Staffing

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the State Emergency Service—

What are the total budget and staff allocations for each of the 12 districts for 1998-99?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): Under the previous Coalition Government, the District Staff and Budgets of the Emergency Services Division came under the control of the Disaster Management Unit and not the State Emergency Service.

The Emergency Services Division was realigned in December last year to provide separate positions of Director, SES and VMR Support and Director, Disaster Operations. The District staff and budgets now come under the control of the Disaster Operations Unit.

The District Offices continue to provide support to the Local SES Units as was the case prior to the realignment.

The total budget is \$4,006,713.

Staff allocations for the 12 districts are:

District—Staff
Metropolitan—5
South East—2
Darling Downs—5
South West—4
North Coast—2
Burnett—4
Capricorn—4
Central West—2
Mackay—3
North—4
Mt Isa—3
Far North—7
TOTAL—45

569. Walla Weir

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (29/4/99)—

With reference to departmental resumptions associated with the construction of the Walla Weir—

- (1) How many land-owners have had water inundation from the weir?
- (2) How many actual properties have been affected?
- (3) How many notices of intention to resume have been issued by the Department of Natural Resources?
- (4) When does the department intend to send surveyors to these Burnett River properties to determine how much land has been inundated?
- (5) Why has the department delayed in taking this action?
- (6) Will he give a commitment to resolve the compensation issues for affected landowners before the first anniversary of the water inundation so these people can get on with their lives?

Mr WELFORD (27/5/99):

(1) & (2) The Walla Weir was constructed to improve the reliability of water supply to the Bundaberg Irrigation Area. It was completed late last year at a time when the region was experiencing a continuation of low annual announced water allocations as a result of prolonged drought and low levels in the region's major storage, the Fred Haigh Dam.

Fortunately the weir has remained at the full supply level for most of the wet season but the water level is now falling as farmers take advantage of the additional water supplies.

The height of the weir is such that the storage is contained within the banks of the Burnett River, its tributary creeks and major gullies so there is minimal impact on adjacent properties.

The weir impacts to varying degrees on 39 properties involving:

three property Lots partly affected at the weir site and by an access easement;

31 Lots partly affected by water storage at Full Supply Level;

five Lots partly affected as flood margin.

A total of 220 hectares is being acquired from the 27 landowners affected.

While some of the affected land contains pockets of cleared areas the majority of the river gullies and land along Oakey, Sheepstation, Duingal, Scrubby and Currajong Creeks comprises uncleared areas currently used for grazing. Only about seven hectares of flood margin land along Scrubby Creek are being developed for agricultural production.

(3) Land is being acquired by both Agreement and Resumption. Under the resumption process the full supply level of the weir and the proposed resumption boundaries have been pegged in all

affected properties to indicate the extent of the inundation and enable acquisition plans to be prepared. Apart from five Lots being acquired by Agreement a total of 17 Notice of Intention to Resume (for 21 Lots) have been issued and nine Notices, [10 Lots], are being processed for issue. Another three Notices for flood margin land (three Lots) will follow.

(4) An ongoing program involving three licensed survey companies from Bundaberg is currently under way for title surveys and the preparation of final resumption plans. In some cases survey work is taking a number of weeks per block in the more remote areas due to the difficult terrain and dense vegetation. However with three survey companies engaged the Department is endeavouring to complete surveys as soon as practicable.

(5) Acquisition has been finalised on four properties and settlement negotiations are at an advanced stage with a further fourteen 14 Lots. The resumption process is continuing as title surveys become available.

In regard to the resolution of property settlements for land being taken in accordance with the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 there are a number of factors that can influence the process, such as the hearing and processing of objections, settlement negotiations etc. In this way affected landowners are given every opportunity to address the important aspect of compensation.

It would not be prudent to commit to any specific deadline to finalise compensation except to say that my Department of Natural Resources is making every effort to alleviate the impacts on affected landowners and complete the acquisition process expeditiously.

570. Caloundra, Rail Corridor

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (29/4/99)—

With reference to a very low-key questionnaire which is being distributed in Maroochydore and Mooloolaba to finally try and determine what would be the level of public usage of public transport in those areas—

Will he advise why, as stated by his department, no such survey was conducted in the Caloundra area?

Mr BREDHAUER (31/5/99): The questions referred to were part of an information newsletter circulated in the Mooloolaba and Maroochydore areas. The questions were designed to identify what public transport mode of travel people preferred.

During the extensive consultation on the corridor options in the Caloundra area, feedback was received from the community on the preferred mode of travel. Heavy rail was supported strongly in the Caloundra area. In addition, throughout the CAMCOS study, people in the Caloundra area have provided input on likely public transport usage. It is clear that issues such as frequency, convenience and accessibility are key factors in designing an integrated public transport system for the Sunshine Coast.

During the remainder of the CAMCOS study further opportunities to determine the likely level of support for public transport usage on the Sunshine Coast will be considered.

571. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, Fire Appliances

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—

Will she provide the numbers of new appliances purchased and the numbers of appliances decommissioned for each financial year from 1985-86 up to and including 1998-99 and where the current appliances are based?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): The number of urban fire appliances purchased between 1985-86 and 1998-99 was as follows:

1985-86	2 appliances were purchased;
1986-87	6 appliances were purchased;
1987-88	12 appliances were purchased;
1988-89	17 appliances were purchased;
1989-90	13 appliances were purchased;
1990-91	10 appliances were purchased;
1991-92	14 appliances were purchased;
1992-93	7 appliances were purchased;
1993-94	18 appliances were purchased;
1994-95	30 appliances were purchased;
1995-96	12 appliances were purchased;
1996-97	50 appliances were purchased;
1997-98	30 appliances were purchased; and
1998-99	A Budget allocation of \$10.055 for urban vehicle replacement—up from \$6.616 million in 1996-97—would have allowed for 54 new appliances to be built. Manufacturer Austral has gone into receivership and negotiations between the QFRA and other suppliers for contracts to be completed and new vehicles built are ongoing.

A total of 228 urban appliances were purchased between 1985 and 1999.

With regard to the number of appliances decommissioned, unfortunately figures are not available before 1994. From the information available since 1994-95 the following urban fire appliance numbers have been decommissioned:

1994-95	1 appliance was decommissioned;
1995-96	2 appliances were decommissioned;
1996-97	2 appliances were decommissioned;
1997-98	37 appliances were decommissioned; and
1998-99	29 appliances were decommissioned.

A total of 71 appliances were decommissioned between 1994 and 1999.

Urban fire appliances are currently placed in the following QFRA Regions:

- Northern Region—37 appliances;
- Central Region—73 appliances;
- South Western Region—81 appliances;
- North Coast Region—70 appliances;
- Brisbane North Region—46 appliances;
- Brisbane South Region—29 appliances;
- South Eastern Region—64 appliances;
- Far Northern Region—42 appliances.

A total of 442 urban fire appliances are in service within Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority.

572. Queensland Ambulance Service, Operational Appliances

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service—

Will she provide at 25 June 1998 and 29 April 1999 the (a) total number of operational appliances in the urban designated areas and (b) total number of operational appliances in the rural designated areas?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): Queensland Ambulance Service does not operate with designated urban and rural areas.

At 25 June 1998 there were 704 operational patient carrying ambulances.

At 29 April 1999 there were 716 operational patient carrying ambulances.

573. Queensland Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service—

Will she provide monthly response times for both regions and districts since March 1998 up to and including April 1999?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): The Queensland Ambulance Service operates in regions and areas. The monthly response times for regions and areas since March 1998 up to and including April 1999 are detailed in the attachment. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

574. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, Fire Appliances; Austral

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—

Will she provide the number of appliances (a) built by Austral each financial year since 1990-91 up to and including 1998-99, (b) planned for construction by

Austral in 1998-99, (c) actually constructed for and received by the authority by Austral in 1998-99 and (d) whose construction will be delayed by Austral going into receivership?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): The number and type of appliances built by Austral since 1990-91 is as follows:

- 1990-91 6 Heavy Urban Pumpers;
- 1991-92 2 Heavy Urban Pumpers and 10 Standard Urban Pumpers;
- 1992-93 4 Standard Urban Pumpers;
- 1993-94 9 Standard Urban Pumpers;
- 1994-95 11 4x2 Pumper Tankers;
- 1995-96 11 4x2 Pumper Tankers;
- 1996-97 18 Standard Urban Pumpers, 8 4x2 Pumper Tankers, 1 Aerial Ladder Platform and 8 Telescopic Aerial Pumps;
- 1997-98 8 Standard Urban Pumpers, 15 4x2 Pumper Tankers and 1 Aerial Ladder Platform; and
- 1998-99 11 4x2 Pumper Tankers.

A total of 123 appliances were built by Austral between 1990 and 1999.

The number of appliances planned for construction by Austral in 1998-99 was 54.

The number of appliances actually constructed for and received by the authority by Austral in 1998-99 is 11.

The number of appliances in construction that have been delayed by Austral going into receivership is 43. Negotiations for other suppliers to complete the contracts and to take over appliance-building for the QFRA are continuing.

575. Constitutional Convention

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Premier (29/4/99)—

With reference to the State Government's proposed Constitutional Convention—

Will he provide details on (a) the estimated budget to promote and market the convention, (b) the estimated budget for the convention's venue hire costs as well as the cost of equipment to be purchased or hired in association with the convention, (c) the estimated travel budget as well as guidelines clarifying who will be eligible to claim travel costs, (d) the estimated budget for accommodation costs as well as guidelines clarifying who will be eligible to claim accommodation costs and (e) a breakdown of the number of public servants anticipated to attend the conference, from which departments and their responsibilities?

Mr BEATTIE (27/5/99): As I informed all Members of the Legislative Assembly in my Ministerial Statement and accompanying memorandum of 13 April 1999, the Queensland Constitutional Convention to be held in Gladstone from 16-18 June 1999 is co-sponsored by the Constitutional Centenary Foundation (CCF). CCF is a national non-partisan entity, which has previously

held three similar Conventions with other State Government jurisdictions. His Excellency the Governor and the Chief Justice of Queensland have both recognised the apolitical nature of the event by accepting key responsibilities at the Convention, as has the Leader of the Liberal Party Dr David Watson. Representatives from Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy and the Australian Republican Movement have also been invited to attend as well as Australians from a diverse range of groups represented in society.

- (a) There is no budget for promotion and marketing of the convention. I have made various statements in the Legislative Assembly informing Members of the Convention and there have been media releases promoting the event;
- (b) There will be no venue hire charged for the convention as the venue caterers will be engaged for the two day event. Existing Departmental equipment will be used in association with the Convention;
- (c) Delegates will bear their own travel expenses. Limited assistance will be available to delegates expressing reasonable hardship who are from under-represented groups for the Convention. The estimated travel budget is \$20,000;
- (d) Delegates will bear their own accommodation costs. Limited assistance will be available to delegates expressing hardship who are from under-represented groups for the Convention. The estimated accommodation budget is \$4,770; and
- (e) It is planned that five staff from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (including protocol officers) will assist with the administration of the Convention. It is also anticipated that the following five senior public servants with relevant departmental responsibilities will be in attendance at the convention: the Directors-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the Acting Solicitor-General, the Deputy Director-General (Government and Executive Services and Clerk of the Executive Council) of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The number of public servants has been kept to a minimum to maximise available positions for the community to participate.

576. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, Response Times

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—

Will she provide monthly response times for both regions and districts since March 1998 up to and including April 1999?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): Responses shown in the table are for all call-outs—including responses to motor vehicle incidents, many of which occur outside the Urban Fire district. Motor vehicle incidents outnumber structure fire incidents in many less populated districts. In some cases it may take an hour or more to reach such an incident. Road accident rescue work is an increasing part of the role of firefighters. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The target time of twelve minutes includes the time to receive the alarm call, time to mobilise staff and the time to travel to the incident for both Urban full time and Auxiliary brigades.

The focus of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority is on prevention and public education to reduce the number of fires and their consequences. Statistics suggest the strategy is successful, as Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority has one of the lowest rates of death and injury in fires per 100,000 population in the Australia.

577. State Emergency Service, Budget Allocations

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the State Emergency Service—

What are the total budget allocations for 1998-99 to the (a) Director, State Emergency Service and (b) Director, Disaster Operations?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): Activities within the Emergency Services Division were realigned as from 24 December 1998. This included the creation of the functional units of SES & VMR Support and Disaster Operations. Prior to the realignment, the Disaster Management Unit Budget met all costs associated with Disaster Management and the SES. Costs associated with the VMR program were met under the Operations Support Budget.

The associated budgets are being progressively reallocated in accordance with the new functional arrangements. Discrete Budgets are being established for the 1999/2000 financial year.

In the meantime, the Director, Disaster Operations and the Acting Director, SES & VMR Support are working cooperatively to jointly manage the \$13,467,541 for 1998/99.

578. Coolum, Police Station

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (29/4/99)—

What is the current status of the proposed new police station for the town of Coolum in the Noosa Electorate?

Mr BARTON (31/5/99): As the Honourable Member would recall, during the period of the previous Government, he promised a police station on at least two occasions. He also claimed that land had been purchased at a cost of \$600,000. This false claim was contained in a joint press release with the then Minister, the Honourable Russell Cooper, dated

27 April 1998. The press release entitled "\$600,000 site purchased for Coolool Police Station", also contained the comment that the Police Minister and Member for Noosa "were confident funding for construction of the new station would be included in the May 14 budget". Contrary to the claims contained in the press release, no land was purchased by the Coalition Government, and no funding for either the land purchase or construction was included in the Coalition's 1998/99 budget. This budget was introduced to the Parliament just seventeen days after the April 27 press release containing the announcements.

As they did during the time of the previous Government, the Queensland Police Service continues to monitor the policing needs of the Coolool area within the framework of priorities across the state.

579. Ms P. A. Devine

Mr NELSON asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (29/4/99)—

With reference to the current perjury investigation under way concerning evidence given by Professor Ansford, where, under oath, he did not tell the truth about an important and crucial piece of evidence and also that natural justice was denied Mr Devine insofar that Mr Devine could not speak at the third inquest, thereby obviously affecting the outcome—

Will he allow a new inquest to attempt finally to rectify the unacceptable shambles that has wasted the taxpayers' money with three flawed inquests?

Mr FOLEY (27/5/99): I answer this question without making any comment on, or wishing to give rise to any inference, as to the truth or otherwise of the introductory statements to it—

Section 47 of the Coroners Act allows the Attorney-General to order a new inquest.

No request for a new inquest has been received by me.

If and when a request is received it will be considered on its merits.

580. Compulsory Third-Party Insurance Premiums

Mr KNUTH asked the Treasurer (29/4/99)—

With reference to a rise of \$40 in compulsory third party insurance premiums from 1 July—

- (1) How can he justify this significant increase, especially in the case of pensioners and low income earners who are finding it harder and harder to pay for vehicle registration?
- (2) In the case of pensioners, will he increase concessions on the motor vehicle fee component of registration to compensate for the increase in compulsory third party insurance?

Mr HAMILL (1/6/99):

(1) Queensland's Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance scheme is underwritten by private insurers and the premium collected in conjunction with the vehicle registration process.

The scheme is regulated by the Motor Accident Insurance Commission. Each year the Commission engages actuaries to conduct an independent analysis of the participating insurers claims data after which the Insurance Commissioner makes a recommendation to Government on the required premium. The most recent analysis projected a rise in claim frequency from 3.8 per 1000 vehicles in 1998 to 4.39 per 1000 vehicles. In addition there has been an increase in average claim size to \$42,000. To maintain a viable scheme, the premium collected must be sufficient to meet the insurers claim liabilities and all associated costs.

The \$40 increase approved by Government is substantially less than that sought by the insurance industry and lower than the Insurance Commissioner's recommendation of \$52. The \$12 saving was achieved in the main by the Government moderating the built-in profit margin of the insurers.

In relation to pensioner discounts, one of the advantages of the current scheme is its administrative simplicity which saves costs. Also, if a range of discounts were granted, other parties would need to pay higher premiums to offset the discounts.

The Government recognises that the current trend of CTP premium increases is unsustainable and that the CTP scheme is in need of a systematic review. The review established by the Government will consider all the fundamental elements of the scheme including scheme design, affordability and the appropriate role for Government. The review committee is to report to Government by 31 October 1999, and various stakeholder groups including the Australian Pensioners and Superannuation League are being consulted in the review.

The Government is very conscious of the impact any increase in CTP premiums has on the community, especially pensioners and low income earners. To ease the financial burden to some degree, an option is now available which allows registration/CTP insurance to be renewed on a six-monthly basis. It also should be remembered that pensioners and low income earners benefit from the existence of a viable compensation scheme if they are unfortunately injured in a motor vehicle accident.

(2) Currently the Department of Transport provides a 50% discount for pensioners in relation to the vehicle registration fee. This discount is unrelated to the CTP premium component and will not change in the immediate future.

Again, the Government's introduction of the six-monthly registration/CTP insurance option is designed to ease the burden for pensioners and lower income groups.

581. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, Fire Appliances

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—

Will she provide at 25 June 1998 and 29 April 1999 the (a) total number of operational appliances in the urban designated areas and (b) total number of operational appliances in the rural designated areas?

Mrs ROSE (31/5/99): The total number of operational fire appliances in the urban designated areas of QFRA at 25 June 1998 was 441. The total number of operational fire appliances in rural designated areas at 25 June 1998 was 755. The total number of operational fire appliances in the urban designated areas of QFRA at 29 April 1999 was 442. The total number of operational fire appliances in rural designated areas at 29 April 1999 was 823.

582. Planning and Environment Court

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (29/4/99)—

With reference to the Integrated Planning Act and jurisdiction of the Planning and Environment Court—

- (1) How many development applications and subsequent disputes between developers and Local Government have been heard in the Planning and Environment Court?
- (2) How many development applications and subsequent disputes between developers and Local Government have been set down for hearing in the Planning and Environment Court and have settled on the doorstep of the court?

Mr MACKENROTH (31/5/99):

(1) The details recorded in the Planning and Environment (P&E) Court Registry (the Registry) are quite brief and include for example, names of parties, brief description of the matter, filing date, legal representatives. The name of the Act under which an appeal is lodged will not necessarily be recorded. Once lodged, the Judges of the Court determine the appeals.

The 1997/98 Annual Report of the District Court provides some statistics about the P&E Court, though again this information makes no distinction between matters commenced under the Integrated Planning Act (IPA), the Planning and Environment Act, or another Act. In Brisbane, a total of 513 matters were dealt with during this period, comprising 96 matters that were active in the Court at the start of that financial year and a further 417 matters which were commenced during that year. As the IPA did not commence until March 1998 it is unlikely these figures would include a significant number of IPA appeals.

Statistical information for applications to the P&E Court for 1998/99 has not yet been collated.

(2) Similarly, limited information is retained by the Registry regarding appeals settled out of court.

A generally held view is that most matters dealt with by the P&E Court do not in fact come to trial. Additionally, other matters that have been privately settled between the parties, may come before a judge for consent orders to formalise the agreement.

Of the 513 matters dealt with by the P&E Court as outlined in the 1997/98 Annual Report of the District Court, 398 matters were disposed of in the following manner—

- 73 judgments;
- 181 consent orders; and
- 144 matters withdrawn.

583. Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, Staffing

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to staffing levels at Queensland Ambulance service and Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority centres throughout Queensland—

Will she indicate, centre by centre at 29 April (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 (31/5/99): In relation to (a) the number and categories of operational staff and positions, refer to Table 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to (b) the number and categories of all positions not currently filled, refer to Table 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to (c) what measures are being taken to ensure these positions are filled, refer to Table 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

584. Maryborough, Prison

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Premier (29/4/99)—

With reference to an answer by the Honourable Minister for Police and Corrective Services to my question about the decision to site the next correctional centre at Maryborough (Question No 348) that all the criteria mentioned in explaining the decision were based on departmental considerations only and given the Premier's promise to the people of Queensland that the Beattie Government would be a Government for all Queensland—

Will he explain why the decision was not made on a 'whole of Government basis' given the acute need to promote new job generation projects in rural areas of south-east Queensland?

Mr BEATTIE (27/5/99): I am very much aware of the National Party's opposition to Maryborough being the site for this new prison. I am also aware of the fact that if the National Party had been returned

to Government, it would not have located the prison at Maryborough. It is somewhat puzzling that—in the words of the Member for Western Downs—the National Party does not believe that Maryborough fits into the area of—and I quote from his question—"acute need to promote new job generation projects in rural areas of south-east Queensland?"

I refer the Honourable Member to the answer to Question No. 348 provided by the Honourable Minister for Police and Corrective Services and reiterate that Maryborough was selected on the basis that it:

- possessed good community infrastructure, capable of sustaining the correctional centre;
- offered all necessary community services;
- has a major population base;
- is located on a major transport route, and is serviced by the tilt train, allowing ease of visitor transport, as well as prisoner escorts to court and other correctional centres; and
- provided a strong bid, which included a Council contribution to the project.

My Government acknowledges that employment is an important issue in the siting of major capital works. Maryborough is a major centre of the Wide Bay/Burnett District, an area that persistently has had a history of high levels of unemployment in terms of both the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate. This has been exacerbated by the high growth in population in the region.

585. Greyhound Racing Authority, General Reserve Fund

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (29/4/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 64 (Wednesday 3 March 1999) (29/4/99)—

- (1) When the 1997-98 Greyhound Racing Authority Annual Report shows an amount of \$224,830 held in a General Reserve Fund, why was this amount not used towards the costs of payment of \$385,000 for Sky Channel coverage?
- (2) Will he provide details of how the amount of \$224,000 General Reserve Fund has been disbursed?

Mr GIBBS (27/5/99):

(1) I am advised that the General Reserve Fund was used by the Board to fund establishment of a links and bearers system required for Sky coverage of greyhound meetings conducted by the Beenleigh Club (\$103,511). With a number of greyhound clubs grappling with cash flow difficulties due at least to some extent the previous Board's mismanagement, the current Board has been required to provide from the Fund loans to assist these clubs.

(2) I am advised that General Reserve Fund transactions have included:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The current accumulated balance in the General Reserve Fund is approximately \$16,000.

586. State Government Computer Systems, Viruses

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (29/4/99)—

With reference to the impact of the "melissa" virus on e-mail systems throughout the world and subsequent warnings that more will follow—

- (1) What systems are in place throughout the Queensland Government to maximise its defences against viruses and hacking and how effective are they?
- (2) What, if any, experience has the Government had with viruses and viral infections of Government Systems in the last 12 months?

Mr MACKENROTH (21/5/99):

(1) The integrity of computer systems within Government is the responsibility of individual departments and agencies as per standard delegations. The Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning is currently updating the standard on security (Standard Number 18). The draft of this standard lists the following minimum requirements for virus protection—

current versions of anti virus and integrity checking software are to be installed and operational on all microcomputers and servers

all media received from another machine or downloaded from public networks is to be scanned by anti-virus software prior to use

network administrators are to run anti-virus software on all network servers on a daily basis

agencies are to establish and follow a process of reporting, removal and investigation of viruses, which includes advice to staff not to attempt to eradicate computer viruses but immediately report any such incidents to the relevant support personnel

The principles and minimum requirements in reference to general security (and hacking) include :

establishment of an appropriate security organisation;

consistently classified and managed information;

creation of a secure organisation;

protection of physical assets;

institution and management of communications security;

establishment of appropriate access controls;

management of software security;

institution of business continuity planning; and

establishment of required registers and reporting regimes.

The current mechanisms responded effectively to the "melissa" virus with no significant disruptions to Government business.

The whole-of-Government Intranet (GovNet) was used to host information for public sector employees and web masters on how best to combat "melissa". This site also included "patches" from private software companies designed to repair any damage done to networks by this virus. All network administrators also received this information via e-mail.

It is proposed that a page, detailing current viruses and how to combat them, be a permanent feature on GovNet. The practicalities of establishing this site are currently being explored. The Queensland Government email switch (another project currently being undertaken) will also significantly improve the security of Government systems through its capability to scan all emails coming into Government.

(2) Currently, no central record is kept of viruses detected within Queensland State Government information systems. Viruses are regularly detected and eliminated by network administrators across government on a daily basis as an integral part of their network management role.

587. Transportation of Juvenile Offenders

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (29/4/99)—

With reference to the detention of juveniles since 1 October 1998—

- (1) How many juveniles have been transported to Brisbane so they would not be kept in watch-houses over weekends?
- (2) What was the date of each transportation?
- (3) From what town/city was each transportation?
- (4) What was the method and cost of each transportation?
- (5) How many police, or other personnel, were involved in providing security in the transport of these juveniles?
- (6) What was the cost of these police or other personnel?
- (7) What were the locations to which each of these juveniles were transported?
- (8) For what period of time were these juveniles detained at the place to which they were transported?

Mr BARTON (1/6/99): The Queensland Police Service does not collate this information and there is no standard way to calculate the costings requested. The questions relating to costs were therefore particularly difficult to quantify. For instance, juveniles are transported by road (service vehicle or prison truck) or by air (mostly by police air wing on regular scheduled runs) and more than one juvenile may be transported together. As a result, allocating costs, for example, of transport of a juvenile on a regular police air wing flight is very difficult to estimate with any accuracy.

Despite these difficulties, I have attempted to provide the information that the Honourable member is seeking.

(1) 104 juveniles

(2) Juvenile offenders were transported to Brisbane from police regions across Queensland on the following dates—

October 1998—2, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30

November 1998—6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20, 21, 28

December 1998—1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19

January 1999—1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30

February 1999—4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 26, 28

March 1999—1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 23, 26, 27, 28, 31

April 1999—1, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23

(3) Charleville, Mitchell, Dalby, Toowoomba, Warwick, Maroochydore, Gympie Bundaberg, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Southport, Beenleigh

(4) It is difficult for the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to definitively cost each escort. Most escorts were undertaken during normal shift times and as part of normal police duties, and no overtime was incurred. The majority of escorts were undertaken by road. A small number of juvenile offenders were transported by air. Some escorts involved the use of the police air wing. The day to day activity of the police air wing includes regular scheduled runs involving the transport of prisoners and police for a range of reasons related to the regular functions of the QPS. Where possible the movement of prisoners is scheduled to take advantage of these normal scheduled runs.

(5) Two police officers accompany juvenile offenders transported by road. One police officer accompanies those juvenile offenders transported by air. Escorts can involve more than one juvenile.

(6) See answer number 4.

(7) The Sir Lesley Wilson and John Oxley Youth Detention Centres.

(8) Sentences imposed by courts and periods of confinement in youth detention centres are not within my portfolio responsibilities.

588. Newcastle Disease

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (29/4/99)—

With reference to the recent outbreak of Newcastle disease in the Mangrove Mountain district of New South Wales—

(1) What is the current estimated cost to Queensland and how is this cost determined?

(2) Will this money come from within the existing DPI budget or from other sources and in which financial year will this be required?

- (3) Will vaccination of Queensland poultry be required; if so, what would be the estimated cost per bird and in total and will this vaccination program include pet birds?
- (4) When was he told of the outbreak and when was the suspect outbreak of Newcastle Disease first reported to the NSW Agriculture?
- (5) When was the first Consultative Committee on Exotic Animal Disease meeting held on this suspect outbreak and have they determined where it came from?
- (6) Could this outbreak have resulted from importation of chicken meat?
- (7) When was he asked to approve the invoking of the Commonwealth/States Cost Sharing Diseases Agreement for certain animal diseases?
- (8) What precautions can Queensland poultry producers, both commercial and domestic, take to prevent the spread of Newcastle Disease in Queensland?
- (9) Who has the Queensland Government warned about the outbreak and what role will veterinarians in both country and Brisbane city play?
- (10) Has the early warning system of the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan been put into place yet; if not, when will it be put into operation?
- (11) In the outbreak, how many poultry farms that have the disease and how many farms are currently being destocked as a precaution?
- (12) What is the estimated number of birds that will currently have to be destroyed?
- (13) Are there other poultry farms nearby who are in danger of having Newcastle Disease spread to them and what is the estimated number of birds on these farms?
- (14) Will the current outbreak cause any restriction in the supply of chicken meat or eggs and subsequent price rises in Queensland?
- (15) Which Queensland personnel have been asked for to help control the outbreak of Newcastle Disease in NSW and which personnel have already been sent to NSW?
- (16) Regarding the report in the Sydney Morning Herald of 21 April in which NSW Agriculture Minister Richard Amery "confirmed that his officers were investigating reports of quarantine breaches at Mangrove Mountain, including exposure of native birds and poultry to Newcastle Disease through the alleged road shipment of 100,000 chickens interstate", did any of these birds come to Queensland?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/5/99):

1. The Commonwealth and States/Territories Ministers agreed to eradicate this Newcastle disease outbreak following a recommendation by the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD). Eradication was estimated on 10 May 1999 to cost Queensland \$800 000. The total budget of \$8.5m was reviewed in mid May in light of

expanded activities and was likely to rise to in excess of \$14m.

Queensland assumes 9% of the total liability under the Commonwealth/States Cost Sharing Agreement. In respect of Newcastle disease the proportions payable by the States, the NT and the ACT are based on latest three-year average figures of numbers of laying hens and poultry slaughtered calculated in accordance with the formula:

$$\frac{(\text{Hens and pullets for egg production} / \% \text{ of national} + \text{total Poultry slaughtered} / \% \text{ of national total})}{2}$$
 as a percentage

This is updated every three years.

2. In keeping with precedents, this payment will be made through Treasury funds allocated for this specific purpose. The payment into the national fund (usually direct to the "host" State) will be made once an invoice is received. Given the timing of this incident, this is most likely to occur early in the next financial year.

3. The aim of the agreed program is to eradicate this disease at its source. Vaccination would only be approved in Queensland if the disease was considered unable to be eradicated.

4. The Executive Director of the Animal and Plant Health Service advised me that the disease had been diagnosed on 1 April 1999 following a teleconference of the CCEAD. The Chief Veterinary Officer of the NSW Department of Agriculture was advised of a problem on 29 March 1999.

5. The first CCEAD teleconference was held on 1 April 1999. The source has not been definitely determined.

6. There is no indication that this outbreak has resulted from the importation of chicken meat.

7. The recommendation to invoke the Cost Sharing Agreement came from CCEAD after the first teleconference on 1 April 1999.

8. It is most critical that producers take responsibility for minimising the opportunities for disease introduction into their own flocks. Several of the avian disease outbreaks that have occurred in recent years have occurred on farms with very poor biosecurity. It is essential that growers put in place measures to ensure avoidance of contact between their birds and people and equipment that have been on other farms, to treat water supplies, to avoid keeping their birds in conjunction with pet ducks and geese or emus, and to bird-proof their sheds and feed supplies.

9. The Queensland Government has cooperated with national efforts to alert the poultry industries and general public of this incident. The outbreak has received a great deal of media attention and interviews have been given to Queensland media outlets. Information has been disseminated to key contacts within the egg and chicken meat industries and the veterinary profession, with the distribution of situation reports on a daily basis. Poultry health tends to be a special area of veterinary concern with a small number of veterinarians working primarily in the area. Veterinarians and laboratory scientists have

been asked to increase their attention to disease surveillance as a result of this outbreak.

10. The systems providing for early warnings are constantly in place. These relate to highlighted awareness by growers and veterinarians, the maintenance of a Disease Watch Hotline, and rapid diagnostic arrangements.

11. An area of NSW around the location known as Mangrove Mountain has been destocked. The enterprises included in the area range from large broiler operations to backyard and pet birds. As of 10 May 1999, NSW advised that 8 "infected", 7 "suspect" and 18 (commercial) "dangerous contact premises" had been or were to be depopulated.

12. As of 10 May 1999, an estimate of the total to be depopulated was 1.9 million birds.

13. The area where the outbreak has occurred includes three ridges, Mangrove Mountain, Peat's Ridge and Somersby Plateau. These intensively farmed poultry areas are relatively isolated and surrounded by State Forest/National Park. The Mangrove Mountain area contains about a third of the total poultry population in the larger area. The decision to preemptively depopulate the Mangrove Mountain ridge reduced the likelihood of spread to the other ridges.

14. The outbreak will not have a direct effect on the supply of chicken meat or eggs into Queensland. Only two commercial layer farms are included in the area. These would have little impact on overall egg production. The destruction of a large number of broiler birds may have some minimal impact on the total Australian supply of chicken meat.

15. Queensland has provided considerable assistance, on request by NSW. NSW made a specific request for a veterinary officer with expertise in disposal techniques, and histological technician and histo-pathologist to assist with laboratory testing and a poultry veterinarian. In addition a further 8 stock inspectors and 4 veterinary officers have been provided for work at the Local Disease Control Centre. Other staff have been placed on standby and will become involved when requested by NSW. In excess of 300 Queensland Emergency Services and State Emergency Service volunteers worked on the destruction effort.

16. I am advised that the Sydney Morning Herald article of 21 April 1999 was very inaccurate and misleading. There was no breach of quarantine. The movements were entirely legal and occurred on permit from NSW Agriculture. The birds moved from the Control Area according to accepted protocols. The flocks involved were intensively monitored and were not considered to be infected or suspected to be infected. Some 30 000 birds were involved not 100 000. All birds were transported to Victoria with the knowledge of the Chief Veterinary Officer of Victoria. None came to Queensland.

589. Innisfail, Tully and Ingham High Schools, Maintenance

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (29/4/99)—

- (1) What expenditure will take place in the maintenance and capital works programs for high schools at Innisfail, Tully and Ingham?
- (2) What is the timing of the maintenance program and when will it occur?
- (3) How much is to be spent on each school?
- (4) Will the work be carried out by Q-Build or will local contractors be used?
- (5) What capital works programs are envisaged for each school and when is the expenditure to be implemented?

Mr SCHWARTEN (28/5/99):

(1) The maintenance works authorised to date for this financial year are: Innisfail State High School \$118,418, Tully State High School \$71,110 and Ingham State High School \$73,735. These figures cover incident response, planned and unplanned maintenance and service maintenance. Q-Build is the maintenance manager on behalf of its client, the Department of Education and can only proceed with planned works approved by the school.

(2) The maintenance program is undertaken throughout the year with specific timing set to suit the requirements of the individual school.

(3) Please redirect this question to the Minister for Education.

(4) The maintenance work will be undertaken by both Q-Build staff and contractors as required.

(5) Please redirect this question to the Minister for Education.

590. Environmental Protection Agency, Director-General

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (29/4/99)—

With reference to Queensland Government Gazette Number 90 in which the position of Director-General for the Environmental Protection Agency is advertised and to his reply to my Question Without Notice in the Parliament on 28 April—

- (1) Will this position be filled using the normal selection panel process used for all other public servants?
- (2) How many trips home to Western Australia has the current Director-General made at public expense since his appointment?
- (3) What has been the cost of this travel?
- (4) How many more trips to Western Australia at public expense have been allocated to this Director-General?
- (5) What is the budgeted cost for this travel?

Mr WELFORD (27/5/99):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) None.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) None.
- (5) Nil.

591. Yarwun Targinnie Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (29/4/99)—

With reference to the continuing concerns of members of the Yarwun Targinnie Trust and Vegetable Growers and the time elapsed since their meeting with him—

Will he advise when a response to the issues raised will be forthcoming?

Mr ELDER (31/5/99): I have examined the complex matters raised by the Yarwun Targinnie Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.

I have addressed these matters in a letter to you dated 19 May 1999.

A further letter to the Yarwun Targinnie Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will be sent shortly. This letter will not only address the matters raised but will seek an ongoing relationship between the Department of State Development through the State Development Centre Gladstone and the Association, to assist them in resolving their concerns on an ongoing basis.

592. Education Portfolio, Staffing

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education (29/4/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 March 1999 (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 the education portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?
- (2) At 1 March 1999 (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 March 1999 (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 March 1999 (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 portfolio?

Mr WELLS (28/5/99): The information is provided in the attachments. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Attachment A—Total Numbers of Teachers and FTE Numbers of Teachers

Attachment B—Locations of Teacher Secondees

Attachment C—Non-Teaching Workforce, Public Service

Attachment D—Non-Teaching Workforce, Cleaners

Attachment E—Total Amount Paid to Teachers

In lieu of wages staff, profiles have been prepared for the broader workforce groups of teachers, public servants (including janitor grounds-care), 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 a new human resources information payroll system is commissioned later this year.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**593. Justice of the Peace (Magistrates Court)**

Mr TURNER asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (25/5/99)—

With reference to application for appointment of Justice of the Peace Magistrates—

Why can't these applications be taken in Townsville?

Mr FOLEY (22/6/99): In response to the specific question made by Mr Turner, I can advise as follows:

Applications for appointment as a Justice of the Peace (Qualified) can be lodged by a person who has passed the requisite examination, completed the proforma application for appointment, and obtained endorsement from the local Member of the Legislative Assembly. The form can be lodged at any court, including Townsville, for forwarding to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The Department provides further training for persons who wish to be considered for appointment as a Justice of the Peace (Magistrates Court).

Two Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court) may convene a Magistrates Court to determine simple offences upon a plea of guilty only in places without a permanent Magistrate. The object of the program is to enhance access to justice for people resident in remote locations, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities where a Stipendiary Magistrate visits approximately one day per month.

594. Tweed River Sand Bypass

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/5/99)—

With reference to a bilateral State program under which some millions of dollars were budgeted for sand bypassing of the Tweed River mouth to maintain its navigability and to maintain the natural flow of sands northwards to Gold Coast beaches and the more recent suggestion that a significant part of the planned Tweed River bar bypassing has not occurred and monies have been directed elsewhere despite the current substantial erosion and sand loss on Gold Coast beaches—

- (1) Where is the funding assigned for this beach replenishment now?
- (2) For what purpose will the funding be used in the future?
- (3) From where will the funds come to replace the sand which has been lost from the beaches because the bypassing was not carried out as planned?

Mr WELFORD (24/6/99):

(1) The Government is committed to funding its share of the sand bypassing of the Tweed River mouth. There is a legal agreement with the New South Wales Government regarding this project. Under the terms of that agreement New South Wales is the major financial contributor (75 percent) and project manager for the construction of the bypassing works.

(2) It has been the practice for the last several years to make an annual budget allocation for the estimated Queensland contribution to this project and to reallocate any surplus funds when the actual expenditure is determined. As with any major civil engineering works, the requirement for funding can vary across financial years and, in that situation, the deferred funding is reallocated in the next year's budget estimates.

(3) With regard to recent erosion events, I am advised that, while the project is behind schedule, an allowance was made in the initial dredging for erosion during the construction period and this additional sand should provide a reserve to help beaches to recover naturally. The Project Agreement provides for dredging of sand to the beaches at a quantity representing the volume of sand which would have been transported between completion of the first phase of the initial dredging and nourishment and the commencement of the operation of the permanent bypassing system calculated at the rate of 500,000 cubic metres per annum. Additional dredging will occur if necessary to meet this commitment and will be a project cost.

595. Technical Aid to the Disabled Queensland Incorporated; Home and Community Care

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Health (25/5/99)—

With reference to funding to Technical Aid to the Disabled Queensland Incorporated (TADQ) through the Queensland Health Home and Community Care (HACC) (25/5/99)—

- (1) Does TADQ meet the accountability requirements and objectives of the HACC program?
- (2) Did TADQ underspend by approximately \$80,000 over two years?
- (3) Why were they not required to repay that money?
- (4) Why has additional money been granted to TADQ when they have a large amount of funds in their account when other programs have been cut, for example, home help for the elderly and disabled?
- (5) Does she agree that HACC has failed their own guidelines that grants must be spent properly or the following grant would be adjusted accordingly?

Mrs EDMOND (24/6/99):

(1) Yes. The service agreement between Queensland Health and the Technical Aid to the Disabled, Queensland Incorporated (TADQ) stipulates that the organisation is required to submit an audited financial statement each year. The audited financial statement must provide details of the Home and Community Care (HACC) grant for the previous financial year and the level of expenditure attributed to that grant. Organisations are also required to return unspent funds relating to the HACC grant.

The Queensland Audit Office has recently reviewed TADQ. The review confirmed that TADQ was

meeting its financial obligations with regard to the HACC Program.

Queensland Health is committed to the ongoing evaluation of community services to ensure that quality services are provided to all clients within the target population. Queensland Health is satisfied that TADQ is meeting its objectives in accordance with the service agreement with Queensland Health and the HACC National Guidelines.

(2) TADQ underspent its HACC grant by \$16,700 for the 1994/95 financial year. Funding was subsequently reduced by the amount of the surplus in the next financial year. It is a requirement of the service agreement that any income derived from the provision of services funded through the HACC grant must be applied to the provision of those services.

(3) Surplus funds resulting from an under expenditure of the HACC grant in 1994/95 were returned to the HACC Program.

(4) TADQ has been approved a total of \$10,842 over a four (4) year period as cost supplementation to address cost of living increases. An amount of \$4,707 was approved in the 1996/97 financial year to meet additional costs in relation to the introduction of the Social and Community Services (Qld) Award. The organisation also received a capital grant of \$6,000 in April 1996 to undertake specific modifications to a HACC clients home.

There has been no reduction of funds for home care services. The Home and Community Care (HACC) budget has been increased by an average of 10.5% for each year since 1995/96.

(5) Queensland Health advises that TADQ is meeting its objectives in accordance with the service agreement with Queensland Health and the HACC National Guidelines.

596. Public Housing, Leichhardt

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (25/5/99)—

With reference to the massive shortage of public housing in the Leichhardt district—

- (1) How many vacancies are there currently on the books for this area?
- (2) What are his intentions to improve this situation of the housing shortage?
- (3) What is the length of the waiting time and the numbers of persons currently on the waiting list?
- (4) How does the length of the waiting list in this area compare with other areas in Queensland?
- (5) Will he give a comparison of waiting lists from other areas?

Mr SCHWARTEN (22/6/99): The Member obviously pays little attention to his electorate as there is no shortage of Public Housing in Leichhardt.

Leichhardt has one of the shortest waiting lists in the State with currently 27 people waiting for housing. I am advised these applicants will be housed within 6 months.

597. Hervey Bay State High School; Hervey Bay Senior College

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Education (25/5/99)—

With reference to the new Hervey Bay Senior College which opened some years ago and gained a large number of its students from the Hervey Bay High School's year 11 and 12 students and along with the students, went a large number of musical instruments and important books which have never been replaced at Hervey Bay High School—

- (1) Is he prepared to replace the instruments that were taken?
- (2) Is he prepared to replace the books that were also taken?
- (3) Will he and the Government cover the cost of these very expensive items and not place the burden of their cost on the school's budget or Parents' and Citizens' Association?

Mr WELLS (23/6/99): The transfer of equipment between Hervey Bay State High School and Hervey Bay Senior College occurred in 1986 when the Senior College opened. It appears that this equipment transfer was a local arrangement between the two principals.

There are no records of any of the equipment being transferred to the High School when it again became responsible for Year 11 and 12 students in approximately 1993. As this equipment was not new in 1986, it would now be at least 15 years old.

All existing schools are now solely responsible for the purchase of additional and replacement musical instruments and books.

However, in the context of next year's budget, consideration is being given to a special payment to the Hervey Bay State High School.

598. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority Board; Queensland Ambulance Service Board

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/5/99)—

- (1) How much money has been saved by dismissing (a) The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority Board and (b) The Queensland Ambulance Service Board?
- (2) How much has been spent on newly created administrative appointments?
- (3) To what other areas has this saving been allocated?

Mrs ROSE (24/6/99): With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service:

- (1) Actual budget savings for 1998/99 from the abolition of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) Board are \$60,200.
- (2) There has been no additional expenditure related to newly created administrative appointments.
- (3) Savings have been allocated to Regional expenditure for additional equipment or training. The Northern Region received \$9800, Central Region

\$7000, South West Region \$7000, North Coast Region \$6400, Greater Brisbane Region \$9600, South Eastern Region \$5400 and Far North Region \$5000. Savings have allowed money to be spent on equipment such as defibrillators, resuscitators, manikins, stretcher repairs and satellite phones. An amount of \$10,000 will go towards the cost of meetings of the new Emergency Services Advisory Council.

With reference to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority:

(1) Actual budget savings for 1998/99 from the abolition of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) Board are \$200,400.

(2) There has been no additional expenditure related to newly created administrative appointments.

(3) Savings have been allocated to Regional expenditure for additional equipment or training. The Brisbane North Region received \$18,500, Brisbane South \$10,400, South Eastern Region \$18,000, South Western Region \$17,500, Far North \$13,000, North Coast \$18,000, Northern Region \$11,000, Central Region \$32,000 and Rural Fire Service \$19,000, while \$33,000 was allocated to State training for the innovative Fight Fire Fascination program targeting juvenile fire-setters. The additional funds injected into front-line operations allowed the QFRA to provide additional monitors, radios, road accident rescue equipment, chemical suits, water branches, wind monitors, fire station grants and training courses. An amount of \$10,000 will go towards the cost of meetings of the new Emergency Services Advisory Council.

Pre-budget estimates in excess of \$300,000 for 1998/99 included administrative support and incidental costs associated with maintaining both the Board's structures.

599. Caboolture State School, Amenities

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Education (25/5/99)—

With reference to the junior toilet block of the Caboolture State School which was identified in May 1998 as a capital works priority due to the deterioration of the building, plumbing, floor surfaces and location under a main school building, this toilet block being first identified in 1994 and placed on the capital works program and another on site inspection was conducted in February 1999 with the Principal, the P&C, Education Queensland and myself, photographs of the deterioration being taken by Education Queensland and an assurance of the urgency of the need to replace being expressed and advice given that this need would be placed high on the priority list—

- (1) Due to the health and safety aspects, when is this urgent capital works need of this school community going to be addressed?
- (2) When is the work expected to be started and completed?

Mr WELLS (23/6/99): Officers from Facilities and Services Branch are currently reviewing the applications for improved facilities at state schools

for possible inclusion, as program items, in the draft 1999-2000 Capital Works Program. The upgrading of the junior amenities at Caboolture State School will be considered along with other requests for like facilities from other primary schools across the state.

Until the completion of the prioritisation process, it is not possible to give an actual commencement date for the upgrading of the junior amenities facility at Caboolture State School. However, if approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 Capital Works Program, the project will proceed quickly to invitation of tenders and subsequent construction. The old amenities will be demolished as part of the project.

600. Student Exchange Programs and Study Tour Programs

Ms STRUTHERS asked the Minister for Education (25/5/99)—

With reference to recent newspaper reports about shonky exchange programs and official study tours—

What is done by Education Queensland to protect students from unscrupulous operators?

Mr WELLS (23/6/99): At the outset let me say that the recent reports in the press relate neither to exchange programs nor to official study tours. The reports in fact relate to an unofficial study tour which was not conducted with the knowledge of Departmental officials or hosted by a Government school.

A clear distinction needs to be drawn between exchange programs and study tour programs. A study tour is defined as a group of international students and/or teachers who may attend school for a short period of time (usually less than 4 weeks) for the purpose of meeting with Australian students as part of an educational/cultural program. These students and teachers can enter Australia on a visitors visa and are not permitted to enrol at school or enter formal education courses but may attend school on a casual basis. Study tours can be operated by local tour operators or by schools but all requests for study tours to be hosted in Government schools should be referred to the Queensland Education Overseas Unit (QEOU) within Education Queensland in the first instance. Guidelines for the operation of inbound study tours are published in the Department of Education Manual, a copy of which is held by all Government schools. The QEOU monitors these programs to ensure that the interests of Education Queensland, local schools and students are met and that programs offer mutual educational benefits to both hosting students and visiting students.

Student Exchanges are arranged for individual students who can be enrolled in schools for periods in excess of one month up to a year. These programs can only be operated in schools by registered Exchange Organisations and the students need to obtain an Exchange Student Visa in order to enter Australia. The Queensland Register for Approved Exchange Organisations is maintained by the QEOU. Exchange Organisations can only continue operating if they maintain strict reciprocity between the numbers of students entering Queensland and those

departing Queensland in any calendar year. There are guidelines to which Exchange Organisations must adhere regarding not-for-profit status, financial viability, support systems for both inbound and outbound students, screening process for both students and host families, health insurance for students and appropriate conflict resolution procedures in place for any grievances arising.

601. Primary Industries Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/6/99): I refer the Honourable member to the response by the Premier to Question on Notice No 613 on this matter.

602. Cassowary, Lake Barrine; Southern Tablelands, Wildlife Rescue

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/5/99)—

- (1) Will he provide a detailed account of and all information in relation to the destruction of an injured cassowary at Lake Barrine on the Tablelands?
- (2) Given the issues surrounding the loss of this endangered and valuable native bird, will his department provide funding for a "Wildlife Rescue Trailer" to be based on the Southern Tablelands?

- (3) Will some thought be given to an immediate response action plan so that in the event of this happening again, local authorities can react with more information at hand?

Mr WELFORD (24/6/99):

(1) On or about 5 May 1999 a Cassowary known locally at Lake Barrine as "Henry" was hit by a truck. After the accident the bird ran off into the surrounding rainforest. The bird did not appear again until Sunday, 16 May 1999 although efforts had been made by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) staff and CSIRO staff to locate the bird.

When the bird reappeared, a local veterinarian and rangers were notified. The Cassowary was having difficulty remaining upright and transferred to the Lake Eacham Ranger Base. The bird's left foot had been almost completely severed.

The QPWS ranger contacted senior staff for direction on what action should be taken with the Cassowary. He passed on the vet's opinion that an attempt could be made to try and save the bird. However, the foot and part of the leg would have needed to be amputated and there was no certainty as to the success of such an operation.

(2) There is no proposal to provide a wildlife rescue trailer for the southern Tablelands. I should add that a wildlife rescue trailer would not have made any difference to the outcome of the recent situation. There is a very efficient wildlife rescue team of volunteers on the Atherton Tableland who handle most of the wildlife emergencies.

(3) The Cassowary Advisory Group is in the process of developing a response protocol for cassowary incidents. Its development has involved wide consultation and involvement from many groups including in particular: community groups, QPWS, DNR, veterinarians, CSIRO scientists, the Wet Tropics Management Authority, and Shire Councils. The protocol is almost complete and will include area specific contacts and a set of guidelines that will outline the appropriate course of action should an incident occur involving a cassowary.

603. Builyan and Many Peaks; Regional Forest Agreement

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries (25/5/99)—

With reference to the RFA options released recently—

What action does he propose to protect jobs, community and social infrastructure in towns such as Builyan and Many Peaks?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/6/99): The Directions Report has been prepared by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments to facilitate stakeholder and community involvement in developing a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) for South East Queensland (SEQ).

It presents a range of possible forest management scenarios to encourage community debate on the many complex issues that they raise.

No scenario in the report represents the position of either Government, and the report in no way pre-empt government decisions about the RFA.

Government is encouraging communities and individuals to put forward their views about the future management during the public comment period, so that these views can be taken into account in negotiation of the RFA, and I would urge the people of Bullyan and Many Peaks to take advantage of this opportunity to ensure that their voice is heard.

604. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr BRADY (24/6/99): I refer the Member for Clayfield to the Honourable the Premier's response to Question on Notice 613, tabled on 24 June 1999.

605. Communication and Information and Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities Portfolios, Capital Works Program

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr MACKENROTH (24/6/99): I refer the Honourable Member, Mr Hobbs, to the response tabled by the Premier, the Honourable Mr Beattie, regarding this matter.

606. Emergency Services Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within her portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed

capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?

Mrs ROSE (24/6/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the response tabled by the Premier to Question on Notice Number 613.

607. Attorney-General and Justice and The Arts Portfolios, Capital Works Program

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr FOLEY (24/6/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the response to this particular question on Capital Works which was tabled by the Premier.

608. Environment and Heritage and Natural Resources Portfolios, Capital Works Program

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr WELFORD (24/6/99): I would like to thank the member for his question and I would like to refer him to the answer submitted by the Premier to Question on Notice 613.

609. Public Works and Housing Portfolios, Capital Works Program

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr SCHWARTEN (24/6/99): Please refer to the answer tabled by the Honourable the Premier to Question on Notice No. 613.

610. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr BARTON (24/6/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the Premier's response to QON 613.

611. Treasury Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr HAMILL (17/6/99): The Department monitors progress of its Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. This System monitors all departmental expenditure including capital grants and subsidies but may exclude some elements of plant and equipment. The system does not report monthly expenditure for non-departmental agencies as such information relates to the internal management of those agencies and is largely commercial-in-confidence.

The Department does not directly monitor employment generation associated with its Capital Works Program due to the complexities associated with compiling reliable information. As a rule of thumb, however, one method of determining employment impacts is to divide relevant capital expenditure by \$1,400 to arrive at an estimate of the number of person-weeks of employment generated. It should be noted that this rule of thumb produces an estimate only and should be adjusted to account for non-employment generating activities such as the purchase of land.

In view of this, the specific answers are as follows:

- (1) Forecast expenditure May and June 1999: \$1.350 million.
- (2) Forecast employment impacts May and June 1999 (per above): 964 person weeks.
- (3) Actual expenditure to the end of April 1999: \$12.654 million.
- (4) Actual employment impacts to the end of April 1999 (per above): 9,039 person weeks.

612. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolios, Capital Works Program

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within her portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?

- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?

Ms BLIGH (24/6/99): I am aware that the Member for Brisbane Central has prepared a response to this question and I respectfully refer to that answer.

613. Premier and Cabinet Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr BEATTIE (24/6/99): The Department of the Premier and Cabinet monitors progress of the Capital Works Program through the Government's Capital Works Monitoring System. This System monitors all departmental expenditures including capital grants and subsidies but may exclude some elements of plant and equipment. The System does not report monthly expenditure for non-departmental agencies as such information relates to the internal management of those agencies and is largely commercial-in-confidence.

The Capital Works Monitoring System does not directly monitor employment generation associated with the Capital Works Program due to the complexities associated with compiling accurate and reliable information. The annual Budget does provide an estimation of the employment impacts of such capital works expenditure for that year, using a formula based on dividing relevant capital expenditure by \$1400 to arrive at an estimate of the number of person-weeks of employment generated. This methodology has been in use for several years to provide time series consistency.

A rough estimate of the employment impact of part year expenditure could be calculated by applying this formula, although the value of such analysis is open to question.

Accordingly, the detailed answers to Questions 1 and 3 are provided in the following table:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

614. Tourism, Sport and Racing Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr GIBBS (24/6/99): I refer the honourable the member for Toowoomba North to the answer to Question on Notice No. 613 tabled by the Honourable the Premier today.

615. Education Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr WELLS (23/6/99): I refer the Honourable member to the response to Question on Notice 613 tabled by the Premier on 24 June 1999.

616. Deputy Premier and State Development and Trade Portfolios, Capital Works Program

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr ELDER (24/6/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the response to this particular question on capital works tabled by the Premier.

617. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Women's Policy and Fair Trading Portfolios, Capital Works Program

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within her portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?

Ms SPENCE (24/6/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the response for Question on Notice No. 613 which has been tabled by the Honourable Peter Beattie, Premier.

618. Health Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within her portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for her portfolio and its entities?

Mrs EDMOND (24/6/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the response to Question on Notice No. 613 tabled by the Premier.

619. Mines and Energy Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr ELDER (Acting Minister for Mines and Energy) for **Mr McGRADY** (24/6/99): I refer Mr Rowell to the response tabled by the Premier.

620. Transport and Main Roads Portfolios, Capital Works Programs

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (25/5/99)—

With reference to the capital works budgets and programs within his portfolio—

- (1) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted expenditure of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (2) What are the estimated/projected/forecasted person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for the months of May and June of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure to the end of April of the total capital (outlays) work (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?
- (4) What was the actual person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) work program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) up to and including the end of April of 1998-99 for his portfolio and its entities?

Mr BREDHAUER (24/6/99): I refer to the advice detailed in the response from the Premier to Question on Notice No. 613.

621. Public Housing, Waiting List

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (25/5/99)—

With reference to public housing at 30 April—

- (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 times months for (a) less than six months, (b) six to 11 months, (c) one to two years, (d) two to three years, (e) three to four years and (f) more than four years in total and by area office?
 - (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 May 1998 and 30 April 1999 in total and by area office?
 - (5) How many applicants were allocated public housing during the month of April 1999?
 - (6) How many evictions of public housing tenants have occurred during the month of April 1999?
 - (7) How many flats/apartments/duplexes/houses are located in Labrador?

Mr SCHWARTEN (23/6/99):

- (1) As at 30 April 1999, there were a total of 24,199 applicants on the public housing waitlist. 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 waitlist by family type as at 30 April 1999. (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 waitlist by wait time in months, and by area office as at 30 April 1999. (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 May 1998 and 30 April 1999 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 April 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (6) The number of public housing tenants evicted during the month of April 1999 was three.
- (7) See Attachment F for a breakdown of public rental housing by dwelling type in Labrador. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

622. Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (25/5/99)—

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 April in 1998-99?

- (2) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) in the month of April in 1998-99?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 30 April 1999?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for the month of April 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (10/6/99):

- (1) The total revenue derived from sales (accrual based) in the month of April in 1998-99 was \$2.709M.
- (2) The total expenditure (accrual based) in the month of April in 1998-99 for cost of sales was \$2.058M and operating expenses was \$0.842M.
- (3) The value of the inventory on hand at 30 April 1999 was \$4.640M.
- (4) A loss of \$191,000.

623. Public Housing Rental Arrears

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (25/5/99)—

With reference to public housing—

- (1) At 30 April, 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 four weeks, (b) four to less than eight weeks, (c) eight 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 April, how many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?

Mr SCHWARTEN (23/6/99):

- (1) See Attachment A for the number of public housing rental accounts in arrears in total and percentage terms, as at 30 April 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (2) Details of accounts in arrears for less than four weeks cannot be provided because tenants are not deemed "in arrears" until they are four or more weeks in arrears. See Attachment A for the number and percentage of public housing rental accounts in arrears for (b) four to less than eight weeks, (c) eight to less than 12 weeks and (d) 12 weeks and greater in total and by area office and the monetary value of these categories as at 30 April 1999. (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 April 1999 is not currently available, but should become accessible by the end of June 1999. The latest available statistics are at 30 November 1998, as the department implemented major computer system changes at the end of November 1998, when there were 2,834 public households paying market rent. This represented 5.9 percent of total public rental households in Queensland.

624. Public Works and Housing Portfolio, Consultancies

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (25/5/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 25 June 1998 up to and including 25 May 1999 by portfolio area and subprogram?

Mr SCHWARTEN (28/6/99):

Department of Public Works

See Attachment A for the (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 25 June 1998 up to and including 25 May 1999 for the Department of Public Works by service area. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Department of Housing

See Attachment B for the (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 25 June 1998 up to and including 25 May 1999 for the Department of Housing by service area. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

625. Emergency Services Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/5/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by her portfolio—

Will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 25 June 1998 up to and including 29 April 1999 by portfolio area and subprogram?

Mrs ROSE (24/6/99): The consultancies engaged by the Department of Emergency Services for the period 25 June 1998 to 29 April 1999 are presented in the attached Table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

These consultancies have been engaged in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy.

626. Queensland Ambulance Service, Appliances

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/5/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service—

Will she provide the number of new appliances purchased and the number of appliances decommissioned for each year from 1985-86 up to and including 1998-99?

Mrs ROSE (24/6/99): Prior to 1991, each of the 96 QATB Committees bought and sold ambulances independently. Decommissioning of ambulances did then and still does equate closely to the number purchased on a one for one basis with some provision for growth and new stations. There is no readily available data to confirm year by year totals.

With the formation of QAS in July 1991, records were gradually centralised and the initial handover was of 891 operational vehicles and a total fleet of 942. The current total fleet, which includes all appliances such as operational ambulances, trailers, caravans, buses and administration vehicles, is 937, including 138 leased vehicles. There has been a significant alteration to the mix of vehicle types in recent years to ensure maximum operational effectiveness.

Details of new vehicle purchases, refurbishment of vehicles and disposals since 1994/95 when the current Total Asset Management System (TAMS) Asset Register was implemented are:

	Acquisition/Refurb.—	Disposal
1994/95	94—167	
1995/96	43—132	
1996/97	52—7	
1997/98	139—118	
1998/99 (to date)	93—128	

The last two years have seen significant carryover acquisitions from previous years due to unavailability of Cab/chassis from 1994 to 1996.

Disposals were significant over this period due to disposing of many trailers and caravans previously held by Local Ambulance Committees and small sedans from administration offices with the discontinuance of Subscriber Representatives (Collectors).

From July 1991, there was a gradual introduction of leased vehicles from Q Fleet, which currently accounts for 138 vehicles, which have replaced vehicles previously owned by QAS.

627. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority and Queensland Ambulance Service, Appliances

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/5/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority and the Queensland Ambulance Service—

Will she provide the total number of appliances by age and by appliance type for each region and district?

Mrs ROSE (24/6/99): The total number of Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority urban appliances as at 1 June 1999 was 442.

The detailed information requested of appliances by age and by appliance type for each region for the urban designated areas has been provided in the attached Table 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Accurate data on Rural appliances is available from 1993 onwards only. Appliances acquired by Rural Fire Brigades prior to 1993 were not categorised. There are approximately 243 rural appliances as at 1 June 1999. The detailed information requested of appliances by age and by appliance type for each district for the rural appliances has been provided in the attached Table 2. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The previous Labor Government introduced a fire appliance replacement program. This Government is now accelerating that program.

The QFRA will place orders for additional urban appliances which will be built by several suppliers who have taken over from the collapsed Austral Specialised Vehicles. Appliances are now rolling off the production line and the accelerated replacement program will enable the QFRA to decommission many of the ageing appliances around the state.

The Government is also replacing ageing rural vehicles at a rapid rate. With almost 100 trucks planned for 1998-99, the fire-fighting efficiency of brigades across the state is being enhanced. The Government will spend almost \$4 million on its rural fire appliance program in 1998-99.

The attached schedule provides details of all QAS vehicles as at 31 May 1999 sorted by Ambulance District into age groups and types. Age groups used are consistent with QAS goal definition for reducing aged vehicles. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

There are 34 operational patient carrying vehicles over 10 years old. Many of these are scheduled for replacement in current orders.

Type categories used are:

Class 1—Emergency response

Class 2—Non-urgent Patient Transport

Other—includes all non-patient carrying vehicles such as caravans, trailers, mines vehicles, historical vehicles and vehicles used for driver education.

There are an additional 138 leased vehicles.

628. Disaster Management Unit; State Emergency Services

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/5/99)—

With reference to the State Emergency Service—

What was the total budget allocation for 1998-99 to the now defunct Director, State Emergency Services and Disaster Management?

Mrs ROSE (24/6/99): The total budget allocation for the Disaster Management Unit (which incorporated the functions of SES Support and Disaster Operations) was \$8.676M for the 1998/99 financial year.

629. Public Housing, Vacancies and Maintenance

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (25/5/99)—

With reference to public housing at 30 April—

- (1) How many dwellings by dwelling type and bedroom number were vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four 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 (23/6/99):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of dwellings, by dwelling type and bedroom number, vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) more than 12 weeks in total and by area office as at 30 April 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The vacant turnaround time for maintenance of public housing premises was 15.1 calendar days, as at 30 April 1999.

The vacant turnaround time for allocations of public housing premises was 32 calendar days, as at 30 April 1999.

The turnaround times are higher than expected largely due to data integrity problems with the new computer system, in particular, data converted from the old computer system into the new computer system, including incomplete and inaccurate data.

Since November 1998, turnaround times have been calculated in 'calendar days' instead of 'working days'.

630. Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE, Dalby Campus

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (25/5/99)—

With reference to clients of the TAFE services provided in Dalby who complain that computing classes are understaffed and as I am advised a class of 25 students, all at differing levels of competence, have to share the one teacher for a three hour session and it is alleged the teacher is unable to provide enough personalised one-on-one assistance to these students and it is further alleged all 25 computer stations share just one outdated printer, this in itself preventing efficient use of student time—

Will he undertake to ensure a better teacher/student ratio and appropriate equipment so clients of the Dalby TAFE facilities are given acceptable levels of instruction?

Mr BRADY (24/6/99): I am advised by the Director of the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE that there has not been a class of 25 students seeking to undertake computing studies at the Dalby Campus. The average class size is 16 students.

The teacher/student ratio for computing classes conducted at the Dalby Campus of the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE is in accordance with the Guidelines for Class Sizes appended to the TAFE Teachers Award—State and TAFE Queensland Enterprise Agreement 1995. The computing facility at the Dalby Campus, which can accommodate a maximum of 21 students, has 21 Pentium computer work stations which are linked to a Laserjet 5M printer. Students undertaking Computer Aided Drafting modules also access a Deskjet printer and scanner.

631. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, SES Positions

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/5/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority within her portfolio—

Will she provide by subprogram the following details relating to (a) each individual SES position upgrade since 26 June 1998 (i) date of each upgrade, (ii) name of officer, (iii) old SES level or public service classification, (iv) new SES level and (v) whether there was a formal interview process and (b) each new SES position since 26 June 1998 (i) date of appointment, (ii) name of officer, (iii) old SES level, (iv) new SES level and (v) whether there was a formal interview process?

Mrs ROSE (24/6/99):

(a) No SES positions within the QFRA have been upgraded since 26 June 1998.

(b) There have been no new SES positions created within the QFRA since 26 June 1998.

632. Queensland Ambulance Service, SES Positions

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/5/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service within her portfolio—

Will she provide by subprogram the following details relating to (a) each individual SES position upgrade since 26 June 1998 (i) date of each upgrade, (ii) name of officer, (iii) old SES level or public service classification, (iv) new SES level and (v) whether there was a formal interview process and (b) each new SES position since 26 June 1998 (i) date of appointment, (ii) name of officer, (iii) old SES level, (iv) new SES level and (v) whether there was a formal interview process?

Mrs ROSE (24/6/99): (a) There have been no SES position upgrades within the Queensland Ambulance Service since 26 June 1998 and (b) there has not been any creation of new SES positions, or appointments to SES positions within the Queensland Ambulance Service since 26 June 1998.

633. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, SES Positions

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/5/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority within her portfolio—

Will she provide at 25 June 1998 and 29 April 1999 (a) the total number of positions (below SES level) for each subprogram in number and by FTE, (b) a breakdown of staffing (below SES level) by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE for each subprogram, (c) a breakdown of staffing (below SES level) vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE for each subprogram, (d) the total number of positions (SES level) for each subprogram in number and by FTE, (e) a breakdown of staffing (SES level) by SES classifications in total positions and by FTE for each subprogram and (f) a breakdown of staffing (SES level) vacancies by SES classifications in total positions and by FTE for each subprogram?

Mrs ROSE (24/6/99):

(a) The total number of positions (below SES level) for each subprogram in number and by FTE is as follows:

Subprogram	As at 25 June 1998	
	No. of Positions	FTE
Operations	-	-
Business Services	15	15
TOTAL	15	15

Subprogram	As at 29 April 1999	
	No. of Positions	FTE
Operations	-	-
Business Services	9	9
TOTAL	9	9

(b) A breakdown of staffing (below SES level) by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE for each subprogram is as follows:

Subprogram	As at 25 June 1998	
	No. of Positions	FTE
Operations		
Business Services		
AO6	1	1
AO5	2	2
AO3	3	3
AO1/2	9	9
TOTAL	15	15

Subprogram	As at 29 April 1999	
	No. of Positions	FTE
Operations		
Business Services		
AO6	-	-
AO5	1	1
AO3	2	2
AO1/2	6	6
TOTAL	9	9

The reduction in positions with public service classifications is due to the establishment of equivalent positions within the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority.

(c) All positions (below SES level) with public service classifications were filled during both the reporting periods.

(d-f) There are no positions to be reported on in this category.

634. Needle Exchange Program

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Health (25/5/99)—

- (1) Does the needle exchange program support the return of needles?
- (2) What proportion of needles are returned?
- (3) Has any research been undertaken on non-reusable needles where the needle point retracts after use; if so, what are the results of the research?

Mrs EDMOND (24/6/99):

(1) The Queensland Needle Availability Support Program encourages the safe disposal of used injecting equipment, whether this is exchange of equipment, or the safe disposal of used equipment.

Staff of needle distribution programs receive training in the safe disposal of used equipment before they are authorised to distribute equipment. Drug users are also regularly informed of the need to safely dispose of used equipment, and how they can best do so. All equipment supplied by Queensland Health is supplied with disposal containers.

(2) Gold Coast AIDS Association and Injectors Newsline (GAIN) and the Queensland Intravenous AIDS Association (QuIVAA) both collect data on the amount of used injecting equipment they receive. Both of these agencies have at times had a return rate of more than 100% of the equipment that they distribute.

Data from councils indicates that the amount of equipment disposed of in an unsafe manner is less than one percent. The need for safe disposal continues to be stressed in Queensland Health's new training program for needle availability workers.

(3) Queensland Health examined non-reusable needles where the needle point retracts after use. The price of this product is seven times that of the equipment currently used. The introduction of this equipment would require a vast increase in funding for this program.

635. Sorry Book

Mr PAFF asked the Premier (26/5/99)—

With reference to the Sorry Book—

- (1) What is the total population of Queensland?
- (2) How many Queenslanders signed the Sorry Book?
- (3) Where is this book located?
- (4) In his address to the Parliament, does he believe he has represented all of the people of Queensland or a minority group?

Mr BEATTIE (24/6/99):

(1) The Office of Economic and Statistical Research (formerly the Government Statistician's Office) advise that the most up to date figure for the population of Queensland is 3,471,500. This figure comes from the September 1998 Quarterly Census and is as yet unpublished.

(2) There is not just one Sorry Book, there are many that have been and currently are in circulation in Australia. According to a member of the National Sorry Day Committee, there are well over 1000 Sorry Books throughout the country, some of which are official. However, many other Sorry Books have been initiated by hundreds of schools and Churches, are not printed on the official archival quality paper, and may have been retained by the initiating organisation.

It is therefore impossible to establish the total number of Sorry Books in existence throughout the country, or the total number of people who have signed a book, or the total number of Queenslanders who have signed a book. Due to these facts, I am unable to provide a specific answer to the second part of the question, other than to state that there are believed to be between 500 000 and 1 000 000 signatories nationally, based on the number of books that have been officially lodged with the Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra and the National Sorry Day Committee.

(3) As mentioned in section two of this answer, many Sorry Books are not printed on the official archival quality paper and may have been retained by the initiating organisation. However, the Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra currently has possession of approximately 1000 books, which are being stored with the intention of including them in the National Museum when it is established.

(4) The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy statement that the current Queensland Government took to the last State election has as the objective:

To improve the social and economic well being of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on the principles of social justice and reconciliation. This approach recognises the importance of overcoming the legacy of our past policies as a matter of priority.

As part of the actioning of the current Queensland Government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy, the Queensland Government honoured its commitment to the people of Queensland by moving the following motion in Parliament on National Sorry Day, Wednesday 26 May 1999:

1. This House apologises to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland on behalf of all Queenslanders for the past policies under which Indigenous children were forcibly separated from their families and expresses deep sorrow and regret at the hurt and distress that this caused.

2. This House recognises the critical importance to Indigenous Australians and the wider community of a continuing reconciliation process, based on an understanding of, and frank apologies for, what has

gone wrong in the past and total commitment to equal respect in the future.

I believe that the vast majority of Queenslanders are overwhelmingly supportive of an active reconciliation process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Queensland government is committed to continuing the reconciliation process between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians and is working through the newly created position of Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and the newly established Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development to achieve lasting reconciliation for all Queenslanders.

636. University Campus, Caboolture

Mr FELDMAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (26/5/99)—

With reference to the plans that are currently being formulated between the Caboolture Shire Council, the Department of Education and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to build a university campus on the Beerburrum Place Business Centre on the corner of Beerburrum Road and James Street, Caboolture—

- (1) Why haven't the interested parties of the Caboolture Central Business District been informed of this pending development?
- (2) If this proposal is under way, (a) why has there been no discussion or request for input with the Caboolture Central Business District Association, a group which submitted a proposal for a transit centre on the eastern side of this location to him, as the Minister for State Development at the Community Cabinet meeting at Caboolture in February, (b) will this impact on the proposed university site and (c) why have they not been informed?

Mr ELDER (25/6/99):

(1) My Department of State Development has not been involved in discussions that may have taken place with the Department of Education concerning this proposed project. However, the Northside State Development Centre has advised me that confidential discussions have taken place between QUT and the Caboolture Shire Council and that no decision has been finalised at this stage

On 4 June 1999 the Mayor of Caboolture, Cr Tom McLoughlin released a press statement headed "Caboolture University Campus Being Considered". This was the first public announcement of the project.

(2) I understand that these discussions remain of a preliminary nature. I also understand that following the release of the Caboolture Mayor's press statement, there have been or will be informal discussions with individual members of the Caboolture Central Business District Retailers and Traders Association.

637. Public Housing for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, Hervey Bay

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/5/99)—

- (1) What is the estimated number of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in public sector housing in Hervey Bay in 1998-99?
- (2) What is the proposed increase for 1999-2000?

Mr SCHWARTEN (23/6/99):

(1) The Department of Housing, through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Program accommodated approximately 54 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Hervey Bay in 1998/99.

Indigenous households are found in both mainstream public housing as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Program. Statistics, however, can only be accurately compiled for indigenous households by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Program. Consistent with non-discriminatory procedures, it has never been compulsory for clients of mainstream public housing to disclose their racial or ethnic background.

(2) The Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Housing Program will provide one, three-bedroom house and two, two-bedroom seniors accommodation in Hervey Bay in 1999/2000.

638. University of Queensland Veterinary School, Equine Medicine and Surgery Training

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Education (26/5/99)—

With reference to personal communication to me from employees at the University of Queensland Veterinary School and communication from Queensland Veterinary graduates now working in England which has revealed an emerging problem with the standard of the Queensland Veterinary Degree, due to the lack of adequate specialised staff to train undergraduates in the discipline of equine medicine and surgery, which has led to speculation that Queensland graduates may not be permitted to practice in this field in overseas countries such as England—

- (1) Is he aware of this problem; if so, or if he finds this to be true, what steps will he undertake to rectify the situation?
- (2) Does he agree with the stop gap measure of equine training for undergraduates at Oakey which, due to constraints of private practice could influence the nature of training?
- (3) How does he intend to reassure the general community of the standard of veterinary graduates?

Mr WELLS (25/6/99): I understand that issues regarding the University's approach to the provision of training in equine medicine and surgery have been raised in communications of the Australian Veterinary Association.

The University of Queensland is a self-accrediting institution of high standing within Australia and internationally. The University takes responsibility for decisions concerning the matters raised in the question; namely, the location of various elements of the University, and the quality of facilities and standards of degree programs. It would be quite improper for me, as the Minister, to seek to intervene in what are properly decisions for the University.

However, in response to the particular matters raised, the University advises that there is no threat to the standard of the Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree in Queensland. While there has been a temporary closure of the equine clinic and hospital, the School of Veterinary Science and Animal Production has contracted some of the teaching of equine clinical practice to Oakey Veterinary Hospital under the supervision of Adjunct Professor Reg Pascoe and his staff. The remaining equine teaching will still be done at St Lucia with existing academic staff and other veterinarians.

The Head of the School of Veterinary Science and Animal Production, Professor Hughes, has advised that clinical instruction in the 1999 course may be better than that which the School has been able to provide with its restricted staff resources of recent years, and has been enthusiastically received by students. The program requires students to meet designated competency standards, and an appropriate quality assurance program is in place. The Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science and the School of Veterinary Science remain committed to providing a centre of excellence for teaching and research in Queensland. Such outsourcing of facilities and practical work is a well-established practice, particularly where clinical experience is required. The University of Melbourne has outsourced the teaching of dairy cattle clinical practice at Maffra for 20 years without any threat to accreditation.

With respect to reassuring the general community as to the standard of Queensland Veterinary graduates, I would point out that there are statutory arrangements which provide for regulation of professional education and practice standards. My Department has been unable to find evidence that collaborates Dr Prenzler's concerns. I suggest if he has real evidence of a threat to the accreditation of our graduates, the proper course of action is for him to draw these to the attention of the University.

639. Realignment of Bruce Highway at Gunalda Range

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/5/99)—

With reference to landowners in the area of the infamous proposed Gunalda range deviation who have been living under the cloud of resumption for many years and have been unable to make decisions on their future—

When are these people likely to know their fate and when will they be free to get on with their lives?

Mr BREDHAUER (25/6/99): All landholders affected by the proposed route options A and B for

the new crossing of the Gunalda Range were advised in writing on 13 November 1997, that Option A was the recommended route. Advice also was given, at the same time, that resumption discussions would occur when investigations on land requirements had been finalised as part of the detailed design process.

Since the 13 November 1997 announcement, all affected landowners have been informed regularly of progress on project investigations and issues.

"Notices of Intention to Resume" were issued to the affected landholders on 25 March 1999, with the objection deadline closing on 29 April 1999.

A final report on the outcome of the "Notices of Intention to Resume" is currently being finalised.

Any landholder who has approached the Department of Main Roads to negotiate the taking of land along the route prior to the "Notices of Intention to Resume" have been accommodated.

All landholders along the proposed route are aware of the resumption impacts on their properties.

Following proclamation of the required land, negotiations will be entered into with the landholders to resolve the compensation aspects of the resumption.

640. Burdekin Special School, Funding for Bus Purchase

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (26/5/99)—

With reference to my letter to her on 23 March on behalf of the Burdekin Special School and its request for 50 per cent State Government funding towards the purchase of a new school bus, estimated to cost approximately \$90,000 and to her letter of 30 March in which she indicated the issue would be considered fully and she would write in more detail in the near future—

What is the latest she can report on this matter?

Ms BLIGH (24/6/99): The Member for Burdekin will be aware, following receipt of my reply, that my Department provides funding to community organisations through the Disability Program for a range of service responses. These responses include accommodation support; community access; respite; recreation; information; print disability; and advocacy. Non-recurrent funding may also be provided to organisations to purchase equipment that is not covered by the Home Medical Aids Scheme.

The request from the Special School, however, is outside the scope of service response that can be funded under the Disability Funding Guidelines.

To assist the Burdekin Special School Association, I have raised this issue with my colleague the Honourable Dean Wells MLA, Minister for Education, as funding for special schools comes within his area of ministerial responsibility. I have asked Mr Wells to respond directly to the Member for Burdekin.

Another possible avenue of assistance may be the Gambling Machine Community Benefit Fund. The Fund provides one-off grants of up to \$15,000 to

community organisations. I realise that this figure is considerably less than the amount required by the Association, but would, no doubt, assist the Association towards achieving its goal. I have provided the appropriate application forms in my written reply.

641. Ms E. McIntyre

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (26/5/99)—

- (1) Why did one of her Ministerial employees, namely a Ms Ellen McIntyre who is currently on leave from the ABC, ring me to issue what I consider to be an abusive and unnecessary phone call, using her Parliamentary office and phone?
- (2) How did this person get access to my phone number, a number I would not give this person when she was a reporter with the ABC?
- (3) Why is this person, who currently lives with a fellow Minister, employed by her and what duties does she carry out?
- (4) Does she condone the haranguing and harassment of Members of the Legislative Assembly by what is obviously a person who has their own political and personal agenda and is using her position in the Minister's service to become a nuisance to other Members?

Ms SPENCE (25/6/99):

- (1) Ms McIntyre contacted the Member for Tablelands to discuss comments he had made in the House on 25 May 1999.
- (2) Ms McIntyre accessed the Member's Parliamentary telephone in the usual way, via the Parliamentary operator.
- (3) Ms McIntyre is employed by the Ministerial Services Branch of the Department of Premier and Cabinet to carry out the duties of a Senior Media Adviser.
- (4) I have no evidence that Ms McIntyre is in any way misusing her position nor is she harassing Members of the Legislative Assembly.

642. Member for Nicklin, Parliamentary Entitlements

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (26/5/99)—

With reference to a precedent within this Parliament that Members elected as independents receive additional parliamentary resources, basically Parliamentary staff to allow them to be well informed and thus competent and responsible Members, thus contributing meaningfully to the crucial decisions taken by this Queensland Parliament. I understand that during this parliamentary year, the Member for Nicklin received capital for the equipping of his parliamentary offices and has two parliamentary staff devoted to helping him play a responsible and well researched role within Parliament and despite

repeated letters, the Premier has insisted that as an independent not elected as an independent, I am not eligible for resources within Parliament, despite precedents within other Australian Parliaments and thus I am deprived of parliamentary resources and those resources provided to members of parties, to enable me to contribute to more informed decisions on behalf of Queensland and as the Premier has said several times that he will not waste one cent of taxpayers' money by the provision of resources which will help me to be better researched—

Does he consider that the Member for Nicklin needs his additional resources to ensure he is a productive and well informed member, yet I do not?

Mr BEATTIE (25/6/99): There is a major difference between Members of Parliament who were elected as Independents and those who were elected as members of a political party. Voters believed that candidates who stood as Independents would remain Independents. Because they were not part of a party organisation these Members would need support if they were to fulfil their responsibilities by making full and proper research into legislation coming before Parliament. Voters believed that candidates who stood as members of One Nation would represent them as One Nation Members. As such these Members had access to the special support resources which the Government supplied the party with. The support was more than the party was entitled to but I felt it was necessary for the sake of democracy to ensure that One Nation was able to represent not only its supporters but also the Members' electorates. One of the frequent statements made by One Nation was that politicians received too many benefits and that these benefits should be cut. I am not prepared to make even more of the public's money available to those One Nation Members who have now decided that they have changed their minds and do not want to remain in the party. These Members were elected because they stood as One Nation candidates—not as Independents.

643. Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, Dalby Teenager

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (26/5/99)—

With reference to the case involving a teenage minor who had left home and taken up residence that in the opinion of local police, placed this teenager in moral danger and to my requests to the Toowoomba office of her department to note the concerns of the police and to move to have the girl move back to the family which were unsuccessful and as I was told the teenager in question was 15 and would only leave home again and that the local police were frustrated by this decision and to a Dalby community counselling service which took up the case and has succeeded where the department failed to even try—

Were her departmental officers hamstrung by their Act or was it a case of local people being prepared to persevere in the best interests of the teenager and with the cooperation of the local police?

Ms BLIGH (25/6/99): I understand that the fifteen-year-old teenager referred to by the Member for Western Downs had moved in with another family in the Dalby area in November 1998 and was refusing to return home. I am advised that the Toowoomba Area Office were in contact with the child's mother but were not supplied with information which would indicate that the child was currently at risk of significant harm.

The police also have the authority to apply to the Children's Court for a Care and Protection Order, if they are of the belief that the child has been significantly harmed or is at risk of significant harm. The police at Dalby did not exercise this authority, and I am advised that neither they nor the child's mother supplied any information to officers of the Department which might have led them to initiate a child protection assessment.

The parent of this child was referred to a community agency based in Dalby, for assistance with parent/adolescent conflict. This agency employs a worker who is funded by my Department to assist families with such matters.

I am advised that officers of my Department had no cause to intervene in this matter, and that no information regarding the alleged "moral danger" of the child was provided to my departmental officers.

In matters where there are no significant child protection concerns, the best approach is one where a community-based agency works with the family and the young person in order to work through tensions and conflicts and to conciliate differences. In this case, I am pleased that the community agency funded by my Department has been able to assist this family.

644. Director-General of Health; James Cook University Medical School

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (26/5/99)—

Has the Director-General of Health declared any conflict of interest that he may have when advising her in regard to James Cook University's Medical School?

Mrs EDMOND (25/6/99): There is no conflict of interest.

I am advised by the Director-General that he was offered and that he accepted an Adjunct Professorial title from the University of Queensland in 1997 and that he discussed the matter with the then Minister. He advised me of the Adjunct Professorial title when I was appointed Minister.

It is noted that the Director-General is a graduate of two universities and that he holds Fellowships in four professional Colleges. As the Director-General, he is required to be on several national committees such as the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Committee. This Committee asked the Director-General to be its representative on the Australian Medical Council and the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee as he is the only medically qualified Head of a health department in Australia.

Furthermore, I am advised that the Director-General was instrumental in facilitating awareness of the need for increased medical student places in Queensland, at Townsville, and that he first raised the issue at the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Committee meeting in Wellington immediately after his appointment in January 1996. He subsequently visited US medical schools which are world renowned for their focus on the recruitment of rural and indigenous students into medicine.

The Australian Medical Council has established a subcommittee to investigate and assess the application for a medical school to be accredited at the JCU. This subcommittee will then provide a report to the Accreditation Committee of the Australian Medical Council which will then make a recommendation to the Council itself, of which the Director-General is one of 17 members.

645. Electricity Boards, Staffing and VERs

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (26/5/99)—

With reference to the current electricity board structure—

- (1) What are the current staffing models of linesmen and trade assistants in the board districts?
- (2) What are the current staffing levels of linesmen and trade assistants in the board districts?
- (3) What is the number of VERs currently applied for by linesmen and trade assistants in the board districts?

Mr McGRADY (25/6/99):

(1) The terminology "linesmen" and "trade assistants" are not consistent with the awards currently applicable in the industry. There is also some degree of multi-skilling occurring in the industry. The numbers provided below have been restricted as far as possible to those staff performing only traditional "linesmen" and "trade assistants" roles.

The staff establishment models for each of the electricity distribution corporations, as at 28 May 1999, are as follows:

CAPELEC—125 technical servicepersons and 21 power workers;

ENERGEX—694 technical servicepersons and 213 power workers;

FNQEB—237 technical servicepersons (including 22 apprentices) and 29 power workers;

MEB—42 technical servicepersons and 10 power workers;

NORQEB—120 technical servicepersons and 22 power workers;

South West Power—198 technical servicepersons (including 20 apprentices) and 30 power workers;

WBEC—64 linespersons and 64 trade assistants.

(2) The actual staffing levels for each of the electricity distribution corporations, as at 28 May 1999, are as follows:

CAPELEC—120 technical servicepersons and 21 power workers;

ENERGEX—682 technical servicepersons (including 66 apprentices) and 213 power workers;

FNQEB—227 technical servicepersons (including 22 apprentices, with 10 positions being advertised) and 29 power workers;

MEB—41 technical servicepersons (including 1 apprentice, plus 1 position under recruitment) and 10 power workers;

NORQEB—117 technical servicepersons (plus 4 temporary and 8 advertised or offered positions) and 22 power workers;

South West Power—198 technical servicepersons (including 20 apprentices) and 30 power workers

WBEC—76 linespersons (plus 1 appointment in train) and 39 trade assistants (internal training has allowed the allocation of trade assistant positions to linesperson activities in line with business requirements).

(3) Since 16 February 1999, the following VERs have been applied for by technical servicepersons and power workers in the board districts:

CAPELEC—4 technical servicepersons and 1 power worker applied for voluntary redundancy, with 2 of these applications approved (1 technical serviceperson and 1 power worker), 2 refused and 1 yet to be decided. The two approved voluntary redundancies were granted following applications by the employees, were in accordance with the voluntary redundancy agreement which is part of CAPELEC's enterprise bargaining agreement with the unions, and were on the basis of normal business considerations and not related to the industry restructure. The Chief Executive of CAPELEC has approved each of these redundancies and the employees have been verbally notified. Both are still employed at CAPELEC and will not be released until all work requirements are met. The voluntary redundancy of the power worker has provided the opportunity to upgrade the skill levels in the relevant depot and it is planned to upgrade the position to that of a technical serviceperson by appointing a graduating apprentice.

ENERGEX—3 technical servicepersons and 2 power workers have applied for, and been granted, voluntary redundancies. These voluntary redundancies have, however, been more than offset by recruitment of 23 technical servicepersons over the same period to meet growing demand in other areas.

NORQEB—1 power worker applied for voluntary redundancy, a decision on which is yet to be made.

No voluntary redundancies have been applied for by technical servicepersons or power workers in any of the other corporations since 16 February 1999.

646. Child Sex Offences

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (26/5/99)—

- (1) How many people were convicted on indictment of an offence of a sexual nature committed in relation to a child under the age of 16 years between 1 January 1990 and 29 February 1996?
- (2) How many of these people were given a jail sentence?
- (3) How many had an order made during sentencing under section 19 of the Criminal Law Act?
- (4) How many of these offenders who received a jail sentence have since been released?
- (5) How many of these offenders, if any, have since been convicted or charged of a further offence of a sexual nature against a child under the age of 16 years?

Mr FOLEY (24/6/99): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Springborg, I can advise as follows:

- (1) Statistics maintained by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions show that the number of people convicted of a child sex offence between 1 January 1990 and 29 February 1996 was 1,597.
- (2) 907 persons according to the same statistics.
- (3) 12 persons, one of whom was sentenced to imprisonment to be served as an intensive corrections order.
- (4) One person according to advice from the Department of Corrective Services.
- (5) To my knowledge, the one offender who has been released has not been charged with any further offence of a sexual nature, against a child under the age of 16 years.

647. Education Queensland, Facilities and Maintenance

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Education (26/5/99)—

With reference to Education Queensland facilities—

- (1) What is the average age of school facilities in Queensland, listed by school district?
- (2) What is the average age of State primary school facilities, listed by district?
- (3) What is the average age of State high school facilities, listed by district?
- (4) What is the average age of State special school facilities, listed by district?
- (5) What is the (a) estimated cost and (b) average cost of all backlog maintenance for school facilities, listed by district?

- (6) What is the (a) estimated cost and (b) average cost of all backlog maintenance for State primary school facilities, listed by district?
- (7) What is the (a) estimated cost and (b) average cost of all backlog maintenance for State high school facilities, listed by district?
- (8) What is the (a) estimated cost and (b) average cost of all backlog maintenance for State special school facilities, listed by district?

Mr WELLS (25/6/99): Details requested for items (1) to (4), inclusive are contained in Attachment A. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to items (5) to (8) inclusive, the Department of Public Works has indicated that, as at April 1999, there is an estimated nominal maintenance liability of nearly \$80 million, which has been accumulating for many years. The extent of the estimated nominal liability reflects the significant growth in the asset base for education facilities during the 1990s, through the provision of new schools and additional facilities to cope with increased enrolments, and the aging of assets generally.

Annual asset maintenance programs have accorded priority to those works which, based on technical assessments, are critical to maintaining the functionality and integrity of buildings and services. Works that address issues of health or safety have the highest priority.

The categorisation of works as backlog maintenance does not mean that there is an immediate need for the works to be undertaken. For example, a handrail that needs painting, window winders that are hard to operate, peeling paint on walkway cover. Deferred liability is a more apt description due to the non-urgent nature, generally, of the works identified.

Estimated and average costs, by district, within the deferred liability would not provide an accurate assessment of the current maintenance situation for educational facilities.

648. North Queensland Flood; Natural Disaster Relief Assistance

Mr ROWELL asked the Treasurer (26/5/99)—

With reference to the advent of flood in North Queensland—

Will he provide the following information regarding support that has been provided through QRAA and PIPES (a) how many applications were received as a result of Cyclone Rona and flooding in North Queensland which were eligible to attract Natural Disaster Relief Support, (b) how many applicants were successful in obtaining the funding through QRAA, (c) what ratio of small business operators were successful and what numbers were unsuccessful and were there basic reasons for people who had suffered in a natural disaster not able to be supported, (d) what ratio of rural producers were successful and what numbers were unsuccessful and were there basic reasons for people who had suffered in a natural disaster not able to be supported, (e) is it intended to make any

changes to the QRAA eligibility guidelines to enable farming and small business operators to access funds in the event of a natural disaster or a severe downturn in their industry and (f) what additional incentives will be provided for young people to go on the land or get into business?

Mr HAMILL (15/6/99):

(a) Forty-three applications for Natural Disaster Relief Assistance have been received to date with applications still able to be made before the end of July 1999. Thirty-six applications have been assessed, and seven applications are awaiting further information from applicants.

(b) Thirty-three NDRA applications have been successful in obtaining assistance, an approval rating of 92% of those assessed.

(c) Three applications from small business operators for NDRA have been received to date, with two assessed and two declined. The declined applications in broad terms did not meet basic assistance guidelines.

(d) Ninety-seven percent of rural producer applications under NDRA were successful, one was declined. The declined application in broad terms did not meet basic assistance guidelines.

(e) No. Current arrangements have provided excellent assistance levels.

(f) The Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme incorporates a new program entitled 'First Start'. First Start provides assistance for new entrants to primary production in accordance with various eligibility criteria. There is also an opportunity under this program to accommodate new entrants under a leasing arrangement, thereby negating the need for substantial up front capital investment by new entrants.

649. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/5/99)—

With reference to part (c) of his response to Question on Notice No. 391—

- (1) Will he table a copy of the brochures referred to?
- (2) When were they printed?
- (3) Was the printing outsourced; if so, what was the cost?
- (4) When were they distributed?
- (5) When was the information added to the employer kit?
- (6) When was the information first placed on the DETIR website?
- (7) As of 1 May, how many apprentices/trainees had taken advantage of this subsidy?

Mr BRADY (25/6/99):

(1) Refer to the attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) October 1998, February 1999, March 1999 and April 1999.

(3) No.

(4) October 1998, February 1999, March 1999 and April 1999.

(5) 21 October 1998.

(6) 27 October 1998.

(7) 35.

**650. Traineeship and Apprenticeship Inquiries;
Ms K. Schofield**

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/5/99)—

With reference to the inquiry into traineeship issues to be conducted by Kaye Schofield and the concurrent inquiry into apprenticeship issues announced by the Commissioner for Training in his letter of 29 April to training providers—

- (1) What is the estimated total cost for each of these inquiries (including travel costs, accommodation costs, administrative costs, salaries of departmental staff whilst engaged on inquiry business and other assistance in kind funded by the taxpayer)?
- (2) What is the total consultancy fee for the project?
- (3) Was this consultancy advertised; if so, when and where?
- (4) If this consultancy was not advertised, why not?
- (5) What is the date and value of previous consultancy projects undertaken for the Department (DETIR, previously DTIR) by this consultant?
- (6) Who are the members of the reference group for these inquiries and what organisations do they represent?
- (7) Will he table copies of the terms of reference, consultancy contract and reference group meeting agendas to date?

Mr BRADDY (25/6/99): There is no concurrent inquiry into the apprenticeship system. The following details relate to the Inquiry being conducted by VETEC.

(1) Estimated \$80,000 to date.

(2) Approximately \$25,200.

(3) No.

(4) The appointment of the consultant was made in accordance with the requirements of the Queensland Government's State Purchasing Policy.

(5) May 1997—\$57,970; April 1998—\$17,625; October 1998 —\$2,760.

(6) Members of the Training Investigation Steering Group are—

Ms Carmel Thompson, Deputy Chair, Australian Council for Private Education and Training

Mrs Rachel Hunter, Chair, TAFE Queensland Executive

Ms Jennifer Silver, Managing Director, GTA Human Resources

Ms Judith Himstedt, Manager, Human Resources Services Division, QCCI

Ms Christine Van Ohr, Business Services Industry Training Advisory Board

Mr Neil Findlay, Findlays Transport

Ms Mandy Raine, Chief Executive Officer, Hospitality Training Association

Mr Philip Jones, State Management, Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (Observer)

Ms Shirley Mellor, Australian Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers' Union, Queensland Branch

Ms Therese Mullin, Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association, Queensland Branch, Union of Employees

Mr Barry Smith, Chair, Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission

Mr Harry Hauenschild, Commissioner for Training, State Training Council

(7) The terms of reference, consultancy contract and reference group meeting agendas are tabled as requested. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

651. WorkCover Queensland; Career Management Workshops

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/5/99)—

With reference to WorkCover Queensland—

- (1) Are the career management workshops for all staff being conducted by consultants external to WorkCover; if so, (a) who are the consultants, (b) what is the total consultancy fee for all workshops and (c) what is the total value of WorkCover's in-kind contribution to the workshops, (eg: travel, accommodation, administrative costs, salaries of staff for the duration of the involvement in the process)?
- (2) Do the regional conferences for operational managers and supervisors involve external consultants; if so, will he provide the same information as requested in (b) above?

Mr BRADDY (25/6/99): I am advised by WorkCover Queensland of the following:

1. Yes.

(a) Morgan and Banks.

(b) \$60,000

(c) \$112,300.

2. Yes.

(a) Morgan and Banks.

(b) \$6,300.

(c) \$13,350.

652. Q-Build Industries

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/5/99)—

With reference to QBI—

- (1) What was the total revenue (accrual based) derived from sales and/or services for (a) 1995-96, (b) 1996-97, (c) 1997-98 and (d) year to date for 1998-99?
- (2) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) for (a) 1995-96, (b) 1996-97, (c) 1997-98 and (d) year to date for 1998-99?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by QBI for (a) 1995-96, (b) 1996-97, (c) 1997-98 and (d) year to date for 1998-99?
- (4) Of the total expenditure (accrual based) for (a) 1995-96, (b) 1996-97, (c) 1997-98 and (d) year to date for 1998-99, how much has been spent in the following categories (i) materials and stores, (ii) salary and wages, (iii) labour hire fees and charges, (iv) advertising and (v) travel/travel expenses?
- (5) What is the projected expenditure (accrual based) for the remainder of 1998-99 in the following categories (a) materials and stores, (b) salary and wages, (c) labour hire fees and charges, (d) advertising and (e) travel/travel expenses?

Mr SCHWARTEN (23/6/99):

- (1) QBI recorded a total revenue (accrual based) of (a) \$10,108,255 for 1995-96, (b) \$15,638,520 for 1996-97, (c) \$13,520,716 for 1997-98, and (d) \$8,715,550 for 1998-99 to 30 April 1999.
- (2) QBI recorded total expenditure (accrual based) of (a) \$9,800,122 for 1995-96, (b) \$15,386,433 for 1996-97, (c) \$13,258,502 for 1997-98, and (d) \$9,789,421 for 1998-99 to 30 April 1999.
- (3) QBI achieved a net profit/(loss) of (a) \$308,133 for 1995-96, (b) \$252,087 for 1996-97, (c) \$262,214 for 1997-98, and (d) (\$1,073,871) for 1998-99 to 30 April 1999.
- (4) Total expenditure (accrual based) to 30 April 1999 is set out as follows:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

- (5) The projected expenditure (accrual based) for the remainder of 1998-99 is (a) \$1,557,000 for materials and stores, (b) \$722,000 for salary and wages, (c) \$150,000 for labour hire fees and charges, (d) \$0 for advertising, and (e) \$500 for travel/travel expenses.

653. Regional Forest Agreement; Harvesting of Timber on Freehold Land

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (26/5/99)—

With reference to recent meetings held in Crows Nest, Fernvale, Toogoolawah and Kilcoy at which local authority representatives and private landholders expressed concerns about the Regional

Forest Agreement process and tree clearing restrictions on freehold land and given that panic timber harvesting and clearing could already be occurring due to massive uncertainty created by his actions and his State forest policies—

Will he now provide some certainty and clearly state whether the Government intends to stop or restrict harvesting of timber on privately owned freehold land; if so, how?

Mr WELFORD (24/6/99): A broad cross-section of the community, including agricultural industry bodies, has recognised the need for improved land resource management on all tenures across Queensland. The Coalition Government commenced, but failed to resolve this matter with its Taskforce on Regulatory Framework for Tree Clearing on Freehold Land. In order to obtain the best advice on how the issue should be progressed, I formed the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (VMAC) chaired by Emeritus Professor John Holmes and including experienced representatives of the Queensland Farmers Federation, the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Urban Development Institute of Australia, the Queensland Conservation Council and the Landcare and Catchment Management Council.

Rather than just focusing on tree clearing VMAC is currently developing proposals for a comprehensive system of land and vegetation management for consideration by the Government. While I am still awaiting the Committee's advice on several issues, it has already resolved—and I agree—that any new framework will strongly support landholders wishing to do the right thing. The Government has no intention of threatening the livelihoods of landholders who sustainably grow, manage and harvest timber resources on their land. Timber growers and processors will continue to be consulted during the development of the vegetation management framework, to ensure private timber management issues are addressed in a manner consistent with the National Forest Policy and the current Regional Forest Agreement process.

The Government is strongly committed to both plantation forestry, farm forestry and the sustainable utilisation of private native forests so as to offer a productive alternative to land clearing and to provide an enhanced and secure future supply for the timber industry.

654. South East Transit Project

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/5/99)—

- (1) What is the budgetary position in relation to the South East Transit Project?
- (2) Is the project on schedule; if not, what is the expected completion date?

Mr BREDHAUER (25/6/99):

- (1) The South East Transit Project was approved by the previous Government in August 1996 with a budget of \$520M. During the term of that Government, the location of the busway through South Brisbane was changed as a result of the South

Bank Corporation's master planning process and the need to minimise adverse interactions between the construction activities for South Bank and the busway. The final location of the busway was determined to the west of the railway line which involved extra costs for additional bridging, rail track relocation, and tunnelling. In taking the decision to relocate from the original alignment, the former Government was aware of the adverse effect on the project's original budget but the quantum of that impact could not be accurately forecast at that time. Expenditure on the project to 31 May 1999 was \$116M.

(2) Despite delays to finalising the details through South Brisbane commissioning of the busway is still expected in June 2001.

655. Greyhound Racing Authority, General Reserve Fund

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (26/5/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 64 of 3 March—

- (1) Will he give details as to why, when the Greyhound Racing Authority Annual Report 1997-98 showed an amount of \$224,830 was being held in a general reserve fund, that this amount was not used towards the cost of payment of \$385,000 for Sky Channel coverage?
- (2) Will he provide details of how the amount of \$224,830 indicated in the general reserve fund has been disbursed?

Mr GIBBS (24/6/99): Please see the answer to question number 585.

656. Racing Development Corporation; Deagon Racecourse

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (26/5/99)—

- (1) Is the Racing Development Corporation the current owner of the Deagon Racecourse and training complex?
- (2) What is the future of the Racing Development Corporation under (a) corporatisation of the Queensland TAB and (b) privatisation of the Queensland TAB?
- (3) What formal arrangements are planned with the Queensland Principal Club and/or the Queensland racing industry for the future management of the Deagon Racecourse and training complex?

Mr GIBBS (24/6/99):

- (1) Yes
- (2) (a) Proclamation of the Racing Legislation Amendment Act 1998 is proposed to coincide with corporatisation of the TABQ on 1 July 1999. The Racing Development Corporation (RDC) is dissolved on proclamation of this Act.

(2) (b) There is no relationship between the future of the RDC and privatisation of the TABQ as the RDC will be dissolved coinciding with corporatisation of the TABQ.

(3) Options for future ownership and management of the operations conducted at the Deagon Racecourse are being examined in detail in close consultation with the Queensland racing industry.

657. Ombudsman; Statement by Minister for Education on School Uniforms

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (26/5/99)—

With reference to the Ombudsman's letter of 27 January reiterating certain concerns about school uniform policies and practices, previously published in his annual report to State Parliament in 1998 and noting the Minister's intention to address those concerns—

Has he, his office or department briefed the Ombudsman (as he requested) on the Minister's new strategy announced on 3 March; if not, why not; if so, has the Ombudsman endorsed the Minister's strategy?

Mr WELLS (25/6/99): The Director-General wrote to the Ombudsman on 16 March informing him of the Minister's statement to the Parliament and subsequent actions in relation to this matter. To date the Ombudsman's views have not been made clear to the Minister or the Director-General.

658. Greyhound Racing Authority

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (26/5/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 101 of 4 April—

- (1) Will he outline details of the 'expenditure anomalies related to the authority's operations identified by the incoming board'?
- (2) To whom do these anomalies relate?

Mr GIBBS (24/6/99):

- (1) I am not able to comment on a matter currently under police investigation.
- (2) I am not able to comment on a matter currently under police investigation.

659. Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Arts Queensland, Capital Works Spending

Mr CONNOR asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (26/5/99)—

With reference to capital works shown in Budget Paper No. 3 pages 108-9—

- (1) How much has been spent to date on each individual project, listed by project?
- (2) What is the projected expenditure by month for each of these projects for the remainder of 1998-99?

Mr FOLEY (24/6/99): In relation to your question I advise as follows:

Department of Justice and Attorney-General; Arts Queensland

Project: Actual Expenditure July 1998 To May 1999—projected Expenditure June 1999

State Library Computer Upgrade: Nil—\$450,000

Public Library Access to Internet: \$560,000—Nil

Southbank Playhouse: 8,602,906—Nil

Museum of Tropical Queensland: \$13,617,130—\$321,000

Empire Office Furniture Building Refurbishment: \$248,074—Nil

Queensland Cultural Centre 2000: \$432,772—\$130,000

Queensland Cultural Centre Capital Maintenance; Queensland Cultural Centre Routine Maintenance: \$3,518,000—\$500,000

Old Transport House Refurbishment: \$1,268,020—\$20,000

Queensland Performing Arts Centre Theatre Equipment Replacement: \$1,000,000—Nil

Maryborough Performing Arts Centre: Nil—Nil

Plant and Equipment: \$419,595—\$5,000.

660. Police Stations and Resources

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/5/99)—

Will he list all police stations in Queensland and detail which stations operate 24 hours per day and which stations are one officer stations?

Mr BARTON (24/6/99): The attached schedules indicate all police stations which operate 24 hours per day and also one officer stations. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The difference in the service delivery of 24 Hour Stations and 24 Hour Patrol Stations is that 24 Hour Patrol Stations don't provide counter coverage at the station between the hours of midnight to 6am or 8am (depending on shifts), but still operate a patrol car during the hours of 12 midnight to 8am.

661. Greyhound Racing Clubs

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (26/5/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 68 of 3 March where he states that he was unaware of comments attributed to at least one member of the current Greyhound Racing Authority, that at least five greyhound racing clubs in Queensland are in financial difficulty and will close in the foreseeable future and given that, since that time, the Rockhampton Greyhound Club is no longer operating—

(1) What advice has he been given by the Greyhound Racing Authority as to the possible closure of other greyhound racing clubs in Queensland?

(2) What steps have been taken to issue prize money to owners/trainers owing to winners of races at Rockhampton prior to the closure of the club's activities and that are still outstanding?

Mr GIBBS (24/6/99):

(1) Operating under its charter under the Racing and Betting Act 1980, the Greyhound Racing Authority is responsible for monitoring the financial performance of its registered race clubs. Unless it was necessary to appoint an administrator of a greyhound club or that the Greyhound Racing Authority was acting beyond its legislative powers, it would be improper for the Minister to become directly involved in the affairs of greyhound race clubs.

(2) The Greyhound Racing Authority is exercising its proper functions, powers and duties in relation to greyhound racing in Rockhampton. If any parties have any dispute regarding prize money owing or any other matter, they should raise these with the Greyhound Racing Authority for resolution.

662. Torres Strait, Police Resources

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/5/99)—

(1) How many police were stationed in the Torres Strait for each police station at 1 July 1998 and 26 May 1999?

(2) What additional numbers are planned for each of the next three years?

Mr BARTON (24/6/99):

(1) Thursday Island and Horn Island police stations service the Torres Strait.

The table below indicates how many police were attached at each police station at 1 July 1998 and 26 May 1999.

	Allocated 1 July 98	Actual 1 July 98
--	------------------------	---------------------

Thursday Island Police		
Generals	13	13
Detectives	2	2
Water Police	3	3
Horn Island		
Generals	2	2

	Allocated 26 May 99	Actual 26 May 99
--	------------------------	---------------------

Thursday Island Police		
Generals	13	12
Detectives	2	2
Water Police	3	3
Horn Island		
Generals	2	2

(2) The exact number of additional positions to be allocated to each Region is determined on a yearly basis by the Commissioner of Police. When the final allocation of positions is known the Assistant Commissioner, Far Northern Region gives consideration to the allocation of positions throughout the Far Northern Region (either between

Districts, Divisions, or between General duties, Traffic and Investigative functions) on the basis of operational policing and direct service delivery needs. Until final allocation of positions to each Region has been determined any decision concerning any additional allocation of positions to Thursday Island or Horn Island is not able to be made.

663. Mr K. Bannikoff

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Education (26/5/99)—

With reference to Mr Kim Bannikoff—

- (1) What are the terms of Mr Bannikoff's engagement with Education Queensland?
- (2) Who approved these terms?
- (3) What duties will Mr Bannikoff perform and to whom does he report?
- (4) What are Mr Bannikoff's qualifications for this appointment?
- (5) Was the position for which Mr Bannikoff has been engaged advertised; if not, why not?
- (6) How much has Mr Bannikoff been paid by Education Queensland to date?
- (7) How much will Mr Bannikoff be paid for the remainder of this appointment?
- (8) What other remunerative benefits have been offered to Mr Bannikoff in the performance of his engagement (for example, office facilities, car-parking, telephone, etc)?
- (9) When was Mr Bannikoff appointed?
- (10) What is the scheduled date for the completion of Mr Bannikoff's engagement?
- (11) Is Mr Bannikoff presently engaged as a consultant; if not, please provide details of his job title and job description?
- (12) Has Mr Bannikoff ever been engaged by Education Queensland in any other capacity, if so, please provide details of all work undertaken, including the terms and dates of appointment, duties performed and remuneration received?

Mr WELLS (25/6/99):

- (1) Mr Bannikoff is engaged as the project manager for an initial period of six months, with the option to extend the engagement up to a maximum of twelve months from the date of commencement.
- (2) The then Director, Strategic Planning and Policy approved the terms.
- (3)
 - (a) The project manager will manage the process to ensure the delivery of an issues paper, reports on consultations, exposure draft and final draft of the strategy; manage the consultation process and play a role in that process; and oversee the commissioning of market and other research.
 - (b) Mr Bannikoff reports to the Assistant Director-General, the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Services.

(4) Mr Bannikoff holds a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education. Mr Bannikoff has a long history of research, strategic planning and policy development in Queensland and Victoria in the vocational education and training and education sectors.

(5) A limited tender process was undertaken to identify a suitable project manager. Since the management of this project is essentially a short term one, it was not considered appropriate to create a permanent public service position.

(6) \$65,000

(7) Future payments depend on the number of days to be worked. Mr Bannikoff will be paid at the rate of \$800 per day.

(8) Within Education House, Mr Bannikoff has been provided with office accommodation (including telephone, fax and photocopier access) and car parking for work purposes. Travel, meal and accommodation expenses in accordance with departmental rates are provided when required to perform duties outside Brisbane. Departmental staff also provide administrative support to the project.

(9) 19 January 1999.

(10) The current scheduled date for completion is 18 July 1999.

(11) Mr Bannikoff is contracted as the project manager to prepare a strategy for school; education to 2010.

(12) Education Queensland has not engaged Mr Bannikoff in any other capacity.

664. Greyhound Racing Authority Web Site; Zilgara Pty Ltd

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (26/5/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 59 of 3 March—

Will he outline in detail the total revenue obtained by the Greyhound Racing Authority from Zilgara Pty Ltd for the purchase of raw data for on-selling to any other interested party via the authority's web site?

Mr GIBBS (24/6/99): I am advised that the Greyhound Racing Authority (GRA) has received no revenue from Zilgara Pty Ltd for the purchase of raw data for on-selling to any other interested party via the authority's web site.

665. Public Housing, Funding

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/5/99)—

Whilst recognising that the department has been required by Treasury to sell land stocks throughout Queensland to fund housing construction, is a budget allocation via consolidated revenue also made for the critical area of public housing?

Mr SCHWARTEN (25/6/99): The Housing Program is funded primarily from grants under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA).

Under the CSHA, the Commonwealth provides general purpose and specific purpose grants and the State provides a general purpose grant under the State matching arrangements from Consolidated Funds.

In addition to grant funding under the CSHA, the State provides Consolidated Funding to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Program administration.

In 1998/99, it also provided Consolidated Funding for Adaptable Housing Solutions for Seniors (\$.5M) and Community Renewal (\$7.5M).

Other sources of income include rent revenue, bond loan repayments and borrowings.

Queensland Treasury does not require the Department of Housing to sell land stocks or undertake other property sales to fund housing construction.

Sales of property are undertaken within the Housing portfolio in the interests of responsible asset management. Sales revenue is reinvested in the housing portfolio according to Statewide housing need.

666. Community Jobs Plan

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/5/99)—

With reference to his 80 word response to Question on Notice No. 385—

As this wordy response completely fails to answer the simple question which was asked, will he read the question again and provide details of the programs to which he was referring in Hansard?

Mr BRADY (25/6/99): I have read the question again and do not propose to add to my previous answer.

667. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Claims Processing

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/5/99)—

With reference to his response to part (a) of Question on Notice No. 413—

- (1) As his department was able to advise him in November 1998 of a significant backlog in processing competitive tendering and user-choice claims, why were additional staff not allocated to this task until January?
- (2) As contracts are for a specific period, isn't it the case that at the time of signing, management will have a fairly reasonable idea of when final claims for payment can be expected to arrive?
- (3) When management has such information available to assist in the planning process, why did it take questions in the Parliament by the Opposition, to motivate the department to allocate sufficient staff to the payment process?

- (4) As on page 29 of Dr Smith's Report "The Impact of User-Choice on the Queensland Training Market", the author indicates that providers have had to wait up to 6 months for payment under his administration and the majority of providers stated that the delays have got much worse over the past 4-6 months, what directives has he given to his departmental managers to ensure this abysmal situation is rectified and does not recur?

Mr BRADY (25/6/99):

(1) The previous Government's rapid acceleration of the competitive training market, together with its irresponsible existing workers' policy, placed an enormous administrative burden on the areas of the Department responsible for the purchasing of training and the payment of the ever increasing number of providers. Inadequate administrative and computer systems and lack of physical and human resources to cope with the spiralling work load seriously impacted on the payment process—so much so that most of the payments were being processed manually. This meant long delays for providers who were delivering the training with the confidence that they would be paid promptly and accurately.

This appalling legacy of the previous Government was immediately addressed through refining the payment process and implementing a number of cost and labour saving systems, including the implementation of an electronic claim lodgement system. This has enabled the Department to give a firm commitment that payments to registered training organisations will be made within 20 working days of receipt of validated claims.

For a further example of the enormous burden the previous Government's policies placed upon the Department, one needs look no further than the backlog of training agreements received for processing by the Department in December 1998. In this month before the change from the Coalition's more lenient Existing Workers' Policy, the Department received in excess of 6000 training agreements to claim eligibility before the policy expired on 31 December 1998 and the adoption of the Government's much more practical 1999 Existing Workers' Policy.

I ensured that this excessive backlog, created by the Coalition's policy, was cleared as a matter of priority by a departmental taskforce during the period January to March 1999.

(2) As previously mentioned, the inefficient administrative system that remained as a legacy of the Coalition Government meant that the claims for payment were not submitted to the Department on a regular basis and, therefore, could not be accurately predicted. Registered training organisations have been able to submit claims at any date after the due date and, consequently, it is difficult to accurately forecast peak claim periods.

This problem has been rectified by the Government through a number of initiatives including the introduction of an electronic claim lodgement system and a more streamlined claim processing system that encourages more frequent lodgement of claims.

(3) Despite Mr Grice's belief to the contrary, the Department is well able to manage the allocation of its staff, and does so without the prompting of the Opposition.

(4) Perhaps Mr Grice should read page 29 of Dr Smith's report more closely. Only one Registered Training Organisation identified a delay of 6 months in payment. The report also states that delays generally occurred due to the incorrect completion of claims for payment. The Department is committed to ensuring that only bona fide claims for training are paid, and in a timely manner according to contractual arrangements.

It should be pointed out that Dr Smith's report states that "a majority of those providers who were complaining stated that the delays seems to have got worse over the last four to six months" not "the majority of providers".

Again, could I suggest, that the report be read more closely, and that Mr Grice take note of the points raised above in relation to the administrative nightmare created by the Coalition and inherited by the Government.

668. Water Police, Unofficial Use of Police Boat

Dr WATSON asked the Chairperson, the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee (26/5/99)—

What was the date on which a water police officer was reported to the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) for the use of a police boat for crabbing?

Mr LUCAS (24/6/99): I am advised that the CJC received a complaint concerning the incident on 8 February 1999 and the matter was referred to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) for investigation on 10 February 1999. I am further advised that the Ethical Standards Command of the QPS has dealt with the matter resulting in disciplinary action and counselling in relation to matters concerning one officer involved and counselling in relation to another officer.

669. Criminal Justice Commission, Investigation of Complaints

Mr HORAN asked the Chairperson, the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee (26/5/99)—

With reference to CJC investigations of police—

- (1) How many complaints were investigated for each of the years 1996, 1997 and 1998?
- (2) How many of these complaints were referred back to the Queensland Police Service for its determination?
- (3) How many of the complaints handled by the CJC were resolved in (a) three months, (b) three-six months, (c) 12-24 months, (d) two years or more and (e) not finalised at this date?

Mr LUCAS (24/6/99): I am advised as follows:

(1) In 1996, 1524 complaints¹ were investigated,² in 1997, 1732 complaints were investigated, and in 1998, 1516 complaints were investigated.

(2) Out of those 4772 complaints investigated by the CJC in the years 1996–1998, 1004 complaints were referred to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) for "determination".³ This figure can be broken down further into relevant years. In 1996, of the 1524 complaints investigated: 375 complaints (24.61%) were referred to the QPS; 846 complaints (55.51%) were finalised by the CJC's Assessment Unit following preliminary inquiries; and 302 complaints (19.82%) were investigated by a CJC Investigative Team. In 1997, of the 1732 complaints investigated: 303 complaints (17.49%) were referred to the QPS; 1106 complaints (63.86%) were finalised by the CJC's Assessment Unit following preliminary inquiries; and 326 complaints (18.82%) were investigated by a CJC Investigative Team. In 1998, of the 1516 complaints investigated: 326 complaints (21.50%) were referred to the QPS for its determination; 907 complaints (59.83%) were finalised by the CJC's Assessment Unit following preliminary inquiries; and 283 complaints (18.67%) were investigated by a CJC Investigative Team.⁴

(3) Of those 4772 complaints handled by the CJC in the years 1996–1998, (a) 4235 were resolved⁵ within six months [1358 in 1996; 1518 in 1997; and 1359 in 1998]; (b) 286 were resolved within six to 12 months [89 in 1996; 126 in 1997; and 71 in 1998]; (c) 127 were resolved within 12 to 24 months [60 in 1996; 62 in 1997; and 5 in 1998]; (d) 13 took two years or more to finalise [11 in 1996; 2 in 1997; and 0 in 1998]; and (e) 111 remain not finalised as at 15/6/99 [6 from 1996; 24 from 1997; and 81 from 1998].

1 The number does not include:

(a) complaints made directly to the CJC against police which are assessed as involving allegations of breach of discipline and referred to the QPS for action; or

(b) matters reported to the Commission by the QPS pursuant to s.2.6.10 [Fatalities or serious injuries resulting from incidents involving members (Police related incidents) of the Operational Procedures Manual.]

2 "Investigated" as defined by the Criminal Justice Act 1989 includes to examine and consider.

3 "Referred for determination" means referred for investigation of possible misconduct or referred for informal resolution of possible misconduct.

4 It should be noted that in relation to the years 1996 and 1997, the number of complaints referred to in separate categories, namely "complaints referred back to the QPS", "complaints finalised by the CJC Assessment Unit" and "complaints investigated by CJC Investigative team" do not add up to the "Total number of police complaints investigated". In 1996, the addition of the categories comes to 1 less than the total and in 1997 to 3 more.

I am advised that:

This comes about, because of minor data anomalies which result from the way information about complaints is recorded in the database;

Complaints may contain one or more allegations. Information is recorded in relation to each complaint and each allegation contained in each complaint. Each allegation has an outcome, and a date of that outcome, which is recorded in the database. For example, in a complaint with two allegations, one allegation may have an outcome of "referral to the QPS for investigation" and the other an outcome of "not capable of substantiation" or, alternatively, both allegations may have an outcome of "referral to a CJC team for investigation". Data queries may rely on the information recorded both for the complaint as a whole and each allegation contained in that complaint.

Anomalies might arise because in the database there is a record for a complaint or complaints in which there is, for example, a missing allegation outcome result or outcome

date, or there are allegation outcomes with conflicting results, which might cause a complaint to be counted twice or not at all for some data queries. These anomalies may arise from an inadvertent omission during data entry or a minor system error. They are corrected by periodic quality control. In any event, the anomalies occur in only an extremely small percentage of the complaints records and as such do not impact significantly upon the complaints statistics.

- 5 The term "resolved" means a determination is made about the outcome of an allegation either following an initial assessment of the matter by the Assessment Unit or following investigation by an Investigative Team. The relevant date is the date of the entry of the relevant code to record the determination.

670. Corporal Punishment in State Schools

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (26/5/99)—

With reference to the ban on corporal punishment in Queensland State Schools—

- (1) What discussions has he, his office or the department had with the Queensland Teachers' Union regarding the reintroduction of the cane in State schools?
- (2) Has he, his office or the department given any consideration to legislative and policy changes that would be necessary to reintroduce the cane?
- (3) Does he support the reintroduction of the cane; if so, on what basis?

Mr WELLS (25/6/99):

- (1) Reintroduction of the cane has not been the subject of formal discussions with the QTU either by the Minister or Departmental officers.
- (2) Consideration has not been given to legislative and policy changes that would be necessary to reintroduce the cane.
- (3) The Minister does not support the reintroduction of the cane. This is based on the following—

3.1 Community views

The decision to abolish corporal punishment was preceded by a general move by schools and parent organisations away from the use of the cane. Clarke (1980:8) observed that "by 1977 the general secretary of the QTU had noted an increasing opposition to corporal punishment ... This attitude was also supported by the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens' Associations which in 1979 issued a policy statement that 'The practice of corporal punishment should be abolished throughout the education system'".

3.2 Expert advice

In 1992 the Ministerial Advisory Council for Gender Equity advised the then Minister for Education (Paul Braddy) of the inappropriateness of corporal punishment. It was seen as inequitable treatment of boys and girls as well as modelling violent solutions to conflict.

3.3 Evidence

The Criminal Justice Commission (Qld) Youth report on Crime and Justice in Queensland (1992:51) found "Perceptions of the certainty and severity of punishment was related to further offending; but in the wrong direction; that is those who believed they

were more likely to be caught and to be punished severely if caught, committed more subsequent offences. In contrast, the variables which best predicted desistance from offending behaviour was the individual perception of self as law-abiding, and positive self image."

3.4 Supportive environments improve student learning

School approaches to maintaining an effective climate for learning are based on evidence that calm, orderly environments enhance learning. This requires setting high behavioural expectations which are backed up by education about peer relationships, programs of pastoral care and clearly articulated sanctions for unacceptable behaviour. This approach is reflected in current policy on behaviour in State schools entitled Schools and Discipline: Managing Behaviour in a Supportive School Environment.

3.5 International opinion

In 1994 UNICEF criticised Australia for not having nationwide laws against the physical punishment of children in either schools or the home. This is supported by the Human Rights Declaration on The Rights of the Child which has been addressed by changes to the Education (General Provisions) Act 1989 and the recently introduced Child Protection legislation in Queensland.

3.6 School community support for EQ's proactive response

The abolition of the cane does not represent a lessening of discipline in schools. The opposite is true and there are extensive programs in place state-wide to assist schools to educate students about behaviour and minimise misbehaviour. This includes—

every school having a behaviour management plan which has the support of its local community and is subject to regular review;

300 behaviour management support staff;

an additional \$5m by the current government to support behaviour management in schools;

alternative education programs for challenging students available to students in all districts

training for behaviour management support staff and teachers;

flexibility for district management committees, involving school principals, to utilise staff and funding in a way that most benefits young people in the local area;

workable solutions to bullying identified by schools and available through the behaviour management unit web site;

conferences and training programs available to teachers and administrators, including a Showcasing Supportive School Environments Conference being held in Brisbane on 3 & 4 June, 1999.

References

CLARKE (1980:11) cited in SLEE, R (Ed) Discipline in Australian Public Education: Changing Policy and Practice ACER, Melbourne. 1992

The Criminal Justice Commission (Qld) Youth, Crime and Justice in Queensland report (1992:51).

671. Escapes from Correctional Centres

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/5/99)—

Will he detail the number of escapes (a) that have occurred from Queensland correctional centres between 1 July 1998 and 26 May 1999, (b) for each security classification and (c) for each centre?

Mr BARTON (24/6/99):

(a) There have been 12 escapes from Queensland Correctional Centres between 1 July 1998 and 26 May 1999.

(b) All 12 escapees were classified low security custody.

(c) Those 12 escapes occurred from the following centres:

Moreton A Correctional Centre (farm worker)—1

Westbrook Correctional Centre—2

Numinbah Correctional Centre—5

Palen Creek Correctional Centre—1

Townsville Correctional Centre (Farm)—3

672. Queensland Cultural Centre 2000 Project

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (26/5/99)—

With reference to his planned expenditure of \$500,000 on the Queensland Cultural Centre 2000 Development during the second half of 1998-99—

(1) On what precisely will this money be expended?

(2) When will this expenditure be incurred?

(3) How many jobs will not now be created because of his failure to spend the additional \$3.528m budgeted for in 1998-99?

Mr FOLEY (22/6/99):

(1) Planning costs incurred by the statutory bodies and Arts Queensland and a report on the cost, timing and scope of the QCC-2000 Project.

(2) Mostly over the 1998/1999 financial year.

(3) Nil. Funding was for acquisition of land which is subject to negotiation and for preliminary planning and design work that is now largely completed.

673. School Uniforms; Freedom of Information Request

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education (26/5/99)—

With reference to various letters concerning school uniforms to fellow Members of Parliament and school parent and citizen associations from himself or his staff stating that Education Queensland was "investigating various options that are available, some

of which might involve legislative changes" (or words of a similar nature) (26/5/99)—

(1) Did the department provide him with formal advice of those options it was investigating prior to his ministerial statement on 3 March outlining his chosen strategy?

(2) Did those options include the strategy he announced in this House; if so, was it the department's preferred or recommended option?

(3) Why did the Opposition's freedom-of-information application (FOI 1362) not secure this departmental advice or any evidence of the investigation referred to in his letters?

Mr WELLS (25/6/99):

(1) Yes. Advice from departmental officers was sought at a senior level and a verbal response was provided. The expertise of the senior departmental officers on this matter was such that advice in written form was not necessary to inform the Minister.

(2) No.

(3) Since there was no written departmental documentation of advice to the Minister on this matter, no document of this nature could be provided in response to the Opposition's request for information.

674. Radio Racing Broadcasts, Regional Areas

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (26/5/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 73 dated 3 March—

Has the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) announced details of the latest round of radio frequency releases; if so, as a result, what information will he provide that would indicate that areas of regional Queensland will be able to access radio racing broadcasts that they are currently denied as a result of an ABC Radio decision to cease race broadcasts in regional areas in July 1998?

Mr GIBBS (24/6/99): At the latest round of frequency releases by the Australian Broadcasting Authority, TAB Queensland secured services for Dalby, Stanthorpe, Kingaroy and Warwick.

675. Queensland Barristers Board

Mr FELDMAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (27/5/99)—

With reference to his position as Director of the Rule of Court that makes up the admission rules of the Queensland Barristers Board, where he holds ex officio membership—

Will he clearly outline if all those persons mentioned as Members of the Board, in part two of the Barristers Board Admission Rules (4) to (6), in particular (5) A... B... C, are joint participants en masse in any application for external review conducted by the Information Commissioner under

the Freedom of Information Act 1992 against the Queensland Barristers Board?

Mr FOLEY (25/6/99): What is meant by "Director of the Rule of Court that makes up the Admission Rules of the Queensland Barristers Board" is unclear. The Rules Relating to the Admission of Barristers of the Supreme Court of Queensland are made by the Governor in Council as Rules of Court with the concurrence of the required number of Supreme Court Judges.

I have not sought legal advice as to whether or not the Barristers' Board, as constituted under those Rules, is an agency for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 1992. I am also not aware of the matter having been legally tested.

Section 78 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 provides that, in an external review by the Information Commissioner of a decision, the agency concerned is a participant in the review. Should there be an application for such external review of a decision of the Barristers' Board (or an officer of the Board) and should the Barristers' Board be an agency for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 (and the member would need to take legal advice in that matter), the agency being the Barristers Board would be a participant in that review as against its individual members.

676. Assistance for Disadvantaged Shires and Communities

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (27/5/99)—

With reference to the issues paper by the Queensland Council of Social Service Inc. titled "People and Places: A Profile of Growing Disadvantage in Queensland" dated May 1999 which includes a map of Queensland highlighting the areas of greatest disadvantage in terms of poverty identified by the use of index of relative socio-economic disadvantage (SEIFA) and further, it clearly indicates a cluster of socio-economic disadvantaged SLAs exist in the Wide Bay/Burnett region which is consistent with the figures on Department of Social Security dependency and levels of high unemployment identified in recent studies which is not a new revelation as the situation in this region has been known for some time and the fact is reaffirmed here as an indication of long-standing disadvantage and that little impact has been made in addressing this. These shires include Miriam Vale, Kolan, Perry, Eidsvold, Wondai and Tiaro the majority of which will be impacted by the Regional Forestry Agreement—

What plans does his Government have to improve the lot of shires which have been identified as amongst the most disadvantaged in Queensland?

Mr BEATTIE (25/6/99): I thank Dr Kingston for his question, which provides me with an opportunity to speak to the Government's comprehensive approach in dealing with the needs of communities who experience disadvantage.

I promised that a Government led by me would build partnerships with regional communities in Queensland, so together we could respond to the

challenges of economic, social, environmental and demographic change.

These challenges have been highlighted not just in the report that Dr Kingston has cited, but also within the context of extensive consultations and discussions undertaken by my Government with communities in a number of significant areas. The result of such effort is assisting my Government to identify the way forward in best meeting the needs of diverse communities.

My Government's strong commitment to regional Queensland is highlighted in the development of the Regional Communities Program which is all about the State Government listening to people and using the information we hear to help provide better and more appropriate services and infrastructure.

The Government has allocated \$27.4 million to the Regional Communities Program over four years. That's how determined we are to make certain that the regions develop and be given the opportunities they need to expand their economic and social bases.

Under the Program, regional offices will service eight major regional centres which cover a vast number of local shires: Far North Queensland (Cairns), North Queensland (Townsville), Mackay/Whitsunday (Mackay), Central Queensland (Rockhampton), Wide Bay (Bundaberg), South East Queensland North (Gympie), South East Queensland West (Toowoomba), South East Queensland South (Logan).

My Government recognises that poverty is a significant factor in the causes of crime. Therefore, an important part of the Government's commitment to crime prevention, the Community Renewal Program, has identified a number of areas of multiple disadvantage across the State.

These comprehensive target areas will be sites for extensive community action planning that will produce effective infrastructure and other social needs initiatives identified by the local communities and best suited to their medium and longer term needs. Ten (10) highly stressed communities have been targeted thus far and others are currently being identified. The Community Renewal Program expects to be able to work with others following the outcome of evaluation of earlier planning and implementation.

The Government also acknowledges that breaking the cycle of unemployment is critical in addressing issues of high social disadvantage and dependency. Employment initiatives, consistent with my Government's commitment, have begun to take effect across the whole State.

By way of example, my Government has recently announced a range of training and job initiatives in areas identified by Dr Kingston. These initiatives cover both apprenticeships and traineeships, and include environmental projects as well as projects targeting young people and indigenous communities. Specifically, as at 7 June, twenty (20) Community Jobs Plan Projects have been approved for the Wide Bay area—providing some 270 jobs, and nine (9) Community Employment Assistance Grants have

been approved—providing an anticipated 124 jobs in the area.

In summary, my Government stands by its commitment to face the tough issues through a comprehensive partnership with local communities; understanding that providing longer term benefit requires proper, timely and systematic planning.

677. Bremer River, Bridge

Mr PAFF asked the Premier (27/5/99)—

With reference to the fact that in May 1998 prior to the last State election, he promised the people of Leichhardt and Ipswich a new bridge at One Mile across the Bremer River—

- (1) When will this bridge construction commence?
- (2) Is the bridge to be designed for four lanes of traffic plus pedestrian and cycling lanes?
- (3) What is the projected date of completion?
- (4) Has an appraisal been carried out for a second crossing of the Bremer River at Sadliers Crossing, Ipswich, adjacent to the railway bridge?

Mr BEATTIE (25/6/99): On May 22, 1998, I issued a media release exposing the way in which Ipswich had suffered from the Coalition's ad hoc planning. In it I said, and I quote directly from the release: "A Labor Government would also begin planning to replace the One Mile Bridge and reinstate the urban renewal program piloted at Leichhardt and Riverview.

(1) In keeping with its election commitment, this Government has provided \$20,000 towards a \$40,000 Planning Study, to be undertaken by the Ipswich City Council, under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme.

This Study was necessary as there are significant traffic issues to be addressed in the West Ipswich area, prior to determining an appropriate location for the replacement bridge at One Mile. This Study is due for completion at the end of June 1999.

- (2) The number of lanes and provision for pedestrians and bicycles will be considered in the context of the detailed planning for the project.
- (3) Construction details will be finalised after completion of the Planning Study.
- (4) Another crossing of the Bremer River at Sadliers Crossing is a matter for the Ipswich City Council.

678. Sergeant D. Young

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/5/99)—

With reference to the investigations into Sergeant Don Young at Kalbar regarding the misuse of a police car and other matters resulting in his demotion and transfer—

- (1) Why would the internal investigation by high ranking police officers believe the evidence of a drug informant over the evidence of civic leaders, including a Shire Mayor and editor of a newspaper?

- (2) Was the investigation a cover-up to protect other police officers?
- (3) Why won't he meet with Don Young and his wife to discuss this matter that has devastated his career in the police force?

Mr BARTON (24/6/99):

- (1) The Queensland Police Service, in their determination of this matter took into account all issues and evidence that was available to them at the time. As a result the Service took the appropriate course of action having regard to all these factors.
- (2) No. All matters relating to the investigation of Don Young were overviewed by the Criminal Justice Commission prior to any action by the Queensland Police Service.
- (3) The matters relating to Don Young have been fully canvassed by the Queensland Police Service, the Criminal Justice Commission and the relevant tribunal of appeal. They are issues relating to operational matters which are the responsibility of the Commissioner of Police.

679. Whitsunday Electorate, Health Services

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Health (27/5/99)—

With reference to health services within the Whitsunday electorate—

- (1) How is the health system administered and by whom?
- (2) What are the actual versus budget financial results since July 1998?
- (3) How are staffing levels determined and which statistical information is used?
- (4) What are the staffing levels, by department, today compared to five years ago and 10 years ago?
- (5) Why have the staffing levels at the new Bowen Community Health building in particular, and in general, declined?
- (6) How are the hospitals and health centres in Whitsunday electorate performing compared to the rest of the State?
- (7) What changes are planned for health services in the Whitsunday electorate?

Mrs EDMOND (28/6/99): The area covered by the Whitsunday electorate is not congruent with Queensland Health's District Health Service structure as determined in 1996. The Whitsunday electorate takes in parts of the Mackay and Bowen Health Service Districts.

- (1). The Director-General, subject to the Minister, is responsible for administration of the Health Services Act 1991 (amended in 1996). The administration of public health services is organised into 38 Health Service Districts in three zones.
- (2) All Districts received a budget increase in 1998/99. The final budget position is not available until year end due to usual budget adjustments which occur during the year such as wage adjustments and allocation of Commonwealth and other program funds.

(3) Determinates for staffing levels vary for each discipline. Staffing levels are determined in response to identified service demand based on contemporary clinical practice and identified population demographic trends and variances.

(4) Comparing staffing levels across a ten year time span does not acknowledge the significant change that has occurred in health service provision over the last decade (ie, shorter length of stays and hospital rebuilding). This in turn has impacted on the workforce profile. Overall, the staffing has remained relatively constant.

(5) Staff numbers at the Bowen Community Health Centre are not declining. Numbers have increased recently with the introduction of the Community Mental Health Psychologist and Administration Officer. A Mental Health Nurse will shortly be appointed to a position shared with the Burdekin area.

(6) Proserpine/Whitsunday Health Services are provided at State benchmark levels and are consistent with contemporary clinical practice. The Proserpine Hospital has Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHSE) accreditation and the Community Health Service has achieved accreditation under the Community Health Accreditation Standards Program (CHASP).

(7) The redeveloped Proserpine Hospital was opened in October 1998 at a cost of \$8.1m providing modern, well-equipped facilities for the residents of the Proserpine/Whitsunday area. There will be continuing efforts to increase specialist outreach services from Mackay.

In the Bowen District Health Service, capital works for the Collinsville Hospital include insect screening and electrical upgrades. Specific clinics for ambulatory patients are being introduced at Bowen in targeted clinical areas.

680. Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, Maryborough

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (27/5/99)—

With reference to issues which have recently been raised with her concerning the work practice of officers of the Maryborough District Office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DFYCC) and unsupported allegations of financial misappropriation which were levelled at a community organisation and a file which has been presented to her detailing these allegations and the organisation's responses to these allegations—

- (1) Will she order an urgent investigation into the allegations now raised by that service organisation, which detail incidences of alleged misconduct of officers of the Maryborough district office of DFYCC?
- (2) Is it accepted practice for officers of the DFYCC to level unsupported allegations of a serious nature against community based service organisations?

(3) Is she aware that this practice exists and can be shown to exist?

(4) Will she put into being, procedures whereby, in future, officers of the DFYCC are required to place in writing, issues of concern they might have, so as to allow those issues to be dealt with by the relevant service as a matter of urgency?

(5) Will she instruct officers of the department that they are to respond to written requests for details of concerns by the next possible return mail?

Ms BLIGH (28/6/99):

1. I have requested my Central Queensland Regional Director to investigate the issues that you have raised through an independent review.

2. No.

3. No, however if the Member for Hervey Bay has such evidence, I am willing to consider it and take any appropriate actions.

4. The current practice for officers of my Department is to first raise concerns with the Management Committee of that organisation, usually by face to face meetings. The outcomes of such discussions may include agreement by the organisation, Departmental Officers, or both, to complete certain tasks to address the concerns. File notes would be held on Departmental files to record those actions agreed to during such discussions. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached, then formal correspondence would be forwarded to the organisation seeking their response to matters of concern in writing.

5. My Department works collaboratively with a broad range of community based organisations. Where serious concerns are raised about any community organisation, it is the practice of my Department to, in accordance with the principles of natural justice, to allow the organisation to respond to the allegations and for this to happen as a matter of priority, within the scope of available resources.

681. Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources, Tablelands Visit

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (27/5/99)—

Will he supply an itinerary of his proposed trip to the Tablelands in June 1999 and will he use this trip to meet with farmers and industry leaders who are less than impressed at his refusal to meet with them so far?

Mr WELFORD (28/6/99):

Thursday 3 June 1999

6pm—Depart for Cairns

8.15pm—Arrive Cairns

Friday 4 June 1999

8.30am to 10.30am—Launch of CYP2010 and CYRAG

10.45am—Depart for Mareeba

11.05am—Arrive Mareeba

11.30am—Deputation, DNR Offices Mareeba

12noon—Commencement of 1st meeting with Shire Council Representatives. DNR Offices, Mareeba

Attendance—Minister; Ministerial Advisers; DNR Officers & Nine (9) Shire Council representatives (Frank Gallo, Councillor, Atherton; Kerry Rosenberg, CEO, Atherton; Phil English, Mayor, Eacham; John Torpy, CEO, Eacham; Bill Sneath, Councillor, Eacham; Ivan Herston, Deputy Mayor, Herberton; Gordon Malcolm, CEO, Herberton; Chris Lewis, Mayor, Mareeba; Col McDowall, CEO, Mareeba)

2pm—Commencement of 2nd meeting with Industry Representatives. DNR Offices, Mareeba

Attendance—Minister; Ministerial Advisers; 16 Industry Representatives; DNR Officers (Oscar Bugno, Nth Queensland Tobacco Growers Co-op Assoc. Ltd; Representative, Queensland Tobacco Marketing Co-op; Joe Moro, Mareeba District Fruit & Vegetable Growers; Ron Knowlton, Atherton Tableland Avocado Growers Assoc.; Don Rudd, Mossman Canegrowers; Representative, Australian Coffee Growers Assoc.; Representative, Queensland Seed Producers Assoc.; Representative, North Queensland Essential Oil Assoc.; Trevor Adil, Tableland Mill Suppliers Cttee; Ross Cuzzubbo, Tableland Mill Suppliers Cttee; Maryann Salvetti, Tableland Canegrowers; Don Stewart, Tableland Canegrowers; Ms Lennie Wallace, Tinaroo Water Users Assoc.; Representative, Queensland Dairy Farmers Assoc.; Dennis Salvetti, Atherton Maize Board; Representative, Peanut Marketing Board)

3.30pm—Depart Mareeba

5.30pm—Arrive Brisbane.

682. Information, Access and Dissemination

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (27/5/99)—

With reference to the importance of content in the provision of new information technologies, for instance, there is no point in having broad band width without having some information to convey upon that band width and as he is also responsible for the promotion of the information industry within Queensland and as he will no doubt be aware that the biggest assemblage of comprehensive information in Queensland sits in the Queensland State Archives within his area of responsibility—

What initiatives has he undertaken to ensure access and dissemination?

Mr SCHWARTEN (15/6/99): The issues raised in this question fall within the portfolio of the Honourable Terry Mackenroth MLA, Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities. Please redirect this question to Mr Mackenroth.

683. Complaints, Investigation by Police Officers

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/5/99)—

- (1) When investigating a complaint do police as a matter of course have to record information from witnesses that is detrimental to their case against the defendant; if not, why not?
- (2) When the tendered information directly conflicts with the complaints, is it legally and morally right to hide the evidence or take no statement and leave it to the defendant's legal resources to search out the proof?
- (3) When complaints by complainants are clearly fabricated and cannot be substantiated by geographically, physical or visual evidence, what action would the police force take to produce the best possible results in the public interest?
- (4) If cases conducted by one or other of the Police Task Force proves that justice and the public purse is suffering because of their methods, what action will he take to initiate an inquiry?

Mr BARTON (24/6/99):

- (1) In exercising the discretion whether to charge a person, police officers have an obligation to consider all evidence gathered, whether detrimental or beneficial to the alleged offender, before charging or commencing any proceedings.

In the conduct of an investigation a police officer gathers evidence from all known and available witnesses, as well as collecting any available physical evidence that is relevant to the facts in issue.

- (2) Police officers have a responsibility to gather all available and relevant information that relates to the facts in issue and consider all information that is known at the time prior to charging and prosecuting an alleged offender. If a statement is not obtained from a potential witness, the prosecution should provide the person's name to the defence. Clearly, it is not the prosecution's role to obtain some type of evidence, e.g. character evidence relating to an accused, for the defence.

- (3) Section 10.21 of the Police Service Administration Act provides for action against persons who knowingly make false complaints which call for a police investigation. There is a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units for an offence against this section. However, the section does not apply to a representation relating to an offence, or the circumstances of an offence that has actually been committed. The commencement of a prosecution under this section would depend on the circumstances of the false complaint.

684. Registration of Dogs and Cats

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (27/5/99)—

With reference to a new law passed by the Labor Government in New South Wales which makes it mandatory for local governments to adopt a system of lifetime registration of dogs to replace a system of annual registration of these animals and makes it compulsory for the first time for cats to be registered—

Does he contemplate introducing similar legislation in Queensland?

Mr MACKENROTH (18/6/99): Local governments in Queensland are responsible for regulating the keeping and control of animals through the adoption of appropriate local laws. I have no plans to introduce legislation which would remove local government autonomy in deciding whether to require the registration of dogs and/or cats in their areas.

685. TAFE Facilities, Dalby

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Premier (27/5/99)—

With reference to his public promise that he would honour projects planned but not completed by the Borbidge Government and I acknowledge on more than one occasion that he has honoured that commitment—

As Dalby has the highest number of apprentices of all rural centres in Queensland and is also the largest manufacturing centre in rural Queensland and in the week ending 22 May Connor Shea/Napiers of Dalby announced its intention to double its workforce to make farm machinery for export and bearing in mind Dalby had a TAFE promised for 1992 but lost it under the Goss Government and planning for a specially designated TAFE College on an identified site was planned by the Borbidge Government, will he now ensure Dalby gets its own TAFE facility rather than the use of rented premises at present which are not appropriate to meet the expanded needs of Dalby and district?

Mr BEATTIE (25/6/99): My Government is committed to providing appropriate infrastructure to support the training needs of all Queenslanders.

The Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE, Toowoomba, delivers training to many regional centres including Dalby through leased premises to meet the expanding and changing needs of these regional centres. Within the past year the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations leased additional facilities in Dalby and allocated \$250,000 in 1998-99 for the refurbishment of these and previously leased facilities. The \$250,000 refurbishment work is due to be completed by August 1999.

686. Detention of Offenders under Guardianship of Director-General, Department of Families, Youth and Community Care

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (27/5/99)—

With reference to the 10 months ended 30 April—

How many children under the control of the Chief Executive of her department have (a) been sentenced by the Courts to detention centres, to which detention centres were they placed and what were the offences for which they were convicted and what were their ages, (b) been cautioned under the Juvenile Justice Act and what were the offences for which they were cautioned and what were their ages, (c) received community service orders from the Courts under the Juvenile Justice Act and what were the crimes for which they were convicted and what were their ages and (d) been given community conferencing under the Juvenile Justice Act and what were the offences for which they undertook conferencing and what were their ages?

Ms BLIGH (28/6/99):

(a) During the nine months ending 31 March 1999, 20 young people under the guardianship of the Director-General of my Department were sentenced to a period of detention in a youth detention centre. The ages of these young people ranged from 14 to 17 years, with most aged 15 or 16. The admission of these 20 young people into detention was split almost evenly across the three youth detention centres in Queensland. These offences varied, but included unlawful use of a motor vehicle, attempted arson, and break and enter and stealing offences.

(b) Whilst my Department keeps specific information regarding each child who is under the care of the Department on individual client files, the database containing aggregated information about cautioning is held by the Police. I am advised that the Queensland Police Service is unable to provide information in relation to young people who are cautioned and who are under the guardianship of the Director-General of my Department.

(c) During the nine months ending 31 March 1999, a total of 53 young people under the guardianship of the Director-General of my Department, were sentenced to perform a period of community service. The ages of these young people ranged from 11 to 17 years, with most being 14, 15 or 16 years old. These young people were ordered to perform community service for a range of offences, including wilful damage, break and enter and stealing offences, entering a dwelling with intent, receiving stolen property, and false pretences.

(d) During the ten months ending 30 April 1999, four young people under the guardianship of the Director-General of my Department were required to undertake community conferencing at the Logan and Ipswich community conference services. These four young people were aged 12, 14 (x2) and 16. Offences committed by these young people included shoplifting, wilful damage, and a demand with intent and assault.

687. Drought Relief Assistance

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (27/5/99)—

Taking into consideration that individual primary producers may be severely affected by drought, although most of their region has been declared drought free, what provision has been made for such individual properties in regard to being able to access assistance to help during this period?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/6/99): Under State declaration processes individual primary producers that remain affected by drought may apply to their local Stock Inspector for an Individually Droughted Property (IDP) declaration. An IDP declaration entitles primary producers to exactly the same form of assistance as does a Shire declaration.

Primarily a successful IDP application enables property owners to access State Government assistance through the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS). This scheme, administered by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), provides freight subsidy assistance for the transport costs of fodder and water purchased to nourish drought affected livestock and assists property owners in the herd rebuilding process at the conclusion of the drought. It does this by providing freight subsidy assistance for the transport costs of all livestock returning from agistment and/or the transport costs of any animals that are purchased for restocking purposes.

688. Education Portfolio

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Education (27/5/99)—

With reference to the \$188.8m per annum worth of recurrent savings identified in the document 'ALP Policy Commitment and Costings—Queensland State Election 1998' released in June 1998 and given that these savings are to be achieved through, quote: "... the normal Budget Review process and taking account of efficiency and productivity improvements"—

- (1) What will be the cost of these savings to (a) Education Queensland and (b) any other portfolio agencies (listed by agency) for each of the next four financial years (1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003)?
- (2) Has he given any consideration as to how these savings will be funded within his portfolio?
- (3) What department/portfolio activities are most likely to be affected by the imposition of these savings and to what extent (financial or otherwise—for example larger class sizes, reduced capital expenditure) will these departmental/portfolio activities be affected?
- (4) Does he support the imposition of this budgetary measure and will he be voting against such a proposal in the interests of Queensland students?

Mr WELLS (25/6/99):

- (1) The Education portfolio received an overall increase in funding of some 4.5% in the 1998-99

Budget. I am hopeful of receiving support again from the Premier and Treasurer in the 1999-00 Budget to continue the important work that supports the learning outcomes of Queensland school students.

In terms of the savings to which the Member refers, I suggest that he refers his question to the Honourable the Treasurer.

- (2) Refer to Question 1.
- (3) Refer to Question 1.
- (4) Refer to Question 1.

689. Correctional Facilities, Production of Linen Products

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/5/99)—

With reference to the production of linen, apparel and similar items produced in correctional facilities within Queensland—

Against each correctional facility list (a) the complete range of linen products produced, (b) the number of prisoners involved in the production of such products, (c) the hourly rate of pay of said prisoners, (d) the total value and quantity of production for each month of 1998-99 to date, (e) all customers/purchasers of said produced goods and (f) the presence or absence of standing offer arrangements in place for any or all of these transactions?

Mr BARTON (24/6/99):

- (a) Townsville Correctional Centre (TCC)—Sheets, pillowcases, doona covers, mattress covers, towels, tea towels, aprons, face/hand washers, tablecloths
Brisbane Womens—Track suits, t-shirts, shorts, pillowcases, tea towels, single bed sheets, track pants, coloured sheets, doona covers, doonas, towels, tablecloths, mattress covers
Lotus Glen Correction Centre (LGCC)—Inmates clothing, sheets, pillow cases.

Each of the centres produces small numbers of additional products on demand.

- (b) TCC up to 74; Brisbane Womens up to 20; LGCC up to 12.

(c) The rates of pay vary from \$2.65 to \$3.99 per day per person, with additional productivity bonuses of up to 100 percent paid according to productivity and institutional behaviour. Other "on costs" associated with the supervision of inmates in secure accommodation, add a large additional financial component to the total cost of production.

(d) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(e) TCC—Other Correctional Centres, staff and various minor customers; Brisbane Womens—Other Correctional Centres; LGCC—Other Correctional Centres and staff.

(f) Standing Arrangements—There are no standing arrangements in place for these transactions.

690. Queensland Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (27/5/99)—

Will she detail the latest available Queensland Ambulance Service response times by region in comparison to the previous quarterly reporting period?

Mrs ROSE (28/6/99): The attached table details the latest available Queensland Ambulance Service response times by region in comparison to the previous quarterly report period.

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

691. Qantas, Aircraft Maintenance

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (27/5/99)—

With reference to the granting of the \$30m QANTAS aircraft engineering and maintenance operations to Avalon, Victoria—

- (1) What incentives were offered by the Queensland Government to attract this business to the State?
- (2) What reasons can he give for the Government's failure to attract QANTAS to Queensland?

Mr ELDER (24/6/99):

(1) It is understood that QANTAS recently took a commercial decision to outsource the maintenance of part of its jet fleet to a company based in Avalon in Victoria. As the company did not at any stage consider other sites than Avalon for the project the issue of incentives from Queensland is totally irrelevant.

(2) The Queensland Government is very active in encouraging aircraft maintenance activities in the state. For example, QANTAS already undertakes a portion of its line maintenance of 737 and 767 aircraft at Brisbane airport and recently spent \$340,000 on a new docking station at this facility. Ansett and Flight West also undertake heavy maintenance at Brisbane airport and there will be further announcements on new aircraft maintenance operations in Brisbane in the near future.

The Government is also working with international companies in relation to possible new maintenance facilities at other Queensland airports.

692. Queensland Police Service, Telephone Interception

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/5/99)—

- (1) What steps are being taken to investigate the use of telephone interception as part of police powers and what progress has been made?
- (2) Does he intend to bring in telephone interception as a police power?

Mr BARTON (24/6/99): Like other electronic surveillance powers, telecommunications interception is a particularly invasive investigative tool, needing careful consideration. This Government has no plans to introduce new electronic surveillance powers at this time.

693. Clermont State School

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Education (27/5/99)—

- (1) Will he explain the delays in repairing the deteriorating state of the Clermont State Primary School buildings?
- (2) When will he approve the \$31,287 for repairs quoted to the department on 15 October 1998, nearly eight months ago?

Mr WELLS (28/6/99):

1. Cracking in the walls of the Administration Block, Amenities Block, Teaching Block 3 and the Preschool at Clermont State School has been occurring over a number of years. The most significant cracking has occurred in one corner of the Administration Block.

2. This cracking has been monitored over a number of years. In May 1998, a technical report was commissioned from Project Services to determine the extent of the problem and possible strategies for rectification and future prevention. While the report suggested that the cracking in the Administration Block was significant, there was no suggestion that the cracking was a risk to the health and safety of students, staff or visitors of the school.

3. As a result of this report, a quotation was sought from Qbuild to carry out the necessary work to rectify the existing cracks and prevent further cracking.

4. The cost of \$31,287.00 to repair all cracks was too costly for the school to have carried out as part of its Annual Maintenance Program.

5. Consequently this project was considered along with other significant projects within the Central Queensland Facilities Service Centre (CQFSC) area for funding from contingency maintenance funding held by the Facilities Service Centre

6. Unfortunately, there was not sufficient funding available to carry out the work in the 1998/99 financial year. This project has been listed for consideration in the 1999/2000 financial year and should be carried out within that year subject to its relative priority compared to other outstanding projects and available funding.

7. Neither Project Services nor Qbuild have suggested that the cracking is so significant that it presents a risk of injury to any personnel on site.

8. This project has been identified for attention and while funding was not available this financial year, it will be considered next financial year on its relative merits compared with other significant projects put forward by schools.

694. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/5/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

- (1) As the training record book is issued to the trainee/apprentice, why does the histogram and text on page 58 indicate that 81 per cent of employers received a training record book?
- (2) As 71 per cent of employers did not involve RTOs or other agencies in the sign up process, was it the responsibility of RTOs and such other agencies to advise the 33 per cent of employers who didn't know they might have a choice of RTOs and the 13 per cent who were uncertain if they were aware, that the possibility of choice existed?
- (3) Why do the questionnaires use or interchange the terms "method of training", "style of training", "mode of delivery" and "mode of training" without defining these terms in the glossary?
- (4) How many of the "methods of training" mentioned in several questions in several questionnaires are in fact "methods of training" rather than venues, duration or times for training to occur?

Mr BRADY (28/6/99):

- (1) The questionnaire did not ask whether an employer received a Training Record Book, but whether their apprentice/trainee received one.
- (2) No.
- (3) There is no evidence to suggest that respondents saw any difference among these terms.
- (4) They are all "methods of training".

695. Mining Industry; Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (27/5/99)—

With reference to transfer of responsibility for environmental monitoring and enforcement from the Department of Mines and Energy to the Environmental Protection Agency—

- (1) What arrangements have been made to help small miners with the transition from the DME to EPA?
- (2) What assistance or initiatives, if any, are available to help small miners comply with environmental regulations?
- (3) How many staff from the Environmental Compliance Division have been transferred to the EPA?
- (4) What are the operational and administrative structures for environmental monitoring and enforcement under the new arrangements?

- (5) Will he outline the operational and administrative processes under the new arrangements?

Mr McGRADY (29/6/99):

(1) The Government is developing arrangements that will result in a seamless transition for all sectors of the mining industry to the new environmental management regime.

All miners will be able to lodge their applications at the existing DME offices and receive the same level of advice and service at those offices.

(2) The Government has consistently recognised the difficulties that small miners have in obtaining good, affordable advice about complying with environmental requirements. The small or type 1 miners are currently provided with a tick-a-box style of Environmental Management Overview Strategy pro forma. This allows the miner to answer simple questions about environmental management without the expense of a professional consultant.

Many thousands of dollars have been saved by small miners who have used this facility. There is a proposal to simplify the process even more by the development of Codes of Practice for several different types of small mining operations such as alluvial mining, opal mining, small hard rock mining and dimension stone mining. The first of these Codes of Practice dealing with alluvial mining is nearing completion.

The Department has conducted training sessions on changes that have occurred to environmental legislation that affects small miners. These have been at locations across the State such as Mareeba, Emerald and Quilpie. Last year a pilot project was conducted in the Southern Region to assist small miners to develop environmental management systems as a way to improve their environmental performance.

(3) No staff have been transferred as yet.

The Premier made an announcement on 10 May 1999, about the transfer of environmental management for mining from the Department of Mines and Energy to the new Environmental Protection Agency. This will occur well before the end of the year, after administrative issues have been completed.

(4) The new arrangements will include the EPA handling assessment, licensing, compliance and monitoring of the mining industry. The organisational and administrative structures are not finalised because the EPA itself is still being established and final decisions on the staff transfers have not been made.

(5) Operational procedures are likely to focus increasingly on the Environmental Protection Act as environmental functions under the Mineral Resources Act are transferred to that Act.

The administrative processes that have been decided will ensure that applications for mining tenures and environmental authorisations will continue to be lodged at one office, ie. a regional or district office of the Department of Mines and Energy. After an assessment by the EPA the miner

will be notified by the DME if compliance with a Code of Practice is the only environmental requirement upon the small miner.

Additional investigations, environmental management plans, EMOSs or environmental impact studies will only be required for higher impact mining projects such as large open-cut mines, mines with large chemical processing works or mines in or near environmentally sensitive areas.

After the EPA has decided appropriate environmental conditions, the Director-General of DME will be asked to consider the draft conditions. The agreed conditions are then included in a public notice of the application similar to the present procedure when a Certificate of Application is advertised calling for objections. Objections will in future be heard in the Land and Resources Tribunal instead of the Wardens Court which currently handles objections.

696. Criminal Offences Involving Use of Syringes

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (27/5/99)—

Will he provide details of sentences, on a case by case basis, for people who were convicted of offences involving the use or threatened use of a syringe over the last five year period?

Mr FOLEY (24/6/99): In response to the specific question asked by Mr Springborg, I can advise as follows:

(1) There is no data base within my portfolio which specifically records such detail.

(2) Use of text searching software of indictments in prosecution case files, and the collective recollections of prosecutors, has resulted in the identification of a number of matters involving convictions for offences in which a syringe appears to have been used as a weapon. These are set out in the following table:

1995—1
1996—1
1997—8
1998—7
1999 (YTD)—3

These figures should be regarded as indicative rather than conclusive.

697. Proposed Women's Prison, Wacol

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/5/99)—

With reference to the planned new women's prison at Wacol and to speculation that the current practice of allowing inmates to personalise their cells by allowing non-issue soft furnishings and personal clothing to be used as well as toys provided for children in the inmates care will cease—

- (1) Is there any substance in the allegations?
- (2) Will new uniforms be provided; if so, describe the type, colour, etc and if wearing will be strictly enforced in all circumstances?

(3) What will be the colour scheme for building interiors, in particular individual cells?

(4) What colour scheme will be introduced for soft furnishings and will that be uniform throughout the complex and will there be any relaxation of rules to allow for personal items to be substituted?

(5) Will there be provision in the new establishment's regulations to allow for children's toys to be provided to the small children of inmates?

Mr BARTON (24/6/99):

(1) No—Generally prisoners are permitted to personalise their cells by the purchase of doona covers, pillow cases and some toys in addition to other personal property items. These arrangements will continue in the new facility.

(2) New prisoner uniforms will be provided to replace existing uniforms currently used at the Brisbane Women's Remand and Reception Centre at Annerley. These uniforms will include dresses, shorts, T-shirts, jeans and tracksuits. Some items are dark grey and some are blue. Prisoner representatives participated in the selection of the colour schemes. Prisoners are permitted to purchase personal underwear. Prisoners may also be approved to purchase items of clothing including footwear for sport, recreation and aerobics. Prisoners who are accommodated in the Residential Area will be permitted to purchase approved items of private clothing, such as shirts, shorts, dresses etc. provided that the amount does not exceed the guidelines of Chapter 26 of the Department of Corrective Services Policy and Procedure Manual. Prisoners are permitted to wear such items in their accommodation units and in the immediate area of the Residential compound.

(3) Off white.

(4) Bed linen will be green. Prisoners will be permitted to purchase and have personal doonas and pillow cases as substitutes. Floor coverings are not permitted. The use of window coverings is being considered. Personal items of property are governed by Chapter 26. However as Women prisoners are a special needs group, individual requests will be assessed on merit.

(5) Current arrangements at the Brisbane Women's Remand and Reception Centre allow prisoners to purchase toys for children who are accommodated with them. This arrangement will continue in the new facility.

698. Brisbane City Council Bus Transport

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/5/99)—

(1) Is he aware of the significant number of complaints about the reorganisation of Brisbane City Council bus routes?

(2) What are the current arrangements regarding bus service contracts for the Brisbane City area?

(3) What arrangements are in place to ensure that any changes to the level of service meet the

obligations to the Minister provided under the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act?

Mr BREDHAUER (25/6/99):

1. I am aware that extensive changes to bus services have seen Brisbane Transport receive a number of complaints. Brisbane Transport reports that all complaints are investigated and that many of the issues raised have been resolved.

2. Queensland Transport and Brisbane Transport entered into a Service Contract in December 1998. Service Contracts are designed to make their holders accountable for the services they provide. Thus, they do not detail the way in which services are to be provided, but instead require operators to meet Minimum Service Levels (MSLs) in terms of accessibility, frequency, fares and route design.

3. The Brisbane Transport Service Contract contains MSLs which are considered appropriate for the geography and population of Brisbane. These MSLs must be in place by the end of the five year term of the contract.

The Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 prescribes a formal mid-term review of performance, and allows for remedial action to be taken where the contractor's performance has been inadequate in a significant respect.

699. Hell Hole National Park

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (27/5/99)—

What are the future plans for Hell Hole National Park near Quilpie?

Mr WELFORD (24/6/99): A draft management plan for Hell Hole National Park has been prepared. The draft plan identifies the proposed future management of the national park.

The draft plan is currently open for public comments. Public submissions on the draft plan close on 7 June 1999. Indigenous groups, neighbours, local government and other interested community groups have been involved in the consultation process.

Hell Hole National Park will be managed according to the management principles of national parks specified in the Nature Conservation Act 1992. These are:

provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values (cardinal principle of management);

present the area's cultural and natural resources and their values; and ensure that the only use of the area is nature-based and ecologically sustainable.

The park will be managed to conserve its natural ecosystems as representatives of the southern mulgalands. The management of rare and threatened species in the area will be a major priority. Park management will focus on the control of feral animals and weeds.

The park is landlocked by no available public access. As a result the park will remain managed for restricted for the time being.

700. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/5/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

- (1) Other than Division of Training staff, DETIR Regional Directors and DETIR regional staff, what other stakeholder groups were involved in the development and trialling of questionnaires used for this research project?
- (2) Given that of the 19 industry questionnaires mailed out, 11 are shown as outstanding and nine as returned, is one of these figures incorrect?
- (3) Was any investigation undertaken to ascertain why the response from industry was inadequate to form a reasonable sample without supplementation by 29 interviews?

Mr BRADY (28/6/99):

(1) I am advised that the questionnaires were developed after extensive consultation with a broad range of people experienced in questionnaire development.

(2) Yes.

(3) No.

701. Kindon State School and Middle Ridge State School, Student Transport

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/5/99)—

With reference to both the school bus transport system and school access—

- (1) Will he please investigate the situation at the very isolated Kindon State School where the bus run was suspended due to the lack of numbers, but an understanding given by Mr Phil West that when the available children for this bus run reached nine again it would be resumed?
- (2) As these numbers are again available with an additional five available next year, will he use his influence to ensure that the regional officer's advice is followed and the bus run resumed?
- (3) Will he also investigate the general trend becoming evident that his department appears to be actively attacking the school bus proprietors financial viability and undermining school bus conveyancing committees by reducing services on individual school bus routes?
- (4) Will he also use his influence to assist the Education Department in upgrading the present dangerous student access at the Middle Ridge

State School which is a potential death trap given the rapidly increasing population in the immediate Middle Ridge area?

Mr BREDHAUER (25/6/99):

1. The School Transport Service No P810 to Kindon State School ceased under the previous Government at the end of the 1997 school year with endorsement from the Department of Education. Officers from Queensland Transport's Toowoomba office were active in consultation with the school community and the Grasstrees Conveyance Committee at the time of the cessation of the service. The number of students at the time was down to four.
2. An application submitted earlier this year for the institution of a school transport bus service does not meet current guidelines for the institution of a school bus service. Special assistance has been granted to a number of the students involved through the School Transport Assistance Scheme Isolation Package.
3. The Department is not attacking school bus proprietors' financial viability.
4. The Middle Ridge State School was part of a School Safe submission from the Toowoomba City Council at the recent Toowoomba/Jondaryn Community Cabinet Meeting. I am aware that school representatives have already met with Councillors and officers from Police, Education Queensland and Queensland Transport to initiate discussion and explore options to relieve the pedestrian and traffic congestion.

702. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/5/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

- (1) As he is conducting a major consultancy on the basis of various reports which have been based on this research, will he indicate what the notation E & OE at the base of many pages of this statistics report signifies?
- (2) Does it signify that the authors of the research do not accept full accountability for the quality and accuracy of their data?
- (3) Is it usual practice for professional research statistics to carry such a notation?

Mr BRADY (28/6/99):

- (1) The question is based on a false presumption.
- (2) No.
- (3) It is a valid research notation.

703. Replacement of Major Health Institutions; Baillie Henderson Hospital

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Health (27/5/99)—

With reference to an article which appeared in The Courier Mail on Saturday 22 May and which states "Queensland will replace its three major Mental Health Institutions with 28 community based centres by next year." And further, "The moves are in line with policy procedures outlined in the Ten Year Mental Health Strategy."—

Given that the Ten Year Mental Health Strategy only recommends a reduction in extended in-patient beds by 2006, will she give an assurance that the three major health institutions, including Baillie Henderson Hospital in Toowoomba, will not be replaced by next year as the article suggests and that the 154 beds will still be at the hospital in 2006?

Mrs EDMOND (28/6/99): As outlined in the Ten Year Mental Health Strategy, which was endorsed by the former Health Minister Mike Horan, services at these hospitals will be decreased as new extended inpatient services are established. Twenty-eight new extended inpatient services are being developed around Queensland. These centres will provide specialised care across five mental health programs (extended treatment and rehabilitation, dual diagnosis, acquired brain injury, secure care, and geriatric psychiatry), and will enable the provision of more locally based care, thus facilitating continuity of care, community reintegration and carer involvement/support.

These services will be provided in hospitals, nursing homes and in community based facilities and not solely in the community as was reported inaccurately in The Courier-Mail on 22 May 1999. Specialised services will also continue to be provided at the three major psychiatric hospitals for a reduced number of patients. Baillie Henderson will have 136 beds by 2006, as well as 25 extended treatment, alcohol and drug rehabilitation beds.

704. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/5/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

- (1) Why does the number of apprentices/trainees given in the acknowledgment (and in reports 1, 2 and 3) not correspond with the number in Section 2.5—Response Rate?
- (2) Similarly, why does the acknowledgment indicate that there were 554 employers who participated whilst Section 2.5 indicates there were 507?
- (3) Are both the above variations statistically significant?
- (4) In view of the exceptionally low numbers from the total mail-out and interview samples who actually answered some specific questions and as there is no indication that the small number who actually answered such questions, is in any way representative of the entire group, how can any confidence be placed in resultant statistics

such as 45 per cent (of employers) had employed an Aborigine or Torres Strait Islander?

Mr BRADY (28/6/99):

(1 & 2) In any statistical analysis there must be a cut-off point beyond which further returns will not be included. The difference in numbers reflects the fact that some responses came in immediately after the cut-off date.

(3) No.

(4) The report "Recruitment" makes it clear that there was no attempt made to suggest responses could be generalised to the whole population.

705. Education Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (27/5/99)—

With reference to the public servants employed within his portfolio—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service (SES) officers were employed at 31 March (including SES level, job title and location)?
- (2) How many SES officers are employed presently (including SES level, job title and location)?
- (3) How many additional SES officers will be recruited to fill existing vacancies or new positions during 1999 (including SES level, job title and location)?
- (4) How many Senior Officer (SO) public servants were employed at 1 July 1998 (including SO level, job title and location)?
- (5) How many SO public servants are employed presently (including SO level, job title and location)?
- (6) How many additional SO public servants will be recruited to fill existing vacancies or new positions during 1999 (including SES level, job title and location)?
- (7) How many SES officers and SO public servants have been employed, in the past, by the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) (including date of appointment, SES or SO level, job title and location)?
- (8) How many SES officers and SO public servants employed since 13 June 1998 have been appointed from (i) positions outside of his portfolio and of these people, how many have been appointed from positions interstate (including SES or SO level, job title and location)?

Mr WELLS (28/6/99): I have been advised by the department that departmental records show the following:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

706. Monto Hospital, Resident Medical Officer

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Health (27/5/99)—

With reference to the position of Resident Medical Officer at the Monto Hospital—

- (1) What are the duties associated with this position?
- (2) What remuneration is paid to hold this position?
- (3) Who currently holds this position?

Mrs EDMOND (28/6/99):

(1) There is no Resident Medical Officer position at Monto Hospital. A Medical Superintendent with Right of Private Practice provides medical services. The duties associated with this position are as stated in the Award for Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice which are as follows:

- a) conduct an outpatient session each day, Monday to Friday inclusive but excluding public holidays (However, this has been negotiated locally to four days.);
- b) conduct an inpatient round each day;
- c) visit inpatients whose condition requires such on at least one day of each weekend;
- d) be available on call when not in actual attendance at the hospital;
- e) during on call periods attend outpatients and inpatients who by virtue of their condition require the attendance of a Medical Practitioner prior to the next routine inpatient round or outpatient clinic; and
- f) provide medical care to public patients at the Hospital.

(2) The remuneration paid to the holder of this position includes an annual salary of \$83,259, \$5829 employer contribution to superannuation, rent free accommodation, a fully maintained motor vehicle, expenses relating to the provision of fuel, light and power, and the provision of a mobile phone for work purposes. There are also entitlements for recreation, conference, long service and sick leave.

(3) Dr Michael Read is currently appointed to the position.

707. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/5/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

- (1) Was there any attempt to discern whether those employers answering Question 17 related it back to Question 15 and actually regarded registered training providers industry bodies or group schemes as external employment recruitment agencies?
- (2) Why was no attempt made in Question 17 to define "in the past"?
- (3) When apprentices and trainees were answering similar questions (3 and 4) on their questionnaire is there any valid reason to believe that the 53 respondents out of the 1711

to whom questionnaires were sent, interpreted "Registered Training Providers" and "Group Schemes" as synonymous with "Employment Service"?

Mr BRADY (28/6/99):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No defined period of time was placed on when employers had used an employment service.
- (3) Yes.

708. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/5/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

- (1) As only 19 per cent of apprentices/trainees indicate that they have difficulty with literacy and/or numeracy, is the 28 per cent "Yes" response to the next question, "Did you notify your employer?" really plausible?
- (2) As only 1 per cent of apprentices or trainees obtained their position through an RTOS, why are RTOs being blamed for channelling applicants into traineeships in order to capitalise on Government funding?
- (3) As only 1 per cent of employers indicated that they put an existing worker into training, why is the department claiming that this practice was extremely widespread and relevant?
- (4) Is the low response rate indicated on page 45 correct or is it a typographical error?

Mr BRADY (28/6/99):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No one is being blamed. The research sought to identify the extent of marketing to existing workers.
- (3) The entire population of trainees is used to calculate existing worker statistics.
- (4) The figure is correct.

709. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/5/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

- (1) Why has Question 20 on Questionnaire 4.0 been scored on a scale of "satisfied—dissatisfied" when a less subjective scale would have provided more meaningful data?
- (2) Are the 58 per cent of employers who don't have a training plan, don't know what one is or who didn't answer the question, a sub-set of the 71 per cent who completed the sign-up process without assistance; if so, why should RTOs and other agencies be held responsible

for the lack of training plans amongst these employers who chose not to involve them?

- (3) As 31 per cent of employers don't have a training plan or don't even know what one is, why do 78 per cent of them indicate that they use it always (29 per cent) sometimes (37 per cent) or at least occasionally (7 per cent, 5 per cent)?

Mr BRADY (28/6/99):

(1) I am advised that the scale used is called a Likert scale, which has been used in research for about 25 years.

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) It is a requirement of the funding contract that employers and RTOs work together to produce a training plan.

(3) The report titled "Recruitment" makes it clear that 78% refers to the employers who responded positively to having a training plan.

710. Home and Community Care Program

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (27/5/99)—

Is she aware that frail elderly Queenslanders, who have been denied adequate home and community care support to have a worker hang out their washing and do other home duties, are breaking their limbs and ending up in hospital at great expense to the health system, not to mention the personal cost of suffering experienced by the individuals?

Mrs EDMOND (28/6/99): The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program provides a range of services to assist eligible clients to remain in their own home. The services available to clients include home/personal care, respite care, home maintenance/modifications, community nursing, meals on wheels, assessment and referral, allied health services and transport.

These services are covered by the HACC Program National Guidelines which stipulate that an assessment for eligibility for HACC services is required before clients are able to receive such services. The assessment is carried out using eligibility criteria that take into account the client's general functional ability, mobility and social support network. Clients who are assessed as not eligible for HACC services due to low risk of inappropriate or premature institutionalisation are usually given other alternatives to meet their identified needs. Clients who are not eligible are also encouraged to reapply should their circumstances change.

The HACC National Guidelines also stipulate that clients in receipt of HACC services are required to be assessed at least on a yearly basis and ongoing monitoring and appropriate case management occurs to ensure that services respond to the changing needs of the client. A multi-disciplinary team approach is used in the decision making process regarding continuation or cessation of home care services based on client needs and risk.

Health Service Districts attempt to provide equitable access to home care services for all clients to ensure

that clients of high need, that is clients for whom a service is crucial in order to avoid long term residential care, receive the care they require.

A number of Health Services Districts have also developed and implemented a Falls Prevention Program which targets the aged population. This program attempts to provide information and advice to clients on home safety and mobility.

For the 1998/99 financial year, funding for the HACC Program has increased by 8.98% over the previous year to address identified needs, including home care services.

711. Community Jobs Plan; Community Employment Assistance Program

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/5/99)—

With reference to the tables provided in response to Question on Notice No. 368—

- (1) Will he confirm that the total sum devoted to the delivery of vocational skills to participants in community employment assistance programs was \$222,356.50 and the total sum devoted to the delivery of vocational skills to participants in community jobs plan projects was \$39,216?
- (2) Will he also confirm that all subtotals indicated in his response are correct?
- (3) Do "total wages/salaries costs" in the first table include administration and other salaries or are they solely participant salaries?
- (4) In the second table, why are "training costs" included in "brokerage" fees, rather than being included with other training costs?
- (5) Why are these schemes using differing mechanisms for reporting the same types of expenditure?
- (6) Will he provide full details of each indicated component of the "brokerage costs" for community jobs plan projects in each DETIR region?

Mr BRADY (28/6/99):

- (1) My Department has confirmed these amounts.

(2) My Department has confirmed all sub-totals with the following explanatory comments:

- (a) The "Amount of Grants for Training" column represents a stand alone calculation included to respond to the original question, and does not form part of the sub-total amounts.
- (b) The amount of \$1 million recorded against Head Office region under Community Jobs Plan represents an allocation to the Environmental Protection Agency to administer the Youth Conservation Corps program. This amount has not been broken down into training, participant, brokerage or materials/equipment costs, and therefore does not appear in these sub-totals.

(3) Yes—the "total wages/salaries costs" in the first table (Community Employment Assistance Program) includes administration and other salaries. However, the amount does not include participant salaries as organisations receive funding under this Program to provide employment assistance (including training) to participants, not to employ people as under the Community Jobs Plan.

(4) As indicated in the answer to (2) above, "training costs" have been detailed separately in the "Amount of Grants for Training" column but also remain in the sub-totals for Brokerage Costs (as per the Note to the second table).

(5) Expenditure is reported differently as the two schemes allow for different types of expenditure, as follows:

Community Jobs Plan—funds organisations to employ long-term unemployed people for 3 to 6 months on a range of public works, community and environmental projects. Grants funds are allocated primarily for participant wages and on-costs.

Community Employment Assistance Program—aims to fund organisations to assist long-term unemployed people and those at risk of experiencing long-term unemployment, to find work. Grant funds are allocated to project management costs such as staff costs, general administration, or training.

- (6) Provision of this data is considered onerous and an unreasonable drain on departmental resources.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**712. Brigalow-Nanango Rail Line**

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (8/6/99)—

With reference to the route of the proposed Brigalow to Nanango rail line and bearing in mind it is proposed to run the line across about 50km of the fertile Brigalow floodplain, an area that will continue to be formed for centuries, yet the Tarong powerhouse and the rail line may only have a life of another 20 years—

Will he provide the local community with estimated costings of (a) a route using the existing Brigalow to Oakey, Oakey to Cooyar rail corridors and (b) a more northerly route that skirts above the floodplain so these people can judge whether the proposed route is the best option in both the short and the long term?

Mr ELDER (8/7/99): As the Minister responsible for the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971, I have directed the proponent of the proposed Brigalow-Tarong Rail Line, Sudaw Developments, to prepare an Impact Assessment Study (IAS) for the project.

The Terms of Reference for that study direct the proponent to evaluate alternative route and corridor alignments against a range of criteria including social, cultural, economic, environmental and cost factors. It also directs the proponents to consult with stakeholders and consider their views in the selection of a preferred alignment.

The draft IAS will be on public display until Friday 23 July 1999 and provides the information required to evaluate various alternatives. It will be evaluated critically by officers of Referral Agencies and my Department of State Development as part of the approvals process.

713. Mareeba Dental Clinic

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Health (8/6/99)—

- (1) Will she explain the deplorable situation at the Mareeba Dental Clinic?
- (2) What steps has she taken to rectify what can only be at best, a dangerous and totally unacceptable workplace?

Mrs EDMOND (8/7/99):

(1) A Workplace Health and Safety report was completed in April 1997. Four of the five recommendations were within the capacity of the dental staff at Mareeba to resolve. They were development of a Health and Safety Policy, development of quality systems, information regarding laboratory health and safety and the identification of hazards. The fifth recommendation was to be addressed at the time of building renovation. As capital planning was well advanced it was not considered prudent to undertake refurbishment of the clinic.

The Workplace Health and Safety Officer who prepared the report stated that there were no initial issues raised that the staff of the clinic could not have addressed.

(2) The District Manager has sought approval to sell the existing clinic and utilise these funds towards the cost of the renovations. Treasury approval for retention of revenue is being sought. Minor works have been done in the interim to address urgent issues.

714. Water Backflow

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/6/99)—

With reference to the recent public outcry regarding the lack of backflow prevention devices in Government buildings—

- (1) What Government premises are lacking these devices in the electorate of Whitsunday?
- (2) When does he intend to have these devices installed?
- (3) How long has he been aware of this problem?
- (4) Does the Government intend to provide compensation to any members of the public who may fall ill due to the lack of these devices in these Government premises?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/7/99):

(1-4) The so-called "public outcry" over backflow is based on an orchestrated scare campaign by a number of Opposition Members.

The Honourable Member should note that even though the Liberal leader, Dr Watson, has been leading this deceitful scare campaign, Dr Watson himself has admitted the chances of being affected by backflow are as remote as being struck by lightning.

Responsible Members acknowledge that the backflow prevention program was started in 1995 under a Labor Government, continued from 1996 to 1998 under the Coalition—including under Dr Watson as Minister for Public Works and Housing—and is continuing under the current government.

I would remind the Honourable Member that the priorities for dealing with the potential backflow problem at the government-owned sites in his electorate were established after the receipt by the Coalition government of an audit report of sites in 1996.

There is an attendant risk of backflow occurring in all government or privately owned buildings which do not have backflow prevention devices fitted.

That has been the basis on which the Backflow Prevention Program has been operating under successive governments.

But, just because an individual site has not yet had backflow prevention devices fitted, it does not mean that the occupants of or visitors to such establishments face the risk of backflow contamination.

Backflow prevention measures will continue to be undertaken in accordance with statewide priorities as funds become available. The Government will meet all of its legal obligations that result from its actions.

Like many Honourable Members, I have been generally aware of the issue of backflow for many years. As Minister for Public Works I was first briefed in July 1998 on the specific Backflow Prevention Program operating within the Department of Public Works since 1995.

As the Honourable Member would be aware, I have requested that the all-party Parliamentary Public Works Committee investigate all matters relating to the backflow program as it has been operating under a number of governments since 1995.

If the Honourable Member has specific concerns about the workings of the program, I would urge him to make a submission to the inquiry.

715. Water Backflow

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/6/99)—

With reference to the recent public outcry regarding the lack of backflow prevention devices in Government buildings—

- (1) What Government premises are lacking these devices in the electorate of Ipswich West?
- (2) When does he intend to have these devices installed?
- (3) How long has he been aware of this problem?
- (4) Does the Government intend to provide compensation to any members of the public who may fall ill due to the lack of these devices in these Government premises?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/7/99):

(1-4) The so-called "public outcry" over backflow is based on an orchestrated scare campaign by a number of Opposition Members.

The Honourable Member should note that even though the Liberal leader, Dr Watson, has been leading this deceitful scare campaign, Dr Watson himself has admitted the chances of being affected by backflow are as remote as being struck by lightning.

Responsible Members acknowledge that the backflow prevention program was started in 1995 under a Labor Government, continued from 1996 to 1998 under the Coalition—including under Dr Watson as Minister for Public Works and Housing—and is continuing under the current government.

I would remind the Honourable Member that the priorities for dealing with the potential backflow problem at the government-owned sites in his electorate were established after the receipt by the Coalition government of an audit report of sites in 1996.

There is an attendant risk of backflow occurring in all government or privately owned buildings which do not have backflow prevention devices fitted.

That has been the basis on which the Backflow Prevention Program has been operating under successive governments.

But, just because an individual site has not yet had backflow prevention devices fitted, it does not mean that the occupants of or visitors to such establishments face the risk of backflow contamination.

Backflow prevention measures will continue to be undertaken in accordance with statewide priorities as funds become available. The Government will meet all of its legal obligations that result from its actions.

Like many Honourable Members, I have been generally aware of the issue of backflow for many years. As Minister for Public Works I was first briefed in July 1998 on the specific Backflow Prevention Program operating within the Department of Public Works since 1995.

As the Honourable Member would be aware, I have requested that the all-party Parliamentary Public Works Committee investigate all matters relating to the backflow program as it has been operating under a number of governments since 1995.

If the Honourable Member has specific concerns about the workings of the program, I would urge him to make a submission to the inquiry.

716. Water Backflow

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/6/99)—

With reference to the recent public outcry regarding the lack of backflow prevention devices in Government buildings—

- (1) What Government premises are lacking these devices in the electorate of Caboolture?
- (2) When does he intend to have these devices installed?
- (3) How long has he been aware of this problem?
- (4) Does the Government intend to provide compensation to any members of the public who may fall ill due to the lack of these devices in these Government premises?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/7/99):

(1-4) The so-called "public outcry" over backflow is based on an orchestrated scare campaign by a number of Opposition Members.

The Honourable Member should note that even though the Liberal leader, Dr Watson, has been leading this deceitful scare campaign, Dr Watson himself has admitted the chances of being affected by backflow are as remote as being struck by lightning.

Responsible Members acknowledge that the backflow prevention program was started in 1995 under a Labor Government, continued from 1996 to 1998 under the Coalition—including under Dr Watson as Minister for Public Works and Housing—and is continuing under the current government.

I would remind the Honourable Member that the priorities for dealing with the potential backflow problem at the government-owned sites in his electorate were established after the receipt by the Coalition government of an audit report of sites in 1996.

There is an attendant risk of backflow occurring in all government or privately owned buildings which do not have backflow prevention devices fitted.

That has been the basis on which the Backflow Prevention Program has been operating under successive governments.

But, just because an individual site has not yet had backflow prevention devices fitted, it does not mean that the occupants of or visitors to such establishments face the risk of backflow contamination.

Backflow prevention measures will continue to be undertaken in accordance with statewide priorities as funds become available. The Government will meet all of its legal obligations that result from its actions.

Like many Honourable Members, I have been generally aware of the issue of backflow for many years. As Minister for Public Works I was first briefed in July 1998 on the specific Backflow Prevention Program operating within the Department of Public Works since 1995.

As the Honourable Member would be aware, I have requested that the all-party Parliamentary Public Works Committee investigate all matters relating to the backflow program as it has been operating under a number of governments since 1995.

If the Honourable Member has specific concerns about the workings of the program, I would urge him to make a submission to the inquiry.

717. Water Backflow

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/6/99)—

With reference to the recent public outcry regarding the lack of backflow prevention devices in Government buildings—

- (1) What Government premises are lacking these devices in the electorate of Lockyer?
- (2) When does he intend to have these devices installed?
- (3) How long has he been aware of this problem?
- (4) Does the Government intend to provide compensation to any members of the public who may fall ill due to the lack of these devices in these Government premises?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/7/99):

(1-4) The so-called "public outcry" over backflow is based on an orchestrated scare campaign by a number of Opposition Members.

The Honourable Member should note that even though the Liberal leader, Dr Watson, has been leading this deceitful scare campaign, Dr Watson himself has admitted the chances of being affected

by backflow are as remote as being struck by lightning.

Responsible Members acknowledge that the backflow prevention program was started in 1995 under a Labor Government, continued from 1996 to 1998 under the Coalition—including under Dr Watson as Minister for Public Works and Housing—and is continuing under the current government.

I would remind the Honourable Member that the priorities for dealing with the potential backflow problem at the government-owned sites in his electorate were established after the receipt by the Coalition government of an audit report of sites in 1996.

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Like many Honourable Members, I have been generally aware of the issue of backflow for many years. As Minister for Public Works I was first briefed in July 1998 on the specific Backflow Prevention Program operating within the Department of Public Works since 1995.

As the Honourable Member would be aware, I have requested that the all-party Parliamentary Public Works Committee investigate all matters relating to the backflow program as it has been operating under a number of governments since 1995.

If the Honourable Member has specific concerns about the workings of the program, I would urge him to make a submission to the inquiry.

718. Water Backflow

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/6/99)—

With reference to the recent public outcry regarding the lack of backflow prevention devices in Government buildings—

- (1) What Government premises are lacking these devices in the electorate of Hervey Bay?
- (2) When does he intend to have these devices installed?
- (3) How long has he been aware of this problem?
- (4) Does the Government intend to provide compensation to any members of the public who may fall ill due to the lack of these devices in these Government premises?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/7/99):

(1-4) The so-called "public outcry" over backflow is based on an orchestrated scare campaign by a number of Opposition Members.

The Honourable Member should note that even though the Liberal leader, Dr Watson, has been leading this deceitful scare campaign, Dr Watson himself has admitted the chances of being affected by backflow are as remote as being struck by lightning.

Responsible Members acknowledge that the backflow prevention program was started in 1995 under a Labor Government, continued from 1996 to 1998 under the Coalition—including under Dr Watson as Minister for Public Works and Housing—and is continuing under the current government.

I would remind the Honourable Member that the priorities for dealing with the potential backflow problem at the government-owned sites in his electorate were established after the receipt by the Coalition government of an audit report of sites in 1996.

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Backflow prevention measures will continue to be undertaken in accordance with statewide priorities as funds become available. The Government will meet all of its legal obligations that result from its actions.

Like many Honourable Members, I have been generally aware of the issue of backflow for many years. As Minister for Public Works I was first briefed in July 1998 on the specific Backflow Prevention Program operating within the Department of Public Works since 1995.

As the Honourable Member would be aware, I have requested that the all-party Parliamentary Public Works Committee investigate all matters relating to the backflow program as it has been operating under a number of governments since 1995.

If the Honourable Member has specific concerns about the workings of the program, I would urge him to make a submission to the inquiry.

719. Salination Research

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (8/6/99)—

With reference to preventive and remedial measures for salinisation and to the following—

In 1996 Queensland had an estimated 10,000 hectares of salt affected land and an area of 74,000

hectares which could become saline unless correct management measures are put in place rapidly.

A 1997 study has shown that the required land management changes are not occurring because there is market failure, institutional failure and technical failure (Hayes, Greg (1997), LWRRDC, Occasional Paper No. 16/97.

The market is failing because land managers are not receiving sufficient incentives to change their practices and the impact of the changed water balance is not generally experienced by those responsible and prophylactic action will not benefit them, however, without a change in land use, the national cost of dryland salinity will continue to increase.

Institutional failures include the failure to establish a national approach, poorly developed linkages between States and Federal agencies and within States, the lack of integrated implementation of resource management policies, neglect of rural change and a failure to consider alternative policy instruments.

The major technical failure is insufficient knowledge and decision making information. The National Dryland Salinity Program Management Plan is a response to this situation. It targets the development of understanding of work by other programs such as the Salinity Action Plan in Western Australia, Salt Action in New South Wales and Victoria and Bushcare and Landcare, which are components of the National Heritage Trust.

The Market, institutional and technical impediments must be addressed by farmer organisations and by State and Federal Governments, but with the Canberra based push for economic rationalism, the majority of our farmers are struggling to become more efficient and to survive. Whilst going through their adjustment to a free market economy, are they also expected to foot the bill for the necessary research and development and the integrated resource management necessary, or is this a Government responsibility, surely, a responsible Government has to lead the way in incentive funding, research, extension, coordination and cooperation—

- (1) What related research and development is taking place in Queensland concerning dryland salinity, who is doing it and who is funding it?
- (2) What market incentives are being provided or will this Government provide to facilitate the integrated implementation of resource management on a broad scale and further, what incentives will be provided to the individual implementing farmers?
- (3) What linkages will the Government provide to overcome the institutional failure identified in the LWRRDC paper?

Mr WELFORD (9/7/99):

(1) The Queensland Government has been involved in the National Dryland Salinity Program since its inception in 1993. As there are some 10,000 hectares of salt affected land in Queensland, with the potential for the area affected to increase substantially, the

Government is taking action to ensure that dryland salinity problems do not escalate and cause the devastation now apparent in the southern part of the Murray Darling Basin and in the Western Australian wheat belt.

My Department of Natural Resources has been undertaking detailed salinity research in areas such as Cattle Creek on the Atherton Tablelands, the Burnett Catchment, the Darling Downs and the Balfes Creek catchment near Charters Towers. Balfes Creek is one of five focus catchments studied extensively under Phase 1 of the National Dryland Salinity Program.

(2) My Department recently compiled the results of this research and other natural resource management programs into a comprehensive Salinity Management Handbook for Queensland. The Handbook provides a complete set of information to assist land managers and advisers understand, investigate and manage dryland salinity. Copies of this Handbook are provided free to all Catchment Management Committees in Queensland for use in addressing salinity issues.

(3) As is indicated in the 1997 National Study, the major cause of dryland salinity is the extensive clearing of native vegetation. In 1994, the Goss Labor Government introduced a new Land Act that included provisions to ensure that tree clearing on leasehold land does not cause environmental degradation such as dryland salinity.

Earlier this year, I informed the Parliament of the action being taken by the Beattie Government to develop consistent arrangements for freehold land.

In addition to these institutional arrangements, I am also investigating a broad range of financial and other incentives which will encourage and assist landholders to adopt best practice in native vegetation management.

The comprehensive approach to native vegetation management being implemented by the Government is designed to achieve a broad range of nature conservation, catchment protection and sustainable agricultural production objectives, and to prevent problems such as dryland salinity from expanding.

720. Mr and Mrs Wellington, Casket and Lotto Agency

Mr KNUTH asked the Treasurer (8/6/99)—

With reference to my correspondence in April to the Honourable Bob Gibbs MLA regarding the difficulty a Mr and Mrs Wellington have encountered trying to obtain a Casket and Lotto agency licence in the Burdekin Electorate and an indication in a letter dated 14 April from Mr Gibbs' office that my letter was forwarded to him for his direct reply—

What is the progress to date on this matter?

Mr HAMILL (15/6/99): My Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Darryl Briskey MLA, provided a response to you on the day this question was asked.

721. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, Travel Costs

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/6/99)—

With reference to travel undertaken and meetings attended by her—

- (1) What departmental facilities, outside organisations and other centres has she visited since 29 June 1998 (including date of visit, purpose of visit and name and title of Ministerial, or departmental staff accompanying her)?
- (2) Which organisations and lobbyists has she met with since 29 June 1998 (including date of meeting, purpose of meeting and name and title of Ministerial, or departmental staff accompanying her)?
- (3) What was the purpose of the (a) visit or (b) meeting listed above?
- (4) What is the total cost of travel and accommodation (including meal expenses) incurred by her and her office since 29 June 1998?
- (5) What is the total cost of travel and accommodation (including meal expenses) incurred by the department for staff accompanying her to visits and meetings since 29 June 1998?

Ms BLIGH (8/7/99):

(1) As the Member will appreciate, I have attended hundreds of meetings, appointments and deputations as Minister, including attendance at every Community Cabinet meeting. It is therefore impractical and unreasonable for me to provide a response to this broad question.

(2) See answer to (1) above.

(3) See answer to (1) above.

(4) \$43,593.59, which includes travel and accommodation costs associated with attendance at Community Cabinet functions over the last twelve months.

(5) \$16,532.57, which includes travel and accommodation costs associated with attendance at Community Cabinet functions over the last twelve months.

722. Q-Build

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/6/99)—

With reference to the services provided/undertaken by Q-Build on behalf of/for the Department of Housing—

- (1) What was/is the total value of work/services provided/undertaken by Q-Build for 1998-99 to date?
- (2) What was/is the breakdown value of work or services provided/undertaken by Q-Build for 1998-99 to date for (a) responsive maintenance,

- (b) vacant maintenance, (c) planned maintenance and (d) upgrade?
- (3) What was/is the value of work or services provided/undertaken by Q-Build but outsourced to private sector contractors for 1998-99 to date for (a) responsive maintenance, (b) vacant maintenance, (c) planned maintenance and (d) upgrade?
- (4) What was/is the value of work or services provided/undertaken by private sector contractors for 1998-99 to date for (a) responsive maintenance, (b) vacant maintenance, (c) planned maintenance and (d) upgrade?

Mr SCHWARTEN (6/7/99): This question—and previous questions concerning Q-Build—are clearly part of an ongoing campaign by the Coalition Opposition to mount a concerted attack on Q-Build and its staff of more than 2,100, including more than 300 apprentices.

The attitude of the Coalition—led by economic rationalists in the Liberal Party—is well known throughout the Q-Build organisation. It is raised with me by staff whenever I visit a Q-Build depot or workshop. This is especially the case in regional and remote centres.

(1) As at 11 June 1999, the total value of work/services provided/undertaken by Q-Build for 1998-99 was \$67,683,452.

(2) As at 11 June 1999, the breakdown value of work or services provided/undertaken by Q-Build for 1998-99 for (a) responsive maintenance was \$29,728,826, (b) vacant maintenance was \$12,571,938, (c) planned maintenance was \$6,934,132 and (d) upgrade was \$18,448,556.

(3) As at 11 June 1999, the value of work or services provided/undertaken by Q-Build but outsourced to private sector contractors for 1998-99 for (a) responsive maintenance was \$21,499,851, (b) vacant maintenance was \$9,401,757, (c) planned maintenance was \$6,163,205 and (d) upgrade was \$10,660,081.

(4) Q-Build does not hold records for work provided by private contractors and charged directly to the Department of Housing. Any private sector work outsourced by Q-Build is included in (3) above.

723. Arts Queensland

Mr GOSS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (8/6/99)—

With reference to reviews, studies, reports and the like undertaken for, or by, Arts Queensland, or any other statutory authority in the Arts portfolio since 26 June 1998—

- (1) What are the details (including recommendations, terms of reference, author, date of completion and cost) of each review, study, report and the like undertaken?
- (2) Who commissioned/requested each of these reviews, studies, reports and the like and on what date?

- (3) Which of the aforementioned authors are (a) public servants, (b) consultants and (c) other (please specify)?
- (4) For each person listed in (2), what is the public service position and classification or in the case of non-public servants, the name of the consultancy or organisation they represent and the remuneration received?
- (5) Which of the recommendations listed above have been implemented to date and what have been the budget and other policy implications (including staffing numbers)?
- (6) Which of the recommendations listed above will be implemented this calendar year and what will be the budget and other policy implications (including staffing numbers)?
- (7) Which of the recommendations listed above will not be implemented and what has and will be the budget and other policy implications (including staffing numbers)?
- (8) How much money has been spent by Arts Queensland or any other statutory authority in the Arts portfolio on consultants and external reviews since 26 June 1998 and what was the budget for consultants or external reviews over this period?

Mr FOLEY (7/7/99): For questions (1-7) available details are set out in Attachment A provided by Arts Queensland and the arts statutory bodies. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In relation to question 8, approximately \$760,678.50 has been expended on consultants and external reviews across the portfolio since 26 June 1998. The costs of consultancies and reviews are met from discrete cost centres as there is no single budget across the portfolio for consultants or external reviews.

724. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, Consultancies

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/6/99)—

With reference to her department and other agencies within her portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/other similar role since the change of Government on 26 June 1998 (including Commissioners of Inquiry and Assistant Commissioners of Inquiry)?
- (2) What is/was the purpose of each consultancy (including terms of reference)?
- (3) What are the dates of engagement and estimated/actual dates of completion for each consultancy?
- (4) Who commissioned these consultancies?
- (5) What are/were the hourly and total costs of each consultancy?

- (6) How much has been expended on each consultancy in 1998-99 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1998-99?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present, or has presented, a report and when?
- (9) Which of these consultancies will not/have not been required to present a report and why not?
- (10) Which reports will be made public and when?
- (11) Which reports will not be made public and why not?
- (12) Out of which program have, or will, these consultancies be funded?

Ms BLIGH (8/7/99):

(1-12) See Attachment 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

725. Basil Stafford Centre

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/6/99)—

With reference to her commitment to close the Basil Stafford Centre—

- (1) Does she still maintain this commitment; if so, when does she intend to deliver on this commitment and what arrangements has she made to date to facilitate this closure?
- (2) How many residents presently reside at Basil Stafford and what is the estimated number of residents for the next 10 years (or for as many years as have been projected)?
- (3) If the number of residents over the coming years is to increase, where will these residents be coming from and if this number is to decrease, where will existing residents be going?
- (4) What capital works were planned for Basil Stafford in 1998-99, what works have actually been undertaken and what work is being planned, listed, or assessed for inclusion in future?

Ms BLIGH (8/7/99):

(1) I refer to Labor's New Directions Statement of 2 December 1997 concerning disability services, in which a commitment was given to "allocate up to \$10M in additional funding to help move people living in the Basil Stafford Centre to a range of better accommodation alternatives in consultation with families, individuals and advocates."

In 1998-99, the Labor Government committed \$11.6M over four years to enable up to 55 people to relocate from Basil Stafford Centre. Prior to that, recurrent funding of \$2.2M was provided by the previous government in 1997-98 to assist 20 people to relocate from the Centre. As a result, by June 2001, the expected population of the Centre will be around 25 people.

To date, 28 people have already relocated to community support arrangements. I have given a

commitment to the families of the people who live at the Centre that I will continue to consult with them on future service delivery needs.

(2) Currently there are 86 people with an intellectual disability residing at the Centre. This figure includes 15 people who previously resided at Challinor Centre and who are being accommodated at Basil Stafford Centre on a temporary basis. As already indicated, it is estimated that the number of residents at Basil Stafford Centre will reduce to around 25 in 2001. At this stage, there are no plans to increase or decrease the size of the Centre beyond this figure.

(3) There are no plans to increase the number of people living at the Centre over the coming years. Most of the 15 people who previously lived at Challinor Centre and temporarily living at Basil Stafford Centre will move to purpose-built residential centres at Loganlea and Bracken Ridge, some within the next three months. The 28 people who have already relocated from the Centre as part of the Relocation program have moved to locations throughout Queensland, often to be closer to their families. Others will move to communities chosen by them and their families, and will be supported by government or non-government services. These decisions occur in consultation with the residents, their families and staff who support them.

(4) Capital works planned and carried out in 1998-99 at Basil Stafford Centre were:

Landscaping and ground works mainly for residential areas

Bathroom/kitchen renovations in residences

Construction of ramp at one residence for safety

Renovations to one residence to repair white ant damage

General repairs, maintenance

Upgrading of security lighting and repairs to administration building

There are no major capital works planned for Basil Stafford Centre for future years. There will of course be maintenance work carried out. While the majority of people will be moving from the Centre in the next two years, the government has a commitment to ensuring that accommodation areas are maintained at a reasonable standard while people continue to reside in them. It is anticipated that expenditure on general maintenance will decrease as the Centre reduces in size.

726. Transportation of Juvenile Offenders

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (8/6/99)—

With reference to the detention of juveniles—

- (1) How many juveniles were transported to Brisbane so they would not be kept in a watchhouse over a weekend, for the six month period up to 1 October 1998?
- (2) How many juveniles were transported to Brisbane so they would not be kept in a

watchhouse over a weekend, for the twelve month period up to 1 October 1998?

- (3) What was the date of each transportation?
- (4) From what town/city was each transportation and what is the average cost of transporting and escorting detainees to Brisbane from each of these centres?
- (5) What is the average annual cost to the Department of Police of transporting and escorting detainees?
- (6) How many of these juveniles were transported back to the place of arrest because of no conviction, or a non-custodial sentence?

Mr BARTON (8/7/99): I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to QON 587 and to Sessional Order Number 68. I am disappointed that the Opposition has once again asked a question which clearly does not comply with the spirit of sessional order. Sessional orders require that questions are brief and not unduly lengthy. I am concerned that the compilation of the information requested would place too significant a burden on staff of the QPS and unduly take them away from their usual duties.

In further considering the question, I would also point out that a proportion of the information requested is likely to be held by departments other than those for which I have Ministerial responsibility. I would therefore refer the Honourable Member to my Ministerial colleagues, the Honourable Anna Bligh, Minister for Families Youth and Community Care and the Honourable Matt Foley, Attorney General and Minister for Justice in relation to some of the material requested.

Further, the Honourable Member's request relates in part to a time prior to my period as Minister for Police and Corrective Services.

727. Challinor Centre

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/6/99)—

With reference to accommodation for the former residents of the Challinor Centre—

- (1) Will she provide a commitment to build centre-based care facilities for all of the former Challinor residents requiring such accommodation?
- (2) Will she provide a commitment to build and have operating a second centre-based care facility (in addition to the centre being constructed at Loganlea) before the end of 1999-2000; if so, what is the timetable for construction and opening and where will it be located?
- (3) If she does not intend to build and have operating a second centre-based care facility before the end of 1999-2000, why not?
- (4) If a second facility is to be constructed, has the land been acquired and for how much and will extensive consultation be undertaken with owners of adjoining properties, in light of the

consideration she gave to the views of residents neighbouring the site previously owned by the department at Chuwar?

- (5) In the event that she does not construct a second facility or until such a facility is constructed, where will former Challinor residents reside (if not in centre type accommodation, type of accommodation will suffice)?

Ms BLIGH (8/7/99):

(1) There will be two centres built—one in Loganlea to be completed in August 1999, and a second in Bracken Ridge—to accommodate 34 people who are requesting centre-based care.

(2) It is intended that the second centre, in Telegraph Road, Bracken Ridge, will be operational in early 2000.

(3) See answer to (2) above.

(4) An extensive consultation process with neighbours of the Bracken Ridge site has recently been undertaken. A very positive response was received from future neighbours of the centre. The purchase of the land and the designation of the site for the purposes of building the centre are currently under way.

(5) Until the second centre is completed, the former Challinor residents will continue to be accommodated in their current interim accommodation in community houses or at Basil Stafford Centre.

728. Public Housing, Waiting List

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/6/99)—

With reference to public housing as at 31 May—

- (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 for (a) less than six months, (b) six to 11 months, (c) one to two years, (d) two to three years, (e) three to four years and (f) greater than four years in total and by area office?
- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 June 1998 and 31 May 1999 in total and by area office?
- (5) How many applicants were allocated public housing during May?
- (6) How many evictions of public tenants have occurred during May?

Mr SCHWARTEN (8/7/99):

(1) As at 31 May 1999, there were a total of 24,138 applicants on the public housing waitlist. 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 waitlist by family type as at 31 May 1999. (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 waitlist by wait time in months, and by area office as at 31 May 1999. (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 June 1998 and 31 May 1999 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 May 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(6) The number of public housing tenants evicted during the month of May 1999 was three.

729. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/6/99)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by her portfolio agencies and department since 1 July 1998—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1998-99 budget (listed by name and location of project)?
- (2) What is the description and details of the work budgeted and approved to be undertaken in each of the projects listed above in (1) (listed by name and location of project)?
- (3) At the time of answering this question, how much money has actually been expended on each of the projects listed above in (1) (listed by name and location of project)?
- (4) What is the description and details of the work actually undertaken in each of the projects listed in (3) above (listed by name and location of project)?
- (5) At the time of answering this question, how much money has her portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1998-99?
- (6) What budgeted and approved capital works projects listed above in (1) does she no longer have any intention of undertaking or completing and why (listed by name and location of project)?
- (7) For those projects not listed in (6) and not yet commenced, or completed, will she give a

commitment that funds budgeted and approved in 1998-99 capital works program will be rolled over and allocated to the same project in 1999-2000; if not, why?

Ms BLIGH (8/7/99):

(1) See table below. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) See table below. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) See table below. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(4) See table below. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(5) See (3) above

(6) None.

(7) Remaining unexpended capital funding will either be expended before 30 June 1999 or will be carried forward for use on the same project in 1999-2000.

730. Public Transport, Integrated Ticketing

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/6/99)—

With reference to the recent statement by him regarding integrated ticketing and public transport—

- (1) Why has his statement specifically avoided any reference to private transport operators, given that a number of such operators are included in the present integrated ticketing scheme?
- (2) Has any standard for the smart chip technology and associated interfaces to which he refers been decided; if so, what is that standard?
- (3) Will such a system be open to use by generic smart chip cards or will it be limited to a specific supplier?
- (4) When will this integrated ticketing system be implemented?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/7/99):

(1) The integrated ticketing system for the Greater Brisbane Region will include all public transport operators, including private bus operators.

(2) The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) has developed a range of standards for smart cards. Individual industries are now developing proprietary versions of these ISO standards to support their own specific smart cards applications. In addition, the industry is regulated by a Code of Conduct which deals with technical standards but also codes for use, storage, security and consumer protection.

(3) There is no such thing as a generic smart chip card.

(4) Work is progressing on an integrated ticketing system and new integrated ticketing products will be progressively introduced.

731. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Legal Proceedings

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/6/99)—

With reference to legal action commenced by or involving her department, or portfolio agencies—

- (1) Will she list all parties that her department, or portfolio agencies have commenced legal proceedings against (including dispute and tribunal hearings, conciliation and arbitration) since 1 July 1998, the reason for each action, the cost to the department or portfolio agency to date for each action and, if the matter has been finalised, the outcome of each action, including the name of the party ordered to pay legal costs and any terms of settlement?
- (2) Will she list all parties that have commenced legal proceedings (including dispute and tribunal hearings, conciliation and arbitration) against her department, or portfolio agencies, since 1 July 1998, the reason for each action, the cost to the department or portfolio agency to date of each action and, if the matter has been finalised, the outcome of each action, including the name of the party ordered to pay legal costs and any terms of settlement?
- (3) For each of the cases listed in (1) and (2) above, who provided legal advice and advocacy (including Barristers) and what was the amount paid to each person, firm or Government agency?

Ms BLIGH (8/7/99): A table outlining the requested information is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

- (1) The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care has not commenced legal proceedings since 1 July 1998.
- (2) The table below lists the requested details concerning parties who have commenced legal proceedings against the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care since 1 July 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (3) In those cases above where legal advice or advocacy has been utilised, it has been provided by Crown Law and its advisers.

732. Queensland Transport Customer Service Centres

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/6/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of complaints regarding significant delays experienced by the public trying to contact Queensland Transport customer service centres by telephone?
- (2) What are the statistics from the telephone monitoring system for each month this year to date for the following categories (a) number of calls, (b) average waiting time for connection and (c) call drop out rate?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/7/99):

(1) There has been increased demand on the automated telephone system since the implementation of a new on-line registration and licensing system. This increase has resulted in some customers experiencing delays and a number of customers have registered complaints about these delays.

(2) There is a significant increase in the monthly call volume associated with the implementation of the new registration and licensing system. In the same period wait times have not increased though as a result of a significant increase in resources at the Call Centres.

733. Public Housing, Vacancies and Maintenance

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/6/99)—

With reference to public housing at 31 May—

- (1) How many dwellings by dwelling type and bedroom number were vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) greater 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 (8/7/99):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of dwellings, by dwelling type and bedroom number, vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) greater than 12 weeks in total and by area office as at 31 May 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The vacant turnaround time for maintenance of public housing premises was 14.7 calendar days as at 31 May 1999.

The vacant turnaround time for allocations of public housing premises was 33.4 calendar days as at 31 May 1999.

Since November 1998, turnaround times have been calculated in 'calendar days' instead of 'working days'.

734. Public Housing, Rental Arrears

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/6/99)—

With reference to public housing—

- (1) At 31 May, 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 four weeks, (b) four to less than eight weeks, (c) eight 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) At 31 May, how many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?

Mr SCHWARTEN (8/7/99):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of public housing rental accounts in arrears in total and percentage terms, as at 31 May 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) Details of accounts in arrears for less than four weeks cannot be provided because tenants are not deemed "in arrears" until they are four or more weeks in arrears. See Attachment A for the number and percentage of public housing rental accounts in arrears for (b) four to less than eight weeks, (c) eight to less than 12 weeks and (d) greater than 12 weeks in total and by area office, and the monetary value of these categories as at 31 May 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) Out of the total 48,508 public housing tenants, 2,804 were paying full market rent as at 31 May 1999. This is 5.8% of public housing tenants.

735. Warrego Highway, Heavy Vehicle Accidents

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/6/99)—

- (1) How many heavy vehicle accidents have occurred on the Warrego Highway this year compared with the same period last year?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the causes of these accidents attributed by investigating police?
- (3) What action is being taken to prevent accidents involving heavy vehicles on this road in particular?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/7/99):

1. To 17 June 1999, the number of road crashes involving heavy vehicles on the Warrego Highway was 23, including one fatal road crash. This compares with a total of 12 heavy vehicle road crashes, also including one fatal crash, for the same period in 1998 and an average of 20 crashes year to date for the previous five years.

2. The largest contributors to heavy vehicle crashes on the Warrego Highway as detailed by the reporting police officer are "undue care and attention" contributing to 20 percent of the crashes, with "follow too closely" at 15 per cent and "taking action to avoid another road user or animal" at 15 per cent.

3. The State Traffic Task Force in conjunction with local traffic police have placed more emphasis on this road in 1999 with increased enforcement that includes specific targeting of heavy vehicles. As well, a tri-state enforcement campaign is currently in operation for National Route 39 which is the main route from Brisbane to Melbourne via the Newell Highway. This campaign focuses on fatigue in all drivers. The Warrego Highway is one of the roads targeted in this campaign.

736. Open Skies Policy

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/6/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of the Premier's call for an open skies policy which will allow for International carriers to compete with Qantas and Ansett for domestic travel?
- (2) Is he aware that the Transport Workers' Union has objected to this proposal?
- (3) Who does he support, the Premier or the TWU?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/7/99):

(1) The Premier and the Minister for State Development have responsibility for the development of Queensland's policy position on international air services. The process of negotiating bilateral air service agreements is a Commonwealth responsibility under the control of the Minister for Transport and Regional Services. The Premier made a statement recently during a trip to the United States of America. The statement made reference to the need for direct services between Brisbane and the west coast of the USA. "Open skies", refers to the removal of restrictions on airlines operating between countries. This principle affords Qantas and Ansett the same opportunities as other airlines to access markets between Australia and other countries. This is not to be confused with "cabotage" which would allow foreign airlines to compete unfairly with Qantas and Ansett on domestic routes without necessarily gaining reciprocal rights in foreign countries.

(2) The matter of International Air Service Agreements has been the subject of a recently completed Inquiry by the Productivity Commission. There were 81 submissions made to the Inquiry which included submissions from the Queensland Government and the Australian and International Pilots Association. The Transport Workers Union is not listed as having made a submission to the Inquiry.

(3) It is not clear that there is a conflict between the TWU's position and that of the Premier.

737. Calliope Shire, Removal of Drought Status

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries (8/6/99)—

As Central Queensland continues to be the major area of this State where rain has not fallen in any quantity and as this lack of rain presents many problems for primary producers in aquifer replenishment, fodder production and farm costs, will he reconsider, as a matter of urgency, the recent removal of drought declaration of Calliope Shire and a review of the drought status of surrounding Shires?

Mr PALASZCZUK (8/7/99): The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) works closely with Local Drought committees (LDCs) to monitor conditions across the State. LDCs are comprised of industry and DPI staff and make recommendations on declarations and revocations.

The LDCs responsible for Calliope and surrounding Shires have recently reviewed the conditions in their respective areas. They recommended that the drought status be revoked because seasonal conditions had improved in the majority of areas.

Affected primary producers can access State Government assistance following the revocation of a shire declaration through an Individual Droughted Property (IDP) declaration. An IDP affords producers the same access to assistance as does a shire declaration. Primary producers who continue to experience drought conditions should be encouraged to contact their Local Stock Inspector regarding an IDP application. Only one property in the Calliope Shire currently has applied for an IDP.

738. ConnectEd

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education (8/6/99)—

With reference to the visionary ConnectEd and other information technology programs commenced by the former National/Liberal Coalition Government—

- (1) How many schools presently have access to the Internet?
- (2) Which schools do not have access to the Internet and why?
- (3) What is the average student/computer ratio for each school type in each school district (excluding computers used for administrative and non-educational purposes) and what is the average age of computers in each school type in each school district (listed by school type and district)?
- (4) Does Education Queensland still broadcast facsimile transmission to schools, if so, what amount has been spent on this form of communication during 1998-99 by (a) the Office of the Director-General and (b) other departmental units and why hasn't email been used as a cost-effective alternative?
- (5) What is the email address of each school (listed by school type and district)?
- (6) What is the procedure for issuing email addresses to schools and what are the guidelines schools must follow when making an agreement with an Internet service provider?

Mr WELLS (8/7/99): (1) Currently, 1298 schools have been connected to the Internet and the department's enterprise network through the ConnectEd Project. As new schools are built, they are connected to the ConnectEd network.

(2) All schools have the potential capability to access the Internet. However, to activate the Internet service, schools must complete and return a ConnectEd Managed Internet Service Form to the ConnectEd Customer Care Centre.

(3) The current average student/computer ratio is 1:9.6 for computers used in learning. Of the estimated 47,000 computers used for learning, approximately 34,000 are five years old or less. These statistics are changing constantly as schools

expand Schooling 2001 grants and other school grants on learning technology.

(4) Education Queensland still uses broadcast facsimile services to schools. The department has informed me that it is expected that over the next 6 months, email will replace facsimile and postal services to schools for most written communication.

The approximate cost of broadcast facsimile services to schools in 1998-99 is as follows:

Office of the Director-General—\$4,964.96

Other departmental units—\$54,889.86

(5) A standard email account is provided for each Principal, with the format—

The.Principal@schoolname.qld.edu.au.

(6) All Queensland state schools use the ConnectEd Managed Internet Service provided through the department's ConnectEd contract with Telstra. It is now departmental policy that schools do not negotiate individual agreements with Internet Service Providers.

739. Cooktown Developmental Road, Mail Delivery

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/6/99)—

- (1) Is he aware that the mail contractor delivering mail along the Cooktown Developmental Road between Cooktown and Bloomfield has been forced to revert to using a packhorse for the delivery of mail because of the condition of the road?
- (2) Is he aware that this road in his own electorate has been closed for up to 10 days with significant disruption to tourism and commerce in the area?
- (3) Does the job creation agenda of the Beattie Government include the introduction of the pony express?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/7/99):

(1) Firstly, I need to explain to the Member for Crows nest, that the Cooktown Developmental Road connects Cooktown to Lakeland Downs, not Bloomfield. If he is referring to the Bloomfield Road then the section of road in question is in fact a Cook Shire Council road.

I understand that the packhorse was used to deliver the mail as the condition of the Council's road did not permit vehicular access at the time.

(2) I was well aware that the road was closed for a number of days, as were many other roads in the area that were subjected to one of the heaviest wet seasons experienced in North Queensland in recent years.

(3) Turning to the jobs issue, the Beattie Government has clearly demonstrated its commitment to job creation since coming to power. In fact, the 1998-99 Labor Budget provided a record \$1.029 billion for roads infrastructure, reflecting an increase of five percent over the previous year and an extra 1500 jobs in the roads construction industry than that

which was released by my predecessor Vaughan Johnson the previous year.

740. Vegetation Management Advisory Committee

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (8/6/99)—

With reference to the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (VMAC) (8/6/99)—

- (1) What is the make-up of this committee and which organisation does each person represent?
- (2) What are the terms of reference for the committee's deliberations?
- (3) What is the timeframe for the committee activities?
- (4) What public consultation will be undertaken by the committee?
- (5) How many times and on what dates has the committee met to date?
- (6) Has the committee undertaken any field inspections to date?
- (7) Are any such inspections planned in the future?

Mr WELFORD (9/7/99):

(1) The members of the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee are—

Professor John Holmes, (Independent Chairman); Mr Jim Pedersen, Queensland Farmers Federation; Mr Gus McGown, Queensland Farmers Federation; Mr Richard Golden, Queensland Farmers Federation; Mr Noel Playford, Local Govt. Assoc. of Qld; Ms Imogen Zethoven, Queensland Conservation Council; Mr Jamie Pittock, Queensland Conservation Council; Mr Michael Petter, Queensland Conservation Council; Mr Ken Stallman, LandCare and Catchment Management Council; Mr Tim Hindley, Urban Development Institute of Australia.

(2) The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the me on—

- (a) the development and implementation of a comprehensive framework for vegetation management to apply consistently across all tenures needed to achieve Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) objectives, including the following—

information, monitoring, assessment
regional consultation and planning process
education, reporting and communication
regulation, incentives and compensation
additional consultation and communication process;

- (b) the necessity for, and the nature and timing of reviews of the existing Broadscale Tree Clearing Policy for leasehold land, Tree

Management Regulations and Local Tree Clearing Guidelines;

- (c) the necessity for, and if agreed upon, the development of interim arrangements for tree clearing on freehold land to maintain the productivity and sustainability of the land, and to protect and maintain the environmental values of the landscape, particularly the biodiversity and conservation status of regional vegetation communities;
- (d) amendments to current legislation and as necessary, the preparation of new legislation to provide statutory support for a comprehensive system of vegetation management; and
- (e) the support and resources required to achieve the objectives identified in (a).

(3) The Committee is expected to advise on a long term comprehensive framework for vegetation management by the end of 1999. It is also expected to advise on the outcomes of a review of the existing Broadscale Tree Clearing Policy and possible interim arrangements towards the long term framework, over the next three months.

(4) Members of the Committee are consulting widely within the organisations they represent. The Committee will also advise on options for detailed consultation on policy implementation at the regional and local levels.

(5) The Committee met on 24-25 March 1999, 27 April 1999, 11 June 1999 and 5-6 July 1999.

(6) No. The Chairperson, Professor Holmes and Mr Stallman, Chair of the Landcare Catchment Management Council have both accompanied the Minister on some of his field inspection activity. Further, all members of the Committee have extensive experience in vegetation management issues at the community level, rural production and/or urban development. No restriction has been placed on the Committee's freedom to determine its own agenda and arrangements needed to inform its decisions and recommendations, including any necessity for field inspections.

(7) See 6.

741. Warrego Highway and Ipswich Motorway, Speed Limit Signs

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/6/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of the warning signs on the Warrego Highway and Ipswich Motorway used to warn motorists of the 50 km/h speed limits that are applicable in residential built-up areas?
- (2) Has he received complaints about these signs and what action is being taken about them as these signs are in the format of regulatory signs and are in 100 km/h zones and there has been public comment and criticism from police officers that they are confusing and dangerous?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/7/99):

1. The Lower Speed Limit Area identified by perimeter signs erected as entry points and is

reinforced by a network of local reminder signs within the area alerting motorists to the fact that a 50km/h limit applies unless otherwise signed. Generally, individual 50 km/h streets are not sign posted. In line with this policy, perimeter signs were installed on the Warrego Highway and reminder signs were placed at strategic locations on the Ipswich Motorway to advise motorists of the 50 km/h local street speed limit. The Warrego Highway and Ipswich Motorway are clearly signposted at higher speed limits.

2. The Queensland Police Service received a small number of verbal complaints about the perimeter and reminder signs during the first two weeks of the scheme's operation. However, further into the three month amnesty period a motorists became familiar with the scheme, no further complaints were received about these signs. When the Lower Speed Limit Area was first introduced, a 1300 freecall feedback line was established and 1697 valid calls were received. Three percent of these calls were in relation to signage in general with only a very small proportion specifically relating to perimeter and reminder signs. During the amnesty period there was some media coverage about the reminder signs with reports that motorists upon seeing these signs on highways were slowing down to 50 km/h in 100 km/h zones. Queensland Transport was unable to collect any verifiable evidence that the "slowing down" ever occurred.. During this same period local governments and the Department of Main Roads reviewed the positioning of the reminder signs to ensure there was no confusion. The inquiries received by the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Transport confirm that nay possible earlier misunderstandings have been resolved.

742. School Uniforms

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (8/6/99)—

With reference to his letter, dated 7 March, concerning school uniforms and faxed to State school principals throughout Queensland and, in particular, I refer to his statement on page one of that letter, "By inviting P & C's under section 84 of the Education (General Provisions) Art 1989 (the Act), to adopt a student dress code policy if they so wish, I am of the view that we may establish a situation where not complying with the student dress code constitutes a form of misbehaviour within the meaning of the Act."—

Given that this appears to contradict the Ombudsman's conclusions tabled in State Parliament in 1998, on what did he base his 'view' as expressed above (a) formal legal advice, (b) formal departmental advice, (c) personal intuition, (d) divine inspiration or (e) other (please specify)?

Mr WELLS (8/7/99): My view was based on my understanding of the situation after taking advice from formal legal sources.

743. School Building Projects

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/6/99)—

With reference to the construction of each new primary and high school since January 1990, will he provide the following details (a) the date the brief was received by his department from Education Queensland, (b) the date that public tenders were called/advertised, (c) the date the tenders closed, (d) the date the successful tender was notified, (e) the date work commenced on site, (f) the total cost of the project, (g) whether a Bills of Quantities was supplied to his department by Education Queensland and (h) whether a Bills of Quantities was supplied to tenderers?

Mr SCHWARTEN (8/7/99): A list providing the requested information is attached to this response. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

I am advised that a complete set of records for school projects tendered in 1990, 1991 and 1992 can not be located, despite an extensive search of archived documentation. The Qld. Audit Act requires that contract information be held for a period of seven (7) years. These projects are older than seven years.

The provision of a Bill of Quantities is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works. A Bill of Quantities is provided as part of tender documentation for new schools in excess of \$2M whenever there are adequate lead times provided to allow preparation of complete tender documentation. Lack of adequate lead times results in compressed documentation and construction times. Whenever the Department of Public Works has prepared Bills of Quantities they have been provided to tenderers.

Since August 1997 the Department of Education has used the services of a Project Director (Kinhill Pty Ltd) which has led to a situation where not all projects are managed by the Department of Public Works. This department is aware that two new replacement schools (Beechmont State School and Laidley District State School) due for opening in 1998 and 1999 respectively, were undertaken by outsourced resources.

The Department of Public Works was only involved in Building Act Compliance for these schools. No other information is available to the department regarding these facilities, and any further questions regarding these schools should be directed to Education Queensland.

All future Education Queensland projects are being tendered through the Project Director (Kinhill Pty Ltd), a private sector company. Consequently, the Department of Public Works will not be able to provide full project and tender information on future projects.

744. Public Works Department, Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/6/99)—

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 the month of May?

- (2) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) in the month of May?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 31 May?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for the month of May?

Mr SCHWARTEN (22/6/99):

- (1) The total revenue derived from sales (accrual based) in the month of May was \$3.086M.
- (2) The total expenditure (accrual based) in the month of May for cost of sales was \$2.368M and operating expenses was \$0.834M.
- (3) The value of the inventory on hand at 31 May was \$4.344M.
- (4) A loss of \$116,000.

745. Queensland Transport, Maritime Division

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/6/99)—

- (1) What was the budgetary position of the Maritime Division of Queensland Transport at the end of May?
- (2) What are the expected budget carryovers for the Maritime Division?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/7/99):

1. At the end of May 1999, expenditure by the Maritime Division amounted to \$66.3 million in a year-to-date budget of \$75 million.
2. Subject to budget determinations, the expected budget carryover for the Maritime Division as at 30 June 1999 will be \$7.3 million for the full year budget of \$87 million.

746. Brisbane Light Rail Project

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/6/99)—

With reference to the recent statement by him regarding the Brisbane Light Rail Project—

- (1) Does his idea of integration with other forms of transport include moving the existing bus stops, taxi ranks and loading zones along the proposed routes to other streets; if so, what are the implications to these other transport modes?
- (2) Will the utilisation of the heavy rail network require the tram vehicles to be fitted with step down transformer equipment; if so, will the fitting of this equipment have implications for either the low floor design of the vehicle or for the height and centre of gravity of the vehicle?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/7/99):

1. Considerable attention has been paid during planning to resolving impacts of the light rail tracks on all of these facilities.
2. Electronically controlled transformer equipment would be required to allow light rail vehicles to operate on both power supplies. Standard low floor designs now exist for such vehicles, which

accommodate the transformer equipment on the roof. Consistency of gauge will allow for the option of using future rolling stock on the heavy rail system as deemed necessary.

747. Queensland Transport, Use of Credit Card Facilities

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/6/99)—

- (1) What percentage of customer transactions at Queensland Transport use credit card facilities?
- (2) As credit facilities are particularly convenient to those who may not have sufficient cash at the time registration bills become due, will he confirm that credit card payment facilities will continue to be provided, particularly on the phone pay system?
- (3) Will he ensure that this payment option receives similar preference to other options in Queensland Transport publicity?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/7/99):

- (1) Approximately 20% of registrations are conducted using the credit card service.
- (2) Credit card payment will continue to be provided as an option.
- (3) Other payment options are preferred by the Department because of their cost effectiveness. QT promotes all options appropriately.

748. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, Expenditure

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/6/99)—

With reference to expenditure within her portfolio in 1998-99 on promotion, advertising and hospitality—

- (1) What was the advertising, promotion and hospitality of (a) her department and (b) other portfolio agencies?
- (2) How much has been spent to date in 1998-99 on advertising, promotion and hospitality and what is the detailed breakdown of this expenditure?
- (3) How much has (a) her department and (b) other portfolio agencies spent on hospitality (including meals, etcetera) for staff, guests and others since 1 July 1998 and what was the purpose of each meeting/event/activity where hospitality was provided?
- (4) For each item of expenditure detailed above, who authorised the expenditure and to which companies, individuals or others was this money paid (including details of individual amounts paid and dates of payment)?

Ms BLIGH (8/7/99): Departmental expenditure on "advertising and promotion" is captured under two general ledger codes. Advertising—General captures the cost of advertising and promoting various departmental activities (eg tenders, funding rounds, consultation meetings, special campaigns etc.).

Advertising—Positions Vacant captures the cost of advertising vacant departmental positions.

Departmental expenditure on "hospitality" is not captured within a specific general ledger code. Most is captured within Catering Expenses, which details all departmental catering. This general ledger code does not differentiate "hospitality" from day-to-day catering, and does not differentiate expenses relating to staff from those for non-staff.

Data provided is in relation to the period 1 July 1998 to 18 June 1999, for the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

(1) It is not clear what information is being sought in this question. Information in relation to expenditure on these items is set out in (2) below.

(2) Total expenditure under the two Advertising and the Catering Expenses general ledger codes (referred to above) is \$723,573, which is less than the corresponding amount for the previous financial year under the Coalition, \$756,672.

(3 & 4) It is not practicable to supply detailed information for each individual item of expenditure under these general ledger codes. Each item of expenditure is expended in accordance with the Financial Management Standard 1997 and departmental guidelines and procedures and is scrutinised and authorised by the appropriate financial delegate. Accountability mechanisms such as internal and external audit also exist to verify the veracity of individual transactions.

749. Logan/Beaudesert Health District, Dental Services

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (8/6/99)—

- (1) What targets will she set to reduce the three year wait time for dental appointments in the Logan/Beaudesert Health District?
- (2) What resources will she give the district to address this problem?

Mrs EDMOND (8/7/99):

(1) The demand for dental services in the Logan/Beaudesert Health Service continues to grow despite the expansion of the service. Facilities have been extended by additional surgeries at Logan Hospital and Beenleigh Community Health Centre. Patients requiring emergency care are always given priority. The provision of emergency services at the dental clinics of Logan/Beaudesert has grown by 36 per cent in the last two years.

(2) Further growth for dental services has been included in redevelopment of the Beaudesert hospital. We are keen to work with the Federal President of the Australian Dental Association, who recently visited Queensland, is anxious to explore options with states for a coordinated approach to the Federal Government to reinstate funding to enable improved dental care for disadvantaged Australians. The Federal Coalition Government's cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program in December 1996 withdrew \$19.8m of Commonwealth funding

from public sector oral health services in Queensland. Queensland was the only state to replace the Commonwealth funds to maintain the existing level of services. Other States reduced services and some introduced co-payments.

750. Weinholt Nursing Home, Wondai

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health (8/6/99)—

- (1) Will she explain the recent communique received by the families of residents of the Weinholt Nursing Home which advises them that they will be responsible for purchasing bedspreads and blankets for their family members residing at the home, despite the residents already contributing 85 per cent of their pension to the home and the remaining 15 per cent being absorbed by medication, toiletries and personal items expenses (this directive to purchase bedspreads and blankets was restated on 19 May at the residents and relatives meeting)?
- (2) Will she confirm that this is Government policy and what other items normally paid for by the facilities are to be passed on to the residents and relatives either now or in the future?
- (3) Is this an indication of mismanagement of funding and/or residents' contributions or is it that the present aged pension is no longer adequately meeting the needs of the aged?
- (4) What funding is allocated to the aged care facilities of the Barambah Electorate and what areas is this funding to be spent on?

Mrs EDMOND (8/7/99):

(1) The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care administers the Aged Care Act 1997 which governs the operation of residential care facilities. The Residential Care Manual provides information on the arrangements for the operation and payment of Commonwealth funded residential care facilities under the Aged Care Act 1997.

The Residential Care Manual states: Section 12.3.1, Part 3, Care and Services—to be provided for residents receiving a high level of residential care: 3.2 Bedding materials—bed rails, incontinence sheets, restrainers, ripple mattresses, sheepskins, tri-pillows, and water and air mattresses appropriate to each resident's condition. 3.3 Toiletry goods—Sanitary pads, tissues, toothpaste, denture cleaning preparations, shampoo and conditioner and talcum powder. 3.7 Basic medical and pharmaceutical supplies and equipment—excludes any goods prescribed by a health practitioner for a particular resident and used only by the resident.

Section 7.3.3 of the Residential Care Manual states 'under the Aged Care Act 1997, the standard pensioner contribution is 85% of basic single rate pension (\$21.69 per day from 1 October 1998)'

All State Government Nursing Homes (SGNHs) provide care and services to residents in line with and often above the minimum guidelines as required in the Residential Care Manual.

Minutes of the Weinholt Nursing Home Residents/Relatives Committee meeting held on 7 April 1999 state under Agenda Item New Business: 'families are asked to bring quilts/duonas for residents as hospital quilts are no long serviceable.' Minutes of the above Committee meeting held on 19 May 1999 state under Agenda Item Business from previous minutes and outcomes: 'Quilts/Doonas. The Unit looks more homelike with all the quilts and doonas that families have brought in for residents.'

Residents of nursing homes in both the private and public sector are encouraged to bring personal items with them which provide a familiar and homelike environment.

(2) and (3) Queensland Health abides by the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997 in the provision of residential aged care services. The Queensland Government has no intention of passing on to residents costs related to the provision of care and services in its SGNHs which are requirements under the Act. All nursing homes in Australia that receive Commonwealth funding, both in the private and public sector, must provide residential aged care services in accordance with the Aged Care Act 1997 which requires the standard pensioner contribution of 85% of the basic single rate pension. Accommodation Bonds are not charged to residents in State Government nursing homes.

(4) There are a number of residential aged care facilities in the Barambah electorate including the two State Government nursing homes Weinholt Nursing Home, Wondai, and Farrhome Nursing Home, Kingaroy. Total recurrent funding to the two SGNHs for 1998/99 is approximately \$2.7 million which comprises Commonwealth Residential Care Subsidy, resident contributions, and State Government top-up funding. Total capital funding provided for the two SGNHs in 1998/99 is \$856,000.

751. Disability Services, Funding

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/6/99)—

With reference to the election commitment to provide an additional \$30m per year to address the unmet lifestyle and family support needs of people with a disability living in the community—

How much of this additional money has been spent to date during 1998-99 to address the unmet lifestyle and family support needs of people with a disability living in the community and, on what particular projects/initiatives and the like, has this money been spent?

Ms BLIGH (8/7/99):

In relation to Unmet Need, I have approved during 1998-99 \$22.77M in funding for a variety of initiatives.

Specifically, I have approved:

\$7.887M (recurrent) and \$0.595M (non-recurrent) for lifestyle support packages for 247 adults, with a further \$2.125M approved in principle for a further 67 adults (round 2 of funding);

\$1.344M (recurrent) and \$0.070M (non-recurrent) for flexible family support packages for a minimum of 129 Queensland families with a child with a disability;

\$3.58M (recurrent) to provide intensive family support for a minimum of 110 families through the direct Government provider;

\$1.2M (recurrent) to provide support to a further 11 children with disabilities in the care of the State;

\$2.128M (recurrent) and \$0.697M (non-recurrent) for 29 new initiatives projects and services consisting of 4 advocacy support services; 1 parent support initiative; 4 Statewide information services; and 20 access and equity initiatives or services;

\$2.3M (non-recurrent) in capital grants to 97 non-Government organisations providing disability support services and a transfer to the Department of Housing for the extension and renovation of properties and the purchase of necessary items of furniture and equipment; and

\$0.844M (non-recurrent) to establish a Queensland disability sector training fund managed by the Australian Human Resource Institute.

In 1998-99 \$15M of the \$30M Unmet Need Initiative was available for expenditure. The amount spent on the initiatives listed above was \$10.429M. This is comprised of spending on grants of \$7.719M, with a further \$2.710M spent in non-grants activities such as specific new initiatives undertaken by the direct Government provider.

An amount of \$4.6M has been carried over into 1999-2000 of which \$1.2M is in approved grants and \$2.8M has been approved in principle. The balance of the carryover is allocated for the provision of Respite in Brisbane South and for a Community Education campaign.

The balance of the \$30M Unmet Need initiative not yet approved of \$7.2M will be allocated in 1999-2000 to a range of initiatives including additional adult lifestyle support packages \$3.1M, quality initiatives \$1.3M, training and development \$0.5M, emergency support \$0.5M, and establishment of Local Area Coordination pilots \$1M.

The full year effect of the \$30M initiative will be in 1999-2000, and I am confident that initiatives commenced in 1998-99 will be built on and the government election commitment to provide support for over 400 individuals will be met and exceeded.

752. Electricity Boards

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (8/6/99)—

With reference to the Government's decision on the structure of the new electricity boards—

- (1) Will he indicate what level of dividend will be required by the Beattie Government?
- (2) Will there be a set dividend from year to year?

- (3) Will the dividend be across the board or will there be a variation in accordance with the profit levels of each board or some other reason?
- (4) Although the industry has had a degree of autonomy in the past, what were the reasons for the restructuring of the boards?
- (5) Will there be a net financial gain to the community as a result of the new structure through tariff reductions?
- (6) If there is to be a reduction in the cost of power to the consumer, will it be expressed in a percentage term across the board?
- (7) Although the boards will make independent decisions on those employed, what guarantees will the Government give that employees on the ground will retain their jobs as in the restructuring of the industry it is clear that some positions will be made vacant?

Mr McGRADY (14/7/99):

- (1) The shareholding Minister's agencies are developing a dividend policy which will determine dividends payable on commercial principles. As electricity Government-owned corporations operate in a competitive national market, it is essential that the Government's dividend requirements are based on commercial principles, whilst acknowledging that the corporations are expected to meet other core obligations such as customer service, supply reliability and responsible environmental management. Other important requirements will include long term sustainability of dividend payouts and the corporations' credit ratings.
- (2) Dividends may vary from year to year depending on the commercial performance, capital structure and future capital requirements of each corporation. As well, Government budget requirements may be a consideration within the broader commercial context.
- (3) Please refer to Question 2.
- (4) The previous structure implemented by the Coalition was unworkable and was not in the best interests of Queensland electricity consumers, as evidenced by the succession of power blackouts and system failures in recent years. The Government had reservations about the excessive number of Government-owned electricity corporations (15), corporation governance problems and the maintenance practices of the generation corporations. The Government has restructured the electricity industry in order to restore public confidence, create long-term structures to achieve efficiencies, promote better communication, coordination and governance in the industry, and allow more effective input from both the Government and the community.
- (5) The electricity industry restructure is about delivering better electricity services and allowing more effective input both from Government and the communities we serve. Importantly, restructuring the regional distribution network businesses into one large, more financially viable, organisation will help secure a more reliable and efficient supply to regional consumers. In the new electricity market which is evolving in Queensland, these efficiencies will ultimately benefit regional consumers.

evolving in Queensland, these efficiencies will ultimately benefit regional consumers.

(6) The restructuring of the industry will facilitate a more efficient supply of electricity to the Queensland market. These efficiencies will accrue over the longer term to the ultimate benefit of regional Queensland.

(7) I have guaranteed that there will be no forced job losses, nor will any employees be forced to relocate, as a result of the industry restructure.

753. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, Staffing

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/6/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in her portfolio—

- (1) On the first day of each month of 1998-99 (a) what was the total number of employees (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer), (b) how many employees (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) were full-time, (c) how many (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) were part-time, (d) how many (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) were on contract, (e) how many (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) were employed in each subprogram, by subprogram and (f) how many of these (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) were on secondment to organisations (i) within and (ii) outside the portfolio?
- (2) On the first day of each month of 1998-99 (a) what was the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer), (b) how many employees (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) were FTE full-time, (c) how many (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) were FTE part-time, (d) how many (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) were on FTE contracts, (e) how many FTEs (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) were employed in each subprogram, by subprogram and (f) how many FTEs (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) were on secondment to organisations (i) within and (ii) outside the portfolio and (g) what is the name of each organisation inside and outside the portfolio that had employees (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) on secondment at each date (including the number of FTE employees listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer and the percentage of salary recouped from each organisation)?
- (3) In the first pay period of each month of 1998-99 (a) what was the total amount paid to employees (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer), (b) what was the amount paid to full-time employees (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer), (c) what was the amount paid to part-time employees (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer), (d) what was the amount paid to contract employees (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer), (e) what was the payroll bill for employees

(listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) in each subprogram, by subprogram and (f) what was the payroll bill for employees (listed by job title, eg. Family Services Officer) on secondment to organisations (i) within the portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?

Ms BLIGH (8/7/99):

- (1) See Attachment 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (2) See Attachment 2. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (3) See Attachment 3. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

754. Northern Safecorp Consultants Pty Ltd; Employment Opportunities for Aboriginals

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (9/6/99)—

- (1) What actions will she take to provide a bus and, therefore, access to the work site of Northern Safecorp Consultants Pty Ltd in Northern Safecorp's endeavour to provide real training and support to Aboriginal people?
- (2) Will she give full support to the company and their real effort in gaining employment opportunities for the Aboriginal people of far North Queensland?

Ms SPENCE (7/7/99):

(1) I am aware of the efforts of Northern Safecorp Consultants Pty Ltd to provide training in the operation of heavy earthmoving plant and equipment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. No application has been received from the company by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development for the provision of a bus, but if an application were received it would be assessed on its merits according to the relevant program funding guidelines.

(2) This Government endorses endeavours both in the public and private sector to improve employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Cairns Regional Office of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations has provided advice and assistance to the company to become a Registered Training Provider.

755. WorkCover; Dr A. Blue

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to an address on 15 April by the Member for Fitzroy in supporting the WorkCover Queensland Amendment Bill, in particular the references to Dr Tony Blue, an Orthopaedic surgeon appointed by WorkCover to assess workplace injury and the degree of permanent injury to workers—

- (1) Will he explain why WorkCover still retains Dr Tony Blue, despite claims of alleged poor or unethical professional behaviour?
- (2) Does he propose to investigate the claims by the Member for Fitzroy of Dr Tony Blue's alleged poor standing in the courtroom as a professional witness; if not, why not?
- (3) Will he examine, or cause to have reopened, previous workers compensation claims rejected in whole or in part by Dr Tony Blue but otherwise supported by other specialist orthopaedic advice; if not, why not?
- (4) How does the Government explain the claims by the Member for Fitzroy on 15 April and what does the Government propose to do to resolve the issues of impropriety raised in this address?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): WorkCover has advised that:

- (1) It does not have a contract of service with Dr Tony Blue or any other medical specialist. WorkCover is not aware of any complaints to the Health Rights Commission or the Medical Board of Queensland in relation to Dr Blue's professional behaviour.
- (2) No. The use of Dr Blue's services is entirely a matter for decision by the WorkCover Board which is an independent statutory authority established under the WorkCover Queensland Act.
- (3) No. There are already appeal mechanisms within the legislation to allow independent reviews to be carried out on rejected claims through either the Medical Assessment Tribunal process or Statutory Review Unit, Industrial Magistrate and Industrial Court.
- (4) Dr Blue has responded to the allegations made by the Member for Fitzroy to the Speaker of the House in a letter dated 14 May 1999.

756. Mr P. Kinder; Medical Board of Queensland

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Health (9/6/99)—

- (1) Why has the Medical Board of Queensland not taken up a legitimate complaint from Mr Patrick Kinder about a doctor/barrister, who had previously been dismissed by the board because of the barrister angle, when absolute proof of his doctor involvement had been given to the board's registrar, Mr Greenaway, more than a year ago?
- (2) Will she explain why the doctors on the board, who are made Legal Commissioners by the law as it stands now under Sections 37, 37A, 37B and 37C of the Medical Act 1939 and the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950, accept known false submissions that create exemptions to legal questions from doctor commissioners to a fellow doctor under investigation, then favour the same doctor with their decision, by dismissing all charges against him when there was no ultra vires problem whatsoever under S35.(1) clause D. of the

Medical Act, to the fact that he was also a barrister?

- (3) Will she investigate why there has been no response to Mr Kinder's complaint on four Queensland doctors under Section 35.1(i) of the Medical Act that was in relation to the first part of the question and supposedly put to the committee on 15 December 1998?

Mrs EDMOND (9/7/99):

(1) The original complaint by Mr Kinder was made and heard by the Medical Board before I became Minister for Health. I am advised that the Medical Board of Queensland did consider Mr Kinder's complaint, which related to a practitioner who is registered in Queensland as both a medical practitioner and a barrister. After investigation of the complaint the Medical Board found in February 1998 that there had been no misconduct in a professional respect and dismissed the complaint pursuant to section 37(5) of the Medical Act 1939.

(2) Upon seeking the doctor/barrister's response to Mr Kinder's complaint it was submitted by the doctor/barrister to the Medical Board that the Medical Board's action in investigating the complaint was ultra vires, that is beyond its power. The Board did not accept this submission, and this submission was not the basis on which the complaint was dismissed. As noted, the Board dismissed the complaint because it found that there had been no misconduct in a professional respect.

(3) The Board did respond to Mr Kinder's complaint in writing on 23 December 1998. Mr Kinder was advised that, after consideration of the matter, the Board would take no further action.

757. Moreton Bay Islands; Redland Shire Council

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (9/6/99)—

With reference to national publicity against plans by the Redland Shire Council to resume 5,500 more blocks of land on Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra Islands—

- (1) Will he give these island landholders their own separate Moreton Bay islands shire council to allow island landholders to determine their own future?
- (2) Will he consider including the islands of North and South Stradbroke, Moreton, St Helena, Peel, Green and Coochiemudlo in the proposed new Moreton Bay islands shire council to allow these islanders to participate also in their own destiny, free from mainland council thinking?

Mr MACKENROTH (24/6/99): The current Government Policy on local government external boundaries is that there will be no references issued to amalgamate or create local governments or change external boundaries unless the affected local government/s agree to the issue of a reference to the Electoral Commissioner of Queensland who is responsible for conducting such reviews.

The Islands referred to currently receive Ward and Divisional representation from the Brisbane City Council, Gold Coast City Council and Redland Shire Council. I have not been approached by any of these local governments with a request to refer this reviewable local government matter to the Electoral Commissioner.

758. Boonah District, Crime

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (9/6/99)—

With reference to the reported increase in crime in the Boonah District—

- (1) What is the distribution of this crime between felonious crime such as robbery, assault, rape and attempted rape, vandalism and less serious offences such as traffic offences, driving under the influence and drug offences?
- (2) What is the "clear up rate" for each of the above categories of crime?
- (3) With senior police acknowledging the increase is due to a shifting of crime from city areas to what is perceived as "softer" rural areas, what strategies have been or are being developed by his department to combat these increases?
- (4) Is an increase in police numbers being considered in these areas?

Mr BARTON (9/7/99):

(1) For the 12 month period 21/6/98 to 21/6/99 the following offences occurred in the Boonah Shire area; 1 robbery, 17 assaults, 44 vandalism offences, 46 drink driving offences, 50 drug offences and 9 other traffic offences.

(2) For the 12 month period 21/8/98 to 21/9/99 the clear-up rate for these offences was as follows: robbery 100%, assaults 82%, vandalism offences 30%, drink driving offences 100%, drug offences 94% and other traffic offences 89%.

98/99	Occurred	% Cleared
Robbery	1	100
Assaults	17	82
Rape	0	0
Vandalism	44	30
Drink Driving	46	100
Drugs	50	94
Traffic Other	9	89

The Boonah Shire area encompasses Boonah, Harrisville and Kalbar police stations.

(3) Since the beginning of 1999 there have been several Traffic and Public Order Operations conducted in the Boonah Shire involving police officers from Ipswich District Traffic Branch, Ipswich District Support Group and Ipswich CIB. These sections also visit the Boonah Shire on a monthly basis giving support to the local police. The State Traffic Support Branch also conduct daily proactive patrols along the Cunningham Highway, enforcing any breaches of the Traffic Act and its Regulations.

(4) Yes. The Queensland Police Service annually reviews and evaluates population and crime factors in growth areas, to determine staffing needs on a

Statewide basis. The next review will occur in the latter part of this year.

759. Poverty in Queensland

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (9/6/99)—

With reference to a report four years ago entitled "Drawing the Line of Poverty: An Assessment of Poverty and Disadvantage in Australia" and Queensland Council of Social Services' (QCOSS) summarising of that report's findings with the heading "Poverty Clouds Sunshine State's Wealthy Image" and the report's revelation of the existence of a significant level of poverty and disadvantage in Queensland and the report's dispelling of the myth of growing prosperity created by the State's image makers and the QCOSS report issued in 1999 titled "People and Places: A Profile of Growing Disadvantage in Queensland" which picks up where Drawing the Line on Poverty left off and highlights that things have not improved in the period since the previous report and in fact, the Henderson Poverty Line Estimates reveal that poverty in Queensland has increased since then and, in fact, has increased steadily in the period 1981-82 to 1995-97 and further, many local communities are being impacted by the growing incidence and rate of poverty—

Will he advise me and my constituents concerning the measures he, and his Government, are currently taking to reverse the trend of increasing poverty in Queensland as revealed in the Henderson Poverty Line Estimates?

Mr BEATTIE (9/7/99): I thank Dr Kingston for his question and assure him that my Government is strongly committed to the State's social and economic development. In fact, the priorities set by my Government will go far in striking at the heart of poverty.

My Government is undertaking comprehensive and innovative programs in dealing with factors contributing to poverty. We recognise that providing Queenslanders with jobs and the skills necessary to earn a living are crucial in enabling them to avoid the poverty trap.

We set a target of creating 30,000 new jobs in our first year in Government. We exceeded that by more than a third, creating 43,800 new jobs. Of these, 70 per cent were full-time positions. This means not only did we meet our target but that we actually delivered more than 30,000 full-time jobs.

It is crucial that people develop skills if they are to gain employment as we move into the next century. We have put in place a scheme to increase the number of apprentices in the private sector by offering incentives in areas of skills shortage. A \$5.4 million scheme in the construction industry has been established by the Government to increase the number of apprentices in that industry. And the Government itself has dramatically increased the number of apprentices it has taken on. Apprenticeship approvals in the 12 months to June 28 this year have increased by 45 per cent on the year before, from 8,079 to 11,721.

By investing \$283M in its Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative, my Government has secured jobs or training for 11,000 unemployed Queenslanders since it was introduced in October last year. This has provided significant leadership to employers, community groups, unions, local governments, statutory authorities, training schemes and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils all of whom are working closely with this Government in providing job opportunities.

Another major initiative, the Community Renewal Program, has been redeveloped as a response to the complex needs of disadvantaged communities across the State; especially those which suffer multiple disadvantage due in no small measure to factors of poverty.

A number of comprehensive target areas have already been identified for intensive, coordinated and locally adaptable planning and implementation work that will see the development of improved physical as well as social infrastructure such as appropriate housing, education services, family support services and the like.

The Government's work in addressing poverty also target factors that are associated with poverty. For example, assistance to families is being provided through effective parent support opportunities and programs across the State. These will go some way in providing stressed families with access to services that meet immediate needs and some longer term support, especially where children and young people are involved.

As well, early intervention initiatives, education based programs and flexible teaching practices are targeting "at risk" young people through effective behaviour management initiatives and skills development. A growing number of locally based and responsive community access centres will target a wide range of skills and training opportunities that are urgently needed in disadvantaged community areas.

My Government recognises that some population groups are more vulnerable than others and that there are pockets of social and economic disadvantage across the State that require special consideration. Two areas of support that are critical to helping those caught in the poverty trap—income support and housing support—are dependent on the Commonwealth contribution. Income support, for example, is the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth also provides funding towards public housing stock but the Federal Coalition Government has moved over recent times in slashing in excess of \$100M nationally from public housing provision. This alone has placed a significant burden on this State's commitment to meeting people's housing needs.

People with a disability have also been hampered from playing a full role in life by a lack of Government support. My Government has gone a long way to meeting their unmet needs with a \$30 million increase in funding from the first Budget—the largest increase in funding ever provided.

My Government is committed to making a difference to the lives of all Queenslanders, no matter where they live.

760. Caboolture Electorate, Job Creation

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (9/6/99)—

With reference to the his comment in his Ministerial Statement on 8 June where he said, "We have exceeded our full-year jobs target" and "We have created 39,900 new jobs—

- (1) Will he outline the full details of these 39,900 new jobs, job by job and (a) the industries in which they have been created, (b) whether they are full-time or part-time and (c) if part-time, how many hours per week?
- (2) What percentage are genuine, long-term, sustainable jobs?
- (3) What percentage are cadetships, traineeships and apprenticeships and in what industries?
- (4) More particularly, will he advise how many of these new jobs have been created specifically in the Caboolture electorate and in what industries?
- (5) Will he also advise how many jobs would be lost, (especially in the Caboolture electorate), if the Government's Direction Statement for the Regional Forest Agreement is adopted?

Mr BEATTIE (9/7/99):

(1-4) As Opposition Leader I developed a series of long-term strategies to create jobs, provide the workforce with appropriate skills, generate business confidence and draw up regional development plans for the whole of Queensland. The Labor Government put these strategies in place when we took office and the results after the first year are encouraging, with unemployment reaching its lowest levels for almost a decade. The information relating to the Queensland labour force that I presented in my Ministerial Statement came from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication Labour Force—Australia Preliminary (6202.0) 13 May 1999. The publication does not give the details requested. Since the answer was given, the number of jobs created since my Government took office has risen to 45,500. Of these, 80 per cent are full time jobs. Queensland has been responsible for providing 50 per cent of all new full-time jobs created in Australia since my Government took office.

(5) The Directions Report, which is a Commonwealth/State document, does not recommend a specific outcome for the Regional Forest Agreement. The Report merely presents scenarios designed to allow public input into the Regional Forest Agreement process.

761. Hopeland State School; Tarong Energy Pty Ltd

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Education (9/6/99)—

As Tarong Power plans to mine coal leases in the Chinchilla district which indicate at some stage the mining operations will be within 500 metres of the Hopeland State School, posing possible unacceptable conditions on the school community, will he investigate this scenario and, if necessary,

seek compensation from Tarong Power to relocate the school to a more suitable site?

Mr WELLS (9/7/99): Tarong Energy Pty Ltd is currently undertaking an Environmental Impact study into the feasibility of constructing mines at Glen Wilga to the east of Chinchilla and Sefton Park to the south of this township. Officers from my department are monitoring this process.

One of the land parcels (Lot 68 on DY253) covered by the mining lease adjoins Hopeland State School. It is possible that at some future date, coal from this land parcel will be mined. However, Education Queensland has not been formally notified of the timing of this event.

Education Queensland will continue to monitor the planning processes for this proposed mine and will negotiate with the owners if it is warranted.

762. Oxford Park TAFE Campus

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 548—

- (1) What was the number of full-time students who (a) enrolled in and (b) successfully completed the Certificate II (Beef Cattle) Course at Oxford Park TAFE Campus in Semester I?
- (2) How many secondary students from Ferny Grove State High School attended the Oxford Park Campus to undertake the same course each Wednesday?
- (3) What were the various costs and the total cost of maintaining the TAFE cattle herd during Semester I (property leasing, transport, veterinarian supplies, labour costs, etc)?
- (4) Is the TAFE herd kept at Oxford Park or are cattle transported to Oxford Park as required during the course?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99):

- (1) (a) 20; (b) The course runs for one year.
- (2) 24.
- (3) The total cost was \$3046.78. Various costs include property lease, \$1047.00; transport, \$200; veterinarian supplies, \$600; labour costs, Nil; Seeds and fertilisers, \$ 356.75; Grass seed and fertiliser, \$371.15; Stud cattle registration fees, \$133 (\$266pa); Feed lot pellets, \$376.00 (will last until end August); Cattle meal, \$122.88; Tactic Tickaside, \$174.
- (4) The TAFE herd is transported to Oxford Park in lots of no more than six to eight at a time.

763. Queensland Medical Board, REGIS Computer System

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health (9/6/99)—

With reference to December 1997 when the Chief Health Officer, Dr Lange provided a report to the then Minister, Mr Horan, in which she described a software bug in the REGIS computer system at the

Queensland Medical Board and as a result of this error, doctors who were not registered received annual practising certificates—

- (1) Can she confirm the existence of the report?
- (2) Will she provide the following information regarding the software error, namely (a) on what date was the error detected, (b) how many doctors received erroneous certificates, (c) was the Director-General of Health informed of the error and (d) on what date was it confirmed to the board that the error was corrected?

Mrs EDMOND (9/7/99): Unfortunately I was not the Minister during the period of time to which the Member refers and therefore am unable to answer the Members queries.

764. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

- (1) As more guardians (281) than apprentices/trainees (254) returned their questionnaires and as in at least one instance more than twice as many guardians (154) than apprentices/trainees (70) answered the same question, doesn't this situation effectively enhance the representation of under-age apprentices/trainees in the data?
- (2) As the aim of the project was to conduct a qualitative survey, isn't this statistics report essentially a quantitative document?
- (3) Will he table the assessment of the statistics report and other reports generated by this project against the seven objectives listed in the project brief?
- (4) Was the author of this assessment independent of the project?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99):

- (1) No conclusions were drawn from the survey about the apprentice and trainee population as a whole and guardians did not answer questions relating to the apprentices/trainees training experience.
- (2) Yes, the other three reports—"User Choice", "Recruitment" and "Outcomes" are qualitative.
- (3) No. The proper process for seeking such information is pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act where appropriate.
- (4) The author's professional judgment was appropriate.

765. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

- (1) Why did the project team send out thousands of questionnaires (77 per cent of which were not returned) when they could have followed normal commercial research practice and achieved more trustworthy data by choosing a small representative sample and ensuring a high response rate from that sample?
- (2) What was the basis for determining that 4 per cent of employers, 15 per cent of training organisations and 42 per cent of industry clients should be interviewed?
- (3) Why were no apprentices, trainees, or teachers/trainers interviewed?
- (4) On what basis was it determined that interviews should be held at the venues listed in Section 2.4—Procedure?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

- (1) A mail-out survey is a standard and accepted research practice.
- (2) Numbers were determined by the availability of interviewees and time available to the researchers.
- (3) Apprentices and trainees were interviewed using a mail-out survey to allow greater anonymity. Only one representative per training provider was interviewed due to time restrictions.
- (4) The metropolitan and regional centres chosen were selected as they were the most easily accessible for the researchers considering time constraints.

766. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to the departmental document "The Impact of User-Choice on the Queensland Training Market: A progress Evaluation", Page 21—

Will he provide descriptive and explanatory details pertaining to the (a) 43 teachers (eg. TAFE, non-TAFE, subject area, location), (b) 11 apprentices (eg. TAFE, non-TAFE, trade area, level, location) and (c) 21 trainees (eg. TAFE, non-TAFE, traineeship description, location) from whom the researchers obtained data through informal discussions?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): I am advised that:

- (a) The 43 teachers with whom informal discussions were held comprised 29 TAFE (13 from metropolitan Institutes, 16 from non-metropolitan) and 14 non-TAFE (5 metropolitan, 9 regional). Subject areas covered construction, engineering, retail, management and hospitality.
- (b) The 11 apprentices were all TAFE, 3 electrical and 2 construction from metropolitan Institutes,

4 engineering and 2 construction from non-metropolitan Institutes.

- (c) The 21 trainees consisted 6 retail from a non-TAFE metropolitan provider, 2 retail from a metropolitan TAFE Institute, 7 retail from non-metropolitan non-TAFE providers, 2 hospitality from a non-metropolitan non-TAFE provider, 2 hospitality from a non-metropolitan TAFE, and 2 business from a non-metropolitan TAFE.

I am also advised that in line with standard research ethics, all respondents were given an absolute guarantee by the researcher that neither they nor their institution would be able to be identified from the information reported. For this reason, it would be highly inappropriate to provide further details about the people with whom informal discussions were held in relation to the report.

767. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to page 8 of the Departmental Research Document "Evaluation of the Impact of VET Reform on Queensland Apprenticeships and Traineeships—User Choice" where the claim is made, "in at least 30 separate cases employers were unaware that they were employers of apprentices or trainees"—

- (1) How many of these 30 employers claimed the Government subsidy for employing apprentices and trainees?
- (2) To how many of these 30 employers was the Premier's form letter sent, congratulating them for employing apprentices and trainees?
- (3) How many of the 30 who received this letter advised the department that the letter had been sent to them in error as they were not employing apprentices and trainees?
- (4) What percentage of the employers who responded do these 30 represent?
- (5) What was the mode of contact of these 30 (posted questionnaire, phone interview, face to face interview, etc)?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

- (1-4) Employers were not required to identify themselves in the survey. As a result specific information about the 30 employers is unavailable.
- (5) Posted questionnaires and telephone interviews.

768. Building and Construction Industry Training Fund

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to his media release of 30 April concerning the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund which indicates that funding will be used to upgrade the skills level of existing workers—

Why is this fund being exempted by him from the operation of his existing Workers Policy being enforced in other training areas within his portfolio?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): The Existing Workers Policy only applies to publicly funded traineeships.

769. Breaking the Unemployment Cycle

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

Will he indicate at 1 June (a) what is the total amount of "Breaking the Unemployment Cycle" funding that had been disbursed, (b) how much had been provided to Government departments and agencies, (c) how much had been provided to local government and (d) how much had been distributed to private sector employers for employing additional apprentices and trainees?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99):

- (a) \$26,963,813.
- (b) \$16,477,813.
- (c) \$5,604,000.
- (d) \$4,882,000.

770. WorkCover, Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to his briefing document "Matters for the Minister's attention—7 December"—

- (1) Will he indicate why WorkCover Queensland was allocated a quota of 30 trainees whilst it was engaged in significantly downsizing staff numbers?
- (2) How many trainees has WorkCover employed to date?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99):

- (1) All government departments and agencies regardless of their size are participating in the Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiative which provides traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities for people entering the labour market.
- (2) 30.

771. Workplace Agreements

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

As the Parliament has clearly indicated that QWAs are to remain as a flexible and valuable option for Queensland's employees and their employers, will he indicate how many QWAs have been registered each month since June 1998?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

July 1998, 130; August 1998, 78; September 1998, 12; October 1998, 0; November 1998, 126; December 1998, 37; January 1999, 115; February 1999, 52; March 1999, 13; April 1999, 142; May 1999, 274; June 1999, 108.

772. Training

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to the departmental document "The Impact of User Choice on the Queensland Training Market: A Progress Evaluation"—

- (1) Does he accept responsibility for the bureaucratic bullying illustrated in the fourth paragraph on page 29 which indicates that training providers are threatened with cancellation of their User Choice Training Contracts if they don't complete and return departmental paper work within five working days?
- (2) What has he done to address this issue?
- (3) Does he acknowledge that his blackening of the public image of all private training providers because of the transgressions of a small minority has encouraged this negative attitude by some of his departmental staff towards training providers?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99):

(1&2) The previous government, through its irresponsible acceleration of the competitive training market without the appropriate systems to support the massive increase in traineeship numbers and training providers, created an administrative minefield in which both Departmental staff and providers were often casualties.

The comprehensive reviews I commissioned into the User Choice and Competitive Purchasing Programs will result in more streamlined processes which are client focused and designed to minimise the administrative burden on both staff and training providers.

(3) I am committed to supporting to the fullest extent, all ethical and effective providers of training in Queensland who are rightly expressing their concern that the actions of a considerably less committed number of providers are blackening the public image of the training market.

773. Training

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to page 21 of the Progress Evaluation titled "The Impact of User Choice on the Queensland Training Market"—

- (1) Of the 88 interview subjects, will he indicate the number from each of the eight categories listed in the second paragraph?
- (2) Were the interviews all face to face or were phone interviews included?

- (3) If phone interviews were included, how many of the 88 were phone interviews?
- (4) Will he table the notes the researchers developed to record the feedback from the eleven apprentices and 21 trainees with whom they held discussions regarding their perceptions of the user choice training environment?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99):

- (1) Of the 88 people formally interviewed—

23 were from private training providers;
 28 were from TAFE Queensland Institutes;
 4 were from group training companies;
 3 were from industry training advisory bodies;
 21 were employers;
 7 were from DETIR regional offices;
 1 was from a new apprenticeship centre; and
 1 was from purchasing branch.

- (2) All interviews were face-to-face.

- (3) Not applicable.

- (4) No. In line with standard research ethics, all respondents were given an absolute guarantee by the researcher that neither they nor their institution would be able to be identified in relation to the report, and that nobody else would see the notes taken in relation to any individual person, business or provider.

774. Education Portfolio, Staffing

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Education (9/6/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 June (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 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 June (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 subprogram, by subprogram, (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 June (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 subprogram, by subprogram and (h) what was the number of (i) FTE public servants and (ii) FTE wages employees employed in each subprogram, by subprogram?

- (4) At 1 June (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?

Mr WELLS (9/7/99):

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 grounds-care), and cleaners.

Teacher aides, casual administrative officers and supply teachers are not included at this time. This information should be able to be provided when the new human resources information payroll system is commissioned later this year.

It is not always possible to provide information for an exact date such as the first day of the month. Information is provided as follows:

If the first of the month occurs on a weekend, teacher data will be taken from the Friday preceding that weekend. Teachers' pay is compiled from the first pay period of the month.

Public Service data is extracted from the payroll download and is provided for the

closest pay period to the first of the month. The ending date of the pay fortnight is included in the table.

Data on cleaners is updated at the end of each month from the last pay period of the month.

775. Education Portfolio, Staffing

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (9/6/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 May (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 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 May (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 subprogram, by subprogram, (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 May (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 subprogram, by subprogram and (h) what was the number of (i) FTE public servants and (ii) FTE wages employees employed in each subprogram, by subprogram?
- (4) At 1 May (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?

Mr WELLS (9/7/99):

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Data on cleaners is updated at the end of each month from the last pay period of the month.

776. Education Portfolio, Staffing

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Education (9/6/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 April (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 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 April (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 subprogram, by subprogram, (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 April (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 subprogram, by subprogram and (h) what was the number of (i) FTE public servants and (ii) FTE wages employees employed in each subprogram, by subprogram?
- (4) At 1 April (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?

Mr WELLS (9/7/99):

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Data on cleaners is updated at the end of each month from the last pay period of the month.

777. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to his briefing document "Matters for the Ministers Attention—22 March" under the heading "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Update" which indicates that 23 State Government departments and 16 TAFE institutes have employed 1792 trainees and 94 apprentices and given his previous criticism of the Coalition for the perceived imbalance between the number of apprenticeships and the rapidly growing number of traineeships—

- (1) How do the above figures, over which the Government has full control, redress that imbalance about which he was most critical?
- (2) Why was the Brisbane Institute of TAFE's maintenance and ancillary services (mentioned in the same item) unable to fill 18 of the 20 apprenticeship places allocated to them?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99):

(1) The criticism of the Coalition was directed at the irresponsible policy of making traineeships available to existing workers at the expense of young people and others entering the labour market and not at any perceived imbalance.

I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

(2) The projected growth in business was not achieved. Two apprenticeships were filled by Maintenance and Ancillary Services while the remaining 18 were reallocated.

778. Q-Link

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/6/99)—

- (1) How many trucks are owned and operated by Queensland Rail through Q-Link?
- (2) What is the amount of funding provided to Q-Link?
- (3) Are there examples of these vehicles operating in competition with private enterprise carriers?
- (4) Has he made representations to Queensland Rail regarding this issue; if so, what are they?

Mr BREDHAUER (9/7/99):

1. Eighty-seven (87) trucks are operated through Q-Link in addition to the use of a similar number of private enterprise carriers.

2. Q-Link has an operating budget and a revenue budget within Queensland Rail's funding arrangement.

3. All of Q-Link's trucks operations were opened to public tender (in 6 regions) during 1997/98. These public tenders were probity audited by KPMG and included all truck operations. Whilst this is still in process for the Brisbane region, private enterprise carriers who have won tenders are being contracted. Q-Link operates in a highly competitive marketplace. The mix of QR owned vehicles and private contractors for its road transport requirements allows Q-Link to deliver effective customer service.

4. No representations have been made to Queensland Rail as QR is managing the tender process and has kept me informed of the outcomes.

779. WorkCover Queensland, Regional Offices

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to WorkCover Queensland's regional offices—

- (1) Is it the intention that services will be delivered by three different streams all reporting separately to Brisbane office?
- (2) Will one manager no longer have overall responsibility for service coordination and delivery at each office?
- (3) Will he explain how this approach and this structure will improve service delivery?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): I am advised by WorkCover that:

(1) Yes, it is the intention that services will be delivered by three different streams reporting separately to Brisbane. Each stream will have a team leader based at each service centre who will report to the appropriate service manager in Brisbane.

(2) A Service Centre Manager will have administrative responsibility for the operation of the Service Centre (Hub Office) and also adjacent Case Management and Satellite Offices. Case managers and area service representatives will have responsibility for the delivery of services to workers, while account managers will have responsibility for the delivery of services to employers.

(3) The implementation of the improved business processes and systems in the Service Centres, the increased skills base and knowledge of individual WorkCover officers, together with specialisation resulting from the new structure, will greatly enhance the time available and the quality of service provided to both injured workers and employers.

780. Coalmining Industry

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to his briefing document "Matters for the Ministers Attention—21 December"—

Will he provide to, and table in, the Parliament both the briefing and the research documents prepared by the Workforce Strategy Unit and mentioned under the heading, "Coal Mining Industry"?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): No research has been undertaken by the Workforce Strategy Unit regarding the coal mining industry, consequently, a briefing was not prepared for me.

781. Industrial Relations Training Leave

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to his briefing document "Matters for the Ministers Attention—15 March", under the sub-heading "TUTA Leave" which refers to a letter from the Director-General advising them to use "exceptional circumstances" provisions in Directive 8/97 for industrial relations training leave as an interim measure—

Will he provide to, and table in, the Parliament that letter?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): No. The proper process for seeking such information is pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act where appropriate.

782. Challenge Employment and Training, Funding

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

Will he provide to, and table in, the Parliament those programs and projects fully or partly funded by his department which have been won by Ipswich Skillshare (YUPI), now known as Challenge Employment and Training and any subsidiary or affiliate?

What is the name, nature, venue and cost of each such project?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): Please refer to the attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

783. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Consultancies

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 366 in which he indicates that no formal assessment was conducted to determine whether a consultancy report met all the precise requirements specified for that consultancy project—

Will he institute a proper accountability process in relation to consultancies by requiring that all consultancy reports accepted and paid for by his administration to date are independently, formally

assessed to determine whether they meet all specified terms of reference and other pre-set requirements?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): Consultancies undertaken within DETIR are managed in accordance with the provisions of the Queensland State Purchasing Policy.

784. Mr P. Andrews; Applied Consulting

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

Will he provide to, and table in, the Parliament all documents pertaining to the consultancy project being undertaken by Mr Paul Andrews of Applied Consulting, together with his Phase 1 Report which was due in late April/early May?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): No. The proper process for seeking such information is pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act where appropriate.

785. TAFE; Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

Will he provide to, and table in, the Parliament all the current reports from TAFE institutes, Government departments, statutory authorities, local Government councils and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils pertaining to their employment of trainees and apprentices under the Labor Government's employment initiatives?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): No. The proper process for seeking such information is pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act where appropriate.

786. Sugar Industry

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (9/6/99)—

With reference to the extremely difficult market circumstances currently impacting on the sugar industry and to calls by some groups for the export parity pricing of domestic sugar to be replaced with import parity pricing—

- (1) Has his department done an analysis or comparison of the benefits to growers of both methods of pricing; if so, will he provide the results?
- (2) If his department has not done this work, will he now direct it to do so?

Mr PALASZCZUK (8/7/99):

1. No. At the first meeting of the Sugar Industry Development Advisory Council (SIDAC) on 27 March 1999, I was asked to review the ministerial direction on pricing raw sugar for the Australian domestic market. As a result I requested the Queensland Sugar Corporation (QSC) to prepare a report in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

The outcome was that QSC has presented me with a paper, which contains commercial-in-confidence

material, and I have circulated this to the members of SIDAC on a confidential basis for their comment back to me. I currently await such comment. I will be discussing the matter further at the next meeting of SIDAC.

As a former Minister for Primary Industries, you would be aware that the decision to implement export parity pricing was made by Minister Perrett in June 1997. You did not indicate any disagreement with the policy during your period as Minister.

2. Any further action on this matter will depend on the outcome of SIDAC's consideration of the QSC paper.

787. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

- (1) What are the actual costs of the various components of this project in comparison to the estimated costs?
- (2) In view of the intention to mail out over 5,000 questionnaires, why was the estimate for postage plus stationery, telecommunications, etc, so low?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that—

(1) Staffing: Estimated cost—\$25826.58; Actual cost—\$26009.54

Accommodation (including meals): Estimated cost—\$3800.00; Actual cost—\$1961.30

Airfares: Estimated cost—\$6512.00; Actual cost—\$2932.00

Petrol: Estimated cost—\$600.00; Actual cost—\$184.65

Hire Car: Estimated cost—\$1900.00; Actual cost—\$422.00

Miscellaneous Costs (Paper, postage, stationery, telecommunications): Estimated cost—\$1200.00; Actual cost—\$2551.00

Total Estimated cost—\$39838.58; Total Actual cost—\$34060.49

(2) Project costs were based on estimates of standard costs for such projects.

788. Community Jobs Plan

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to his briefing document "Matters for the Minister's Attention—14 December" which details what is referred to as a major issue arising from the fact that both the ACTU and AWU wanted membership of each of the 14 committees determining Community Jobs Plan priorities—

Did he accommodate both unions by doubling planned union representation on committees; if not, what other solution was implemented?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): It was appropriate to appoint both unions to these committees.

789. TAFE; Apprentices and Trainees

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

- (1) At 1 June, how many (a) trainees and (b) apprentices were employed within Government departments and agencies?
- (2) Of these trainees, how many were receiving their off-job training through TAFE?
- (3) Of these apprentices, how many were receiving their off-job training through TAFE?
- (4) What are the corresponding figures for trainees and apprentices employed within local Government?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

(1) At 1 June 1999 there were 3543 trainees and 1258 apprentices employed within government departments and agencies.

(2) Of these trainees 906 were receiving their off-job training through TAFE.

(3) Of these apprentices 914 were receiving their off-job training through TAFE.

(4) At 1 June 1999 there were 1352 trainees and 445 apprentices employed within local government. Of these 632 trainees and 382 apprentices were receiving their off-job training through TAFE.

790. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

- (1) As provider and industry questionnaires were adjusted during the early stage of the project to allow for separate responses for trainees and apprentices, why was such differentiation not extended to the other questionnaires where it would have been equally or even more relevant?
- (2) How was it ascertained that some guardians had filled in their questionnaire from an employer perspective?
- (3) What action was taken in response to those questionnaires identified in (2)?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99):

(1) Testing revealed problems only for these groups. Guardians, apprentices, trainees and employers

usually answered for either trainee or apprentice (not both) depending on their experience.

(2) The guardians identified themselves as employers, and included anecdotes about their business experience.

(3) None.

791. Queensland Rail, Staffing; Townsville Railway Workshops

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/6/99)—

(1) Does the agreement between Queensland Rail and the ACTU of 21 May on behalf of the all Queensland rail unions mean an end of the long standing policy supported by the coalition of no forced redundancies or relocations?

(2) Will this agreement now be used to terminate staff at the Townsville workshop when the current contracts expire?

Mr BREDHAUER (9/7/99): (1 & 2) Fixed term employees have never been subject to a "no forced redundancies or relocations policy". Indeed the fixed term nature of their employment precluded such a policy. Under the previous government fixed term employment numbers in Queensland Rail were allowed to grow unchecked. Under this government more than 865 fixed term employees have been given permanent employment including 75 such employees at Townsville workshops.

792. Bannikoff Review

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to the documents headed "Industry Funding" which were among the financial documents provided to the Bannikoff Review of TAFE—

(1) As these documents relate to the financial situation at different institutes, why does the same text appear on documents relating to ten separate institutes?

(2) Similarly, why have eight institute reports used identical text under the heading "Staff", in the documents provided to the Bannikoff Review?

(3) Has some officer in head office prepared all the above institute reports?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

(1) & (2) The same text appears in the financial documents because the numerical data trends and the strategies undertaken or planned were the same or similar in a number of Institutes.

(3) The consultant and the staff of the review team summarised the Institute findings for consistency and brevity.

793. Gladstone Hospital

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (9/6/99)—

With reference to concerns expressed publicly about potential health risks at public hospitals due to the lack of backflow prevention devices—

(1) Has the Gladstone Hospital been audited; if so, what was the result of the audit; if not, when will the audit be done?

(2) Can staff and patients be assured of the highest standards of water quality at the Gladstone Hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (9/7/99):

(1) The Gladstone Hospital was audited for backflow compliance by a registered plumber in 1994. With the exception of the mortuary, which is currently being designed and will be rebuilt over the next five months, all the high/medium risk areas have been addressed.

(2) Normal workplace and hygienic practices reduce potential for a problem. The potential for backflow problems has been in existence since we have had plumbed water. To date there has been no incident in a Queensland Health facility.

794. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/6/99)—

With reference to the departmental research document, "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report"—

(1) Do the statistics indicating that 43 per cent of apprentices/trainees would participate in the system again (p. 71) but 64 per cent of them would recommend it to others and 27 per cent would recommend it for some people (p. 72), provide a correct and statistically valid insight into the attitude of apprentices/trainees to other people?

(2) Why does the histogram and text headed "Employers off-job preferences" (p. 62) indicate "23 per cent all workbased", as workbased training is on-job, not off-job?

(3) Why were registered training providers asked whether employers, trainees and apprentices were aware of their roles and responsibilities yet employers, trainees or apprentices were not asked whether they were aware of their roles and responsibilities (p. 50)?

Mr BRADY (9/7/99):

(1) The intention of the line of questioning was not to examine apprentices/trainees' attitudes but to look at whether they thought the program was worth participating in.

(2) The title was used generically to distinguish training from normal work activity.

(3) Employers', trainees' and apprentices' awareness was assessed on the basis of other information provided.

795. New South Wales Companion Animals Act

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (10/6/99)—

With reference to the Companion Animal's Act which comes into force in New South Wales on 1 July, under which owners of every new dog and kitten are required to have a microchip inserted in the animal as a permanent means of registration and identification when animals become lost and as anyone finding a lost dog or cat will be required to return it to the registered owner or take it promptly to an animal pound or risk a fine of up to \$2,200—

Will he consider introducing similar legislation in Queensland for local governments throughout the State?

Mr MACKENROTH (18/6/99): Local governments in Queensland are responsible for regulating the keeping and control of animals through the adoption of appropriate local laws. I have no plans to introduce legislation which would remove local government autonomy in deciding whether to require the registration and identification of dogs and/or cats in their areas or impose an obligation on a person to dispose of a found animal in a prescribed manner.

796. Dr S. Mukherjee; Ethnicity and Crime

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/6/99)—

With reference to the Australian Institute of Criminology Trends and Issues Paper No. 117 on Ethnicity and Crime in which Dr Satyanashu Mukherjee has highlighted some sensitive racial issues and as a leading criminologist, he has stated that we must throw away some racial sensitivity if we really are to combat the growing level of crime within some ethnic groups—

What action and intelligence is the Police Service taking and gathering to identify, collate and target racial and inter-racial crime and crime trends?

Mr BARTON (12/7/99): The Queensland Police Service does not conduct operations or gather intelligence based on the ethnicity or race of suspects or offenders.

Investigative and intelligence operations conducted by the Service relate to preventing or solving criminal offences. Crime and crime trends are monitored and addressed by the Service and no delineation is made between crime and interracial crime in this regard.

797. Brisbane River, Sand and Gravel Extraction

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (10/6/99)—

With reference to the extractive operations of the gravel industry in the upper Brisbane River, Buaraba Creek region—

- (1) What action has he taken in respect of an advisory committee formed to advise his department?
- (2) Has he intervened to shut down these operations; if so, what is the intended date of closure?
- (3) How many permits have been issued to operators in this area?
- (4) What are the names of those companies involved?
- (5) What is the amount of royalties paid to the Crown per cubic metre?
- (6) How much is paid to the Environmental Protection Agency for extraction of material?
- (7) Why are they being closed and for what reasons?
- (8) If closed, where will these gravels be sourced from in the future?
- (9) How many persons are employed in this industry at this locality?

Mr WELFORD (12/7/99):

(1) A Community Reference Panel was formed by the Department of Natural Resources early in 1996 and has been informed at all stages in the development of the Sand and Gravel Extraction Management Plan for the Upper Brisbane River since that time. With the release of the draft Plan on 7 June 1999, the contents have been discussed separately with the industry stakeholders, the local governments within the Plan area and the reference panel.

(2) The proposal to wind down operations is based on expert advice to the Department of Natural Resources that the rivers and creeks in the Plan area are unable to accommodate continued extraction without incurring significant adverse impact to their physical stability. The draft Plan is for a phased reduction over six years rather than a sudden stop and operators will be required to adjust to sourcing materials from outside the watercourses in the area during this time.

(3) Applications for permits for extraction of quarry materials from watercourses are considered in accordance with the Water Resources Act 1989. Permits are issued to operators every six months and carry no ongoing commitment to future supplies. There are currently 18 permittees (including three local governments) under the Plan, some of whom currently are not extracting any quarry material. Some of these permittees have more than one permit to allow them to extract at different sites.

(4) A list of permittees is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(5) The current royalty is \$1.16 per cubic metre for commercial purposes. Local governments pay 44 cents per cubic metre for material used for public infrastructural works or repairs.

(6) The Environmental Protection Agency does not receive any royalties from the sale of sand and gravel. These moneys go directly to the Council and Treasury. Some of the bigger operators whose

extraction operations exceed a capacity of 5000 tonnes/year are required to obtain licences from the Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1994. These licences relate more to the operation of their washing plants than to the extraction of material from the watercourses.

(7) The proposal is in the recently released draft Plan for operations to be wound down and moved on—not closed. This is because it is believed that the active channels of the river and creek systems in this area are incapable of adapting to changes being brought about by a combination of existing land use and extraction.

(8) The future source of this material will be from the flood plain, marine sediments and hard rock quarrying. Small quantities will also be available by desilting water impoundments. The amount of material sourced from active riverine sediments is less than 10% of the total amount used in the Brisbane and Moreton statistical divisions. Businesses will not close down, they will move to alternative sources outside the watercourses.

(9) I do not have statistics regarding the number of people locally employed in riverine gravel extraction. However, I believe the number to be less than 50 full time equivalents employed on extraction projects within the Plan area.

798. Imbil, Rifle Range

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (10/6/99)—

With reference to a rifle range in the Mary Valley township of Imbil (near Gympie) situated on State forest land which is used by the strong Imbil shooters club with at least one shooter of Olympic standard and many other very proficient members and as this range is well situated to cater for shooters from Belmont to Bundaberg and lends itself very well to a regional headquarters role subsequent to the probable closure of other ranges in the area including North Arm and Kilkivan—

Will he offer some form of security of tenure to the club, given that their current lease arrangements are due to expire in the near future?

Mr WELFORD (12/7/99): The current lease for a rifle range on State forest land near Imbil expires in June 2000. An investigation into the future of the land has commenced. Officers of my Department of Natural Resources from both Gympie and Brisbane have inspected the site and discussions have been held with Cooloola Shire Council.

The investigation is being carried out in two aspects.

The first is considering the possible need for a regional complex for shooting clubs in the Gympie district. My Department is aware that some other ranges are under pressure from development and that the clubs have been investigating options for a "combined shooting range". A meeting of all clubs in the Gympie district, other clubs in the Sunshine Coast, Shire Councils and peak shooting representatives from Brisbane is to be convened

shortly. My Department is currently considering whether Imbil or any other State land might be suitable and available for such a combined complex, but other options on freehold land should also be explored by the clubs.

The second aspect is a more detailed examination of the Imbil site itself, to determine its most appropriate use. It is hoped that the two aspects under investigation will reach complimentary common conclusions later in the year.

799. Mr P. Kinder

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/6/99)—

- (1) Will he investigate and reply in regard to a letter the Police Commissioner put to Mr Patrick Kinder in reply to Mr Kinder's complaint that a Queens Counsel practicing in Queensland had attempted to induce him by threat of bankruptcy to change or retract evidence given in a Judicial Review, in that the Police Commissioner stated that an assessment of this by the fraud investigators, as opposed to inducing of witnesses investigators, had found there was no criminal offence twenty days before the evidence, which Mr O'Sullivan had been acknowledging all along, had been put forward?
- (2) Will he investigate why Mr Kinder never received this so called assessment from an unnamed Superintendent that was supposedly posted twenty days before Mr O'Sullivan stopped accepting evidence?

Mr BARTON (12/7/99):

- (1) A series of letters and attachments were received from Mr Kinder addressed to "The Police Commissioner" which will be addressed in chronological order:

In a letter to the Commissioner dated 7 December 1998 Mr Kinder enclosed a letter of the same date that he had also forwarded to the Chairman of The Barristers Board of Queensland concerning a matter between himself and a Queen's Counsel practising in Queensland.

Mr Kinder's letter to the Commissioner of Police requested he "do what your duty tells you to do, or file it for later reference if you think that's what should be done."

The Commissioner, in a letter dated 21 December 1998 to Mr Kinder acknowledged receipt of his letter and attachments and advised the matter was referred to the Assistant Commissioner, State Crime Operations Command for his information and any attention deemed appropriate.

After due consideration of the material by a senior investigator of the Major Fraud Investigation Group, it was determined the particulars supplied did not disclose any evidence of a criminal offence warranting further investigation. The file records a letter by the Detective Superintendent, Crime Operations Branch dated 14 January 1999 was forwarded to Mr Kinder advising him of this assessment.

A second letter to the Commissioner dated 6 January 1999 from Mr Kinder concerned further information in the matter between himself and the aforementioned Queen's Counsel. This letter requested it be forwarded to the Crime Operations Command. The material did not provide any evidence of a criminal offence warranting investigation and was filed with the previous correspondence.

A third letter to the Commissioner dated 27 January 1999 from Mr Kinder enclosed correspondence between himself and the Criminal Justice Commission. This letter also requested the material be forwarded to Crime Operations Command "for their perusal and filing system".

The Commissioner, in a letter dated 2 February 1999 to Mr Kinder acknowledged receipt of this letter dated 27 January 1999 and advised the matter would be examined. The Detective Inspector, Officer in Charge of the Major Fraud Investigation Group advised no criminal offence warranting further investigation was disclosed in any of the material supplied by Mr Kinder.

A fourth letter to the Commissioner dated 9 February 1999 from Mr Kinder followed his personal representation to a member of the Office of the Commissioner where he delivered a folder of similar material to that previously received.

The Commissioner of Police, in a letter dated 25 February 1999 to Mr Kinder advised him the matter of his complaint had been fully assessed by senior members of the Major Fraud Investigation Group as containing no evidence of any criminal offence. Reference was made to the previous correspondence by the Detective Superintendent, Crime Operations Branch dated 14 January 1999 to Mr Kinder in which he had been advised the results of this assessment.

A fifth letter to the Commissioner dated 4 March 1999 from Mr Kinder advised he had not received the aforementioned letter dated 14 January 1999. He sought a copy of the assessment referred to, as it had been made prior to the additional matter being supplied by him.

The Assistant Commissioner, State Crime Operations Command, in a letter dated 12 March 1999 to Mr Kinder advised all material provided by him had been assessed as not disclosing any criminal offence and that no further assistance could be offered regarding the matter.

The material supplied by Mr Kinder in each instance was assessed by a senior member of the Major Fraud Investigation Group who found no evidence of a criminal offence being disclosed. The material supplied was quite comprehensive and no further inquiries or interviews of witnesses were necessary. Mr Kinder was advised of this assessment.

(2) An investigation as to why Mr Kinder did not receive the letter by the Detective Superintendent, Crime Operations Branch dated 14 January 1999 advising him of the results of the assessment has not elicited any administrative reason or other fault by the Queensland Police Service.

Administrative procedures at Crime Operations Branch require the complainant to be advised of the

result of the assessment without detailed explanation as to how it was derived. Any person desiring access to any documents pertaining to the assessment process may make application under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

800. Hardwood Plantations

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (10/6/99)—

With reference to the proposed RFA strategy under which he is encouraging the growth of plantation of hardwood forests which is commendable, however development within SE Asia and consequent studies by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have shown that economically viable hardwood plantations, utilising the best of Australian technology, are possible only with substantial subsidies or other forms of Government assistance and in Laos alone, with four million inhabitants, the ADB found it necessary to grant a concession loan of \$15m to get a significant trial commercial area established—

- (1) Is he proposing Government assistance to help encourage the necessary establishment of hardwood plantations?
- (2) Is he sure that such assistance will not breach the WTO guidelines?
- (3) Will such assistance necessitate a lengthy study such as the one which justified a short term, low tariff to protect our pork industry?

Mr PALASZCZUK (8/7/99):

1. There are a range of measures which are currently employed to provide assistance to industry including the generation of plantation management information and genetic resources through a comprehensive research and development program; the removal of impediments to plantations which are within the control of government; generation of information products for extension programs; and a joint venture program between Government and landholders. All of these measures are aimed at establishing a suitable investment climate for plantation growing for wood production.

2. Such assistance is not a direct grant or subsidy but is aimed at stimulating an environment which is conducive to investment by the private sector. This private sector investment is beginning to occur.

3. There are no lengthy studies proposed. These measures fall within the umbrella framework of Plantations for Australia: 2020 Vision which aims to treble the plantation area in Australia by the year 2020 primarily through private sector investment.

801. Protection of Children

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (10/6/99)—

With reference to the current situation where parents in Queensland have no rights when they want to protect their children from harm outside the family home and young people of all ages are able to leave home and live in environments which are dangerous,

eg. in known drug houses and with perverts and paedophiles, and the experiences of some parents that usually some part of the criminal element is ready to feed from the gullibility of this age group and to the fact that parents continually bring to the attention of Government agencies the dangers facing these young people as well as the activities of their associates—

- (1) Is she aware it is not uncommon for parents to be told action cannot be taken as the parents could be seen as having a grudge and for this reason the parents' information is vindictive?
- (2) Why doesn't anybody have the power to return a child to the security of the family home if the child says they do not want to go, regardless of the outside and criminal influences under which they make these statements?
- (3) Is she aware that the criminals know the system and use it for their benefit to the detriment of the children?
- (4) While it is recognised there is the need for legislation to protect those children who are at risk from harm/violence in the family home, the result for others though is that there is now another group of young people who are being abused outside the family as a result of this, when is the Government going to see the reality of this situation and restore some balance?
- (5) Does she see the enormity of the web of destruction which is created when a family is fighting to protect its child, particularly in regard to the spin-offs and resulting costs to the community which are enormous, eg. health of family members, family breakdown, suicides etc?

Ms BLIGH (12/7/99):

(1) I am aware that working with young people who have placed themselves in unsafe situations, despite the efforts of their parents to prevent this, is difficult and complex. I am unaware of any parents being told that they hold grudges or are being vindictive as the Member alleges. I would encourage him to bring any such incidences to my attention.

(2 & 4) Officers of my Department have statutory responsibility for the protection of children from all forms of abuse and neglect where their parents and or guardians are unable and unwilling to do so. Officers have the responsibility to professionally respond to notifications, to assess the level of harm and risk of harm to the child and determine an appropriate response.

Many young people make decisions to leave the family home and live independently. These young people will sometimes move in with the family or their friends, apply for accommodation at a youth hostel or in some cases choose the less safe alternative of living on the streets. If a parent believes that a young person is at risk of being harmed through lifestyle choices they may contact my Department through their local Area Office. Following assessment of the information a decision regarding the most appropriate response or intervention can then be made.

Where it is assessed that there are no child protection concerns but the family are experiencing difficulties, such as ongoing conflict between parents and adolescents, the Department can offer families support service or referrals that assists family to resolve the issues which may have lead to a young person leaving home. This type of assistance is based on the voluntary participation of the family and young person.

It is not legally possible for young people who have not committed an offence but have placed themselves at risk to be held in secure custody. Under Queensland's child protection legislation a young person can be taken into protective custody, removing them from an unsafe situation and placing them under the legal guardianship of the Director-General.

The actual effectiveness of applying such provisions to protect and guide a young person will depend on the individual case. Placing a young person into the custody of the department, where they already have guardians willing to protect them, does not necessarily provide long term solutions to these complex issues. The reality is that this process does not necessarily prevent a young person from repetitively running away or address the underlying problems motivating the young person to leave home. Young people and their families need support services that assist them to deal with the issues that have placed the young person at risk. These young people need support and guidance through this difficult and vulnerable transition to adulthood.

The Department takes seriously the needs of young people and their families. Working with young people in the area of child protection presents some very challenging and difficult issues that have no easy solutions. To better meet the needs of young people the Department in partnership with the community has commenced work on initiatives to identify and address these issues. The Child Protection Reform Strategy will review service delivery and identify services required, in conjunction with the community sector, to support the implementation of new Child Protection Act 1999.

(3) The Queensland Police Service administers legislation relating to the criminal elements you have referred to as feeding on the gullibility of particular young people. Under the Criminal Code, persons who deal or supply drugs to young people can be prosecuted as can adults who are having a sexual relationship with females under 16 years of age. If families are aware of such circumstances than they are urged to inform the authorities. If families consider that charges should have been laid in a particular case and this didn't occur, this should be taken up with the Commissioner of Police.

802. Townsville Hospital; Douglas Arterial

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/6/99)—

With reference to major concerns I have in regard to traffic problems that will be created by the construction of the new Townsville Hospital at Douglas and the necessity of the implementation of

the link road and the bridge over Ross River joining Thuringowa to the hospital to coincide with the opening of the new hospital—

Will he make this project a top priority for the Beattie Government?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/7/99): The proposed Douglas Arterial extending from the Angus Smith Drive to Upper Ross River Road at Condon, via a new bridge across the Ross River is being planned as part of the future National Highway System. The project has been nominated as a priority Capital Works Project in the 1998-99 to 2001-02 National Highway System Forward Strategy, which I have forwarded to the Honourable John Anderson MP, Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services.

This project is one of a number of significant Federal Projects across the State that are currently unfunded. I am vigorously pursuing funding for all these projects including the Federal contribution for the Douglas Arterial with my Federal counterpart.

803. Dalby Agricultural College, Funding

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/6/99)—

With reference to the 1998-99 budget which allocated \$500,000 to the Dalby Agricultural College to enable the workshops to provide TAFE training in trades in addition to the normal purposes and with the financial year almost finished—

- (1) Is it correct that (a) none of the work has been carried out and (b) an assessment of the project now places the cost in excess of \$1m?
- (2) Will he, as a matter of urgency, approve the additional funding and have these facilities brought on line as a matter of urgency to meet the unmet demand for technical education in Dalby, a major manufacturing centre of the State?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

- (1) Discussions between Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE, Dalby Agricultural College and the Asset and Building Services Unit of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations to determine the scope of works and develop appropriate plans have been under way since 23 July 1998. The first schematic plans were available on 19 March. These were subsequently reviewed following further discussions between the three parties.
- (2) I have recently approved a revised project estimate of \$917,000. The Project will now commence as soon as contracts can be finalised.

804. Truck Drivers, Drugs

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/6/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of the claims by Hughie Williams of the TWU that many truck drivers are taking

drugs to stay awake and that these drugs were being supplied and charged for by transport company management?

- (2) Is he aware of any evidence to support these claims?
- (3) What action has he taken to have these claims investigated?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/7/99):

1. Yes.
2. I have asked Mr Williams to provide me with any evidence regarding his claims.
3. When Mr Williams provides me with evidence supporting the claims he has made that evidence will be thoroughly investigated.

805. TAFE Queensland

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/6/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 534—

- (1) Will he provide to and table in the Parliament the Treasury advice he mentions?
- (2) In what form was this Treasury advice made available to the departmental consultant, Kim Bannikoff, so that he could incorporate in his report information concerning loans to fund voluntary early retirement packages?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): My previous answer adequately answers this question.

806. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/6/99)—

With reference to the departmental document "New Qld App/Trnee Approvals by Industry" and two of the columns in that document, the column headed 13/4/97-12/4/98 refers to the term of the Coalition whilst the column headed 13/4/98-12/4/99 relates primarily to the term of his administration—

- (1) What has caused the dramatic increase from 403 new approvals to 2484 in the category "Intermediate sales and related workers"?
- (2) How has he expressed his concerns to his employment taskforce concerning (a) the fall in new approvals from 133 to 28 in the area of "Automotive Tradespersons", (b) the fall from 5 to 1 in the category "Other intermediate production and transport workers" and (c) the fact that only one new approval is shown for "Construction Tradespersons"?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): (1 & 2) The range of training products available to employers in this industry sector has expanded over the last eighteen months. The increase in traineeships is due to the fact that there has been an increase in the range of training products available and the marketing of these products to employers by Registered Training Organisations and New Apprenticeship Centres.

807. Forestry Industry

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (10/6/99)—

With reference to a successful and highly informative meeting with DPI Forestry staff in Atherton on the issues surrounding plantation forestry on the Tablelands—

- (1) Will he clear up any concern over cheap imports affecting market prices, especially for caribaea pine?
- (2) Will he outline the Beattie Government's actions towards improving the certainty of plantation owners with regard to the right to harvest?
- (3) Will he outline any plans for the future regarding possible carbon credit trading?

Mr PALASZCZUK (8/7/99):

1. The softwood program in Queensland based on exotic pines such as slash and caribaea pine and native pine such as hoop pine is generally performing successfully in Queensland particularly in the housing construction market. There are strength characteristics of the local product which give it a slight competitive edge in the local markets. The local product is successfully competing in the market place to the extent that 1.5m cubic metres per year of round timber are currently harvested.

While competition is being experienced from softwood imports both interstate and overseas the local industry is generally competitive in the marketplace.

2. The Queensland Government has addressed the harvest security issue in the Integrated Planning Act 1998 (IPA). IPA provides significant harvest security for commercial timber production activities in Queensland against future government activities. The IPA streamlines the entire land planning and development approval process in Queensland by incorporating up to sixty previous different approval processes into a single system.

IPA also recognises and protects commercial timber production activities that were already occurring when the Act commenced in early 1998.

3. Formal trading in carbon credits needs to await actions from the Commonwealth Government on the establishment of a carbon trading scheme. The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth to establish a carbon trading system as part of the measures to address the reduction in net emission of greenhouse gases.

808. Barambah Electorate, Toxic Waste Dumps

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (10/6/99)—

- (1) What is the location of all toxic waste dumps situated in the Barambah Electorate or adjacent electorates?
- (2) Will he inform the people of any proposed toxic waste dumps situated in this or adjacent electorates?

(3) What is the material to be deposited in these toxic waste dumps?

(4) What are the disposal companies involved and the costs incurred by the taxpayers?

Mr WELFORD (12/7/99):

1. Landfills, commonly referred to as "dumps", are licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 as waste disposal facilities. The waste disposal facilities in the Barambah Electorate, and in the adjacent electorates of Crows Nest, Callide, Western Downs, Gympie and Maryborough, which are licensed for the disposal of regulated waste are listed in Attachment A. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2. Proposals for landfills for domestic or regulated waste would be subject to normal town planning processes, including public notification. A licence under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 the operation of the facility would also be applicable.

3. Regulated wastes are defined as non-domestic wastes and listed in Schedule 7 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 1998. They include wastes such as food processing waste, tyres, oils and greases, infectious wastes and various industrial wastes. Conditions may be set for each facility licensed under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to restrict the type of regulated waste material to be disposed in the facility. Such conditions are set to ensure protection for the environment, public health and safety.

4. The landfills are operated by local government, providing waste disposal services to the local community. Costs of the operation of the landfills are recovered by the local government through disposal fees or general rates.

The EPA charges a fee for licensing of landfills. The fee partially contributes to the cost of processing the licence application and for compliance inspections of the landfill. The costs incurred by the taxpayer in each case will be the costs of processing the licence application less the licence application fee.

809. TAFE

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/6/99)—

With reference to the tables presented as part of his answer to Question on Notice No. 389—

- (1) Why is there such an imbalance in relation to the provision of training in building and construction with 450 training places allocated in the north/north-west region and none in the far north region and the south-west region?
- (2) As the Premier has indicated that a new focus of the Government's training effort is information technology, why are such abysmally small numbers of computer training places (ranging from zero to 28) being allocated in the various regions?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

(1) No offers for training delivery in the far north and south-west regions were received from Registered Training Organisations for the Building and Construction Industry training outcomes nominated in the Purchase Schedule for Round One of 1999. However, building and construction industry training was provided through direct grant at Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE and Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE to address the demand in these regions.

(2) For 1999, 28,120 hours of training for Computer Support Technicians were awarded to all registered training organisations that met the quality requirements of Round 1 of the Competitive Purchasing Program. The allocation is only a minor part of the total of 1.64M hours allocated to computing training, including the Competitive Purchasing Program, User Choice and TAFE Direct Grant. It should also be noted that many other training programs such as Business and Clerical, and Engineering often include significant levels of computer training.

810. South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (10/6/99)—

With reference to the South East Queensland Regional Forestry Agreement and the seven options released by the Government in the directions report—

- (1) What is the current log allocation for each of the allocation zones wholly or partially within the RFA area and which mills currently hold those allocations and what allocation does each mill hold?
- (2) What percentage of that current allocation is currently obtained from areas covered by the RFA in the allocation zones of Eidsvold/Monto, Gayndah/Mundubbera and Murgon/Wondai, all of which are only partially within the RFA region?
- (3) For each of the seven options in the directions report, what will be the changes to the allocations in each of the allocation zones wholly or partially within the RFA area?

Mr WELFORD (12/7/99):

(1) There are 15 sawmill allocation zones wholly or partly within the South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) region. The attached table, with information supplied by the Department of Primary Industries (Forestry) which administers the allocation policy, provides allocation details on a whole-of-zone and individual mill basis for each of the 15 zones. It should be noted three of these have only a small intersection with the SEQ RFA region—Theodore/Biloela, Eidsvold/Monto and Gayndah/Mundubbera. (Tables and attachments may

be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The Crown sawlog allocation system is based on a sustained yield calculation determined on a whole-of-zone basis. It is inconsistent with the yield calculation methodology to calculate yield on a part-zone or State Forest basis. It is therefore inappropriate to provide a definite response on the matter of the proportion of the zonal allocation attributable to that part of the Eidsvold/Monto, Gayndah/Mundubbera, and Murgon/Wondai zones which is covered by the RFA. In addition the proportion would vary from year to year depending on the location of logging operations.

(3) The determination of allocations is based on many factors only one of which is the quantum of available Crown sawlog in an allocation zone. Factors such as industry structure and recent performance of mills are also important. Even with a constant Crown sustained yield for a sawmill allocation zone, the allocation of a mill may change over time.

The scenarios in the Directions Report are illustrative of various issues raised in the Report and identified as important for consideration in developing a final RFA. Some scenarios are illustrative of a transition approach, others illustrate a residual industry or sustained yield approach to wood supply from State forests. All scenarios include industry development options in the industry modelling (with consequent modelled changes in industry structure). In this regard, determination of allocations is somewhat meaningless and has not been carried out for the scenarios.

The Directions Report does show, at a whole of region level, the predicted Crown compulsory and optional sawlog supply for each scenario to year 2020.

811. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development Department, Job Vacancies

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (10/6/99)—

Will she advise if the job vacancies listed below are new positions in her department and what is the total cost, including implementation, salaries, mobile phones, cars, expense cards and any other incidental costs, associated with the fulfilment of these employment positions?

Level—Tracking Number

AO8;	AO8—A1015A;	AO8—A1005A;	AO8—A1014A;
AO8—A1006A;	AO8—A1007A;	AO8—A1012A;	
AO8—A1011A;	AO8—A1013A;	AO8—A1010A;	
AO8—A1009A;	PO5—A1020A;	AO7—A1020A;	
AO7—A1018A;	AO7—A1030A;	AO7—A1008A;	
AO7—A1027A;	AO7—A1021A;	AO7—A1031A;	
AO7—A1016A;	AO7—A1019A;	AO7—A1017A;	
AO7—A1028A;	AO7—A1029A;	AO6—A1040A;	
AO6—A1023A;	AO6—A1046A;	AO6—A1039A;	
AO6—A1041A;	AO6—A1022A;	AO6—A1038A;	
AO6—A1033A;	AO6—A1045A;	AO6—A1037A;	

AO6—A1024A; AO6—A1043A; AO6—A1032A; AO6—A1026A, A1034A, A1047A, A1025A, A1042A; AO5—A1058A; AO5—A1062A; AO5—A1055A; AO5—A1060A; AO5—A1051A, A1053A, A1061A, A1050A, A1063A, A1052A, A1065A, A1057A, A1054A, A1049A, A1059A; PO3—A1064A.

Ms SPENCE (12/7/99): These are not job vacancies. The list provided represents a list of revised job descriptions for positions in the new structure proposed for the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development (DATSIPD). Technically, all the positions in DATSIPD are new positions. As is normal, some of the positions on the above list are permanently filled and some are vacant and have been, or will be, advertised.

This list has been extracted from the Department's intranet where all job descriptions for the Department are placed as part of an overall strategy to have all job descriptions available to staff at all times. This is becoming a common strategy in many departments as a means for streamlining human resource activities and improving access to information for all staff.

The approved structure for DATSIPD does contain an additional 18 positions to cover its new role and functions as a separate Department, but the funding for these positions is subject to consideration by Government in the context of developing the 1999/2000 budget. Until a decision is taken about the provision of funds, we will not know what, if any, extra costs will be incurred in relation to the additional positions.

812. Gladstone, WorkCover Office

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/6/99)—

After a recent review of the work processes of WorkCover Queensland, has there been any reduction in the number of staff who actually accept, process and monitor claims for workers' compensation in the Gladstone WorkCover office?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): WorkCover advises that there has been no reduction in the number of staff working in the Gladstone WorkCover office. Currently there are 8 staff made up of 6 persons working full time and 2 working part-time.

However I am advised by WorkCover that following implementation of the service project in December it is expected that there will be 5 full time positions. WorkCover advises that there will be no forced redundancies.

WorkCover is implementing a service project across Queensland aimed at improving customer service. For Gladstone this means that the processing of claims will be moved to the Rockhampton Service Centre, while case management will continue to be provided by the Gladstone office.

The removal of the processing responsibility will free up the staff of the Gladstone Office to focus on value added services to customers, particularly in the area of case management. The improved business processes and systems will ensure more efficient

claims processing and, as a result, improved customer service.

813. Director-General of Health, Salary

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (10/6/99)—

What is the salary package for the Director-General of Health and is his \$60,000 performance bonus still in addition to this package?

Mrs EDMOND (12/7/99): His performance bonus as per his contract signed by the then Premier, Mr R Borbidge MLA, was up to approximately \$60,000. This arrangement has been replaced by the CEO 3 level salary package and a market allowance of \$28,500.

814. Closure/Relocation of Schools

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (10/6/99)—

With reference to the management of State schools—

- (1) What schools are having enrolments monitored in consideration of closure within the next five years and what schools are being considered for closure/relocation for other reasons over the next five years (please specify reason for closure/relocation)?
- (2) What is the present enrolment in each of the schools listed above and what are the projected enrolments at these schools for the next five years?
- (3) What recommendations for closure has he accepted to date and why?
- (4) What recommendations for closure has he rejected to date and why?
- (5) What localities are being monitored by Education Queensland for the (i) construction or (ii) relocation of a school and in each case what type of school is being considered?
- (6) In what financial year will Education Queensland be likely to recommend budget approval for each of the schools listed in (5) above?

Mr WELLS (12/7/99):

- (1) Education Queensland (EQ) applies objective planning standards to assess the match between demand for and supply of schools and school places over time, throughout all areas of the state.

This assessment is carried out continuously and enables the identification of areas in which there is or will be a shortfall of school provision over the (rolling) fifteen year period, areas in which the school is not well located with regard to the future centre of gravity of the population (relocation issues), and those areas in which there is a demonstrable oversupply of schools.

This assessment is then used to direct day-to-day capital decision-making. It is also intended to act as the objective basis, aligned with departmental service philosophies, from which school closure, amalgamation, relocation, and new school opening

ventures are to be proposed. The step of proposing actual school closure, however, is one that requires formal Ministerial approval and announcement, and involves the setting-up of a complex and extensive community consultation process. Under such processes, the department does not focus on the individual school, but takes a cluster of neighbouring schools and looks at the best way to achieve area-wide upgrade and renewal of stock, in consultation with the local community. To date, the Minister has made no public announcement concerning an intended school closure venture within this year.

(2) Departmental planning standards are the basis for measurement and assessment. These standards accept that EQ has a responsibility to provide a system of schools across the state. This perspective means that a school is accorded importance on the basis of its endorsed presence within a departmental system of schools—it is a community service and a departmental place-holder. Thus enrolment is not an indicator of a school's success or failure, and is not used as the primary determinant to assess whether or not a school should be retained.

(3) No Ministerial announcements have been made concerning proposed school closures for this year.

(4) Departmental analysis of the demand/supply match is continuous and is used as an ongoing reference to inform day-to-day capital decisions. A directive to proceed to a school closure venture would necessarily be instigated by the Minister.

(5) Ministerial approved for planning purposes has been given for the opening of the following schools for 2000 and 2001: Bentley Park SHS, Calamvale SHS and relocation of the Calamvale SS, Christensens Road SS, Forest Lake SHS, Narangba SHS, Northern Beaudesert SHS, Oonoonba SS relocation, Pacific Pines SHS, Robina relief SS, Springfield SHS.

Possible solutions other than standard primary and secondary schools are under investigation in those situations, which lend themselves to such outcomes. These locations include Bentley Park, Calamvale and Springfield.

(6) Budget approvals will be entailed in 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

815. Train Derailment, Cardwell Range

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/6/99)—

With reference to the derailment of a train on the Cardwell Range in March—

- (1) What was the finding of the inquiry into this accident?
- (2) If the state of the track in that location presented a problem, will he advise at what speed the proposed Cairns to Brisbane tilt train will travel on that section?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/7/99):

1. At 5:00am on Tuesday 9 March 1999, Train 6760 departed Hinchinbrook for Ingham (eastern side of Cardwell Ranges), and passed over a reinforced concrete box culvert at the 1466. 150km mark. The

train became derailed due to a track wash-out, which resulted in one locomotive and 10 of the 29 vehicles being derailed. The QR investigation showed that the region had experienced 100mm of rain in a 24 hour period which resulted in the supporting infrastructure being washed away, leaving the track suspended. As a result, when the train encountered the track wash-out, it became derailed, as the track was not able to support the weight of the train.

2. The problem was caused by flooding and the issue is not expected to affect the speed of the Tilt Train or other trains using this section of track.

816. Moranbah District Health Council

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (10/6/99)—

With reference to the Moranbah District Health Council and its representation and as the Belyando Shire Council had a representative on its board, Mr Alan Gordan, who resigned some four months ago and as the Belyando Shire Council's new representative Councillor Margaret Finger has not yet been appointed by the Moranbah District Health Council—

Will she explain the delay in appointing the Belyando Shire Council's replacement on the Moranbah District Health Council and when can we expect that shire council's replacement to be appointed?

Mrs EDMOND (12/7/99): Members of District Health Councils are appointed as individuals and do not represent a particular body or organisation. When making recommendations to the Governor in Council for appointment of members to District Health Councils, the Health Services Act 1991 requires that the Minister must have regard to the need for community representation and the expertise and experience necessary to carry out the functions of the Council.

The Belyando Shire Council's nomination will be considered with other nominations for recommendation to fill the vacancy.

817. Transport Inspectors

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/6/99)—

- (1) How many hours of "on road" patrols were carried out by transport inspectors for the year to date compared with the same period last year?
- (2) How many breaches under transport legislation have been submitted for each period?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/7/99): There has been a small increase in total hours of transport inspectors over the period in question. The total hours performed in the first five months for 1998 was 98,700 hours compared with 100,100 hours for the same period in 1999.

818. Peach Review, Corrective Services

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/6/99)—

- (1) How many members were there in the Peach Review (Corrective Services) team?
- (2) How many of these members are employed or contracted to the Department of Corrective Services or its business units?
- (3) Will he list the positions, whether permanent, acting or temporary, now held by former members of the Peach Review in the department or its business units?

Mr BARTON (12/7/99):

(1) The team who conducted the Commission of Inquiry into corrective services in Queensland comprised 5 staff—a Chief Executive, an Executive Support Officer, and three Principal Project Officers.

(2) As at 24 June 1999, the five members of the Review team are employed by the Department of Corrective Services either in a permanent or seconded capacity were:

(3)

Frank Peach: Review position—Chief Executive; Current position—Director-General

Catherine Howe: Review position—Executive Assistant; Current position—Executive Assistant, Implementation Unit; Comments—Seconded from Dept of Premier and Cabinet; has recently won a position of Ministerial Correspondence Officer on merit commencing from 1/7/99

Therese Ellis-Smith: Review position—Principal Project Officer; Current position—Acting Manager, Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination; Comments—Permanent employee of the Department of Corrective Services. Position has been advertised in national press for open merit selection.

David Scott: Review position—Principal Project Officer; Current position—Acting Director, Office of the Director-General; Comments—Seconded from Dept of Education. Position has been advertised in national press for open merit selection.

Mark Kane: Review position—Principal Project Officer; Current position—Principal Project Officer, Implementation Unit; Comments—Seconded from Dept Premier and Cabinet until 30/9/99.

819. Greyhound Racing

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (10/6/99)—

What is (a) the number of pre-race swabs and post-race swabs taken at Greyhound meetings in Queensland from (i) 1 January 1998 to 31 December 1998 and (ii) 1 January 1999 to date and (b) the number of positive swabs returned from (i) 1 January 1998 to 31 December 1998 and (ii) 1 January 1999 to date?

Mr GIBBS (12/7/99):

- (a) (i) January 1998 to December 1998—2,735
- (ii) January 1999 to May 1999 (inclusive)—1,105
- (b) (i) January 1998 to December 1998—33
- (ii) January 1999 to May 1999—12.

820. Treasurer's Advance Account

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (10/6/99)—

With reference to the \$99.35m allocated to the Treasurer's Advance Account for 1998-99—

- (1) What was the balance of this account at 31 May?
- (2) What funds have been outlaid from this account so far in 1998-99?
- (3) To which departments and programs have these funds been outlaid?
- (4) In respect to each of these outlays, what was the date of each of these outlays and the specific purpose to which these funds were applied?

Mr HAMILL (23/6/99):

(1) The purpose of the Treasurer's Advance is to offset approved increases in departmental budgets during the year to provide for items which may emerge during the year and/or major items which are not able to be finalised for incorporation into departmental outlays.

(2) \$37.96 million has been allocated from the Treasurer's Advance as at 31 May 1999.

(3) The resultant expenditure of allocations made from the Treasurer's Advance are accounted for in the same manner as other departmental expenditure which is published in the relevant Ministerial Portfolio Statements and departmental annual reports.

(4) As per 3 above.

821. State Purchasing Policy

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/6/99)—

As he is responsible for, and in reference to, the State Purchasing Policy, will he provide a listing of all current standing offer arrangements and the associated companies for each department and Government owned enterprise by region for each of the following goods and services (a) stationery/office supplies, (b) office furniture, (c) uniforms/protective clothing, (d) hospital linen, (e) laundry services, (f) office equipment, (g) IT hardware, (h) IT software, (i) meals and (j) pharmaceuticals?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/7/99): I note the Honourable Member has accepted an invitation extended by me for a full briefing on SOAs under the State Purchasing Policy. Details of the current standing offer arrangements for the Department of Public Works and the Department of Housing are attached. Each department is responsible for ensuring compliance with the State Purchasing Policy, including installation of their own standing offer arrangements. Requests for information in relation to standing offer arrangements installed by other departments should be sought from the appropriate Ministers. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

822. Suspension/Exclusion of School Students

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Education (10/6/99)—

With reference to the suspension and exclusion of students from State schools—

- (1) What number of students have been suspended (listed by type of suspension) from schools for each of the last eight school terms (listed by school type and Education Queensland district)?
- (2) What number of students have been excluded from schools for each of the last eight school terms (listed by school type and Education Queensland district)?
- (3) What number of students have had their enrolment cancelled for each of the last eight school terms (listed by school type and Education Queensland district)?
- (4) How much money has been spent to date by Education Queensland on behaviour management during 1998-99?
- (5) What was the 1998-99 budget for behaviour management?
- (6) What is the reason for any trends that may have occurred in the number of suspensions, exclusions or cancellations listed above?

Mr WELLS (12/7/99):

1. It is not possible with the current database to determine with accuracy the number of students involved in each type of disciplinary absence.
 2. It is not possible with the current database to determine with accuracy the number of students involved in each type of disciplinary absence.
 3. It is not possible with the current database to determine with accuracy the number of students involved in each type of disciplinary absence.
 4. \$15.6m spent to end of May from 1998-99 budget.
 5. \$17.3m (includes salaries for 301.5 full-time equivalent positions for behaviour management staff appointed to education districts to work directly with schools).
 6. Variations in the number of suspensions and exclusions sometimes occur when schools wish to send a strong message about a particular type of behaviour to their school community. The effect may be a significant increase in suspensions.
- All state schools in Queensland have behaviour management plans developed through consultation with the members of their school community. Decisions about suspensions and exclusions in state school are therefore made in the context of these plans, which provide for a range of strategies from positive preventive measures to the more intensive and responsive actions of suspension or exclusion.

823. Electricity Distribution Corporation Assets; Ergon Energy

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (10/6/99)—

With reference to the fact that the Queensland Electricity Industry Regional Distribution Boards have accumulated considerable assets over a long period of time—

- (1) What arrangements have been made for the transfer of assets to Ergon Energy when the six regional boards are terminated at the end of June?
- (2) Will there be a complete transfer of all assets, including cash assets, held by the six boards being terminated on 30 June to Ergon Energy?
- (3) Will the Government take any portion of the funds, collateral value of assets or staff involved with the six regional boards?
- (4) What scrutiny will be applied to the process and will it be accessible to the Parliament?

Mr McGRADY (14/7/99):

- (1) The assets of the six regional electricity distribution corporations were transferred to Ergon Energy Corporation Limited on 30 June 1999 pursuant to orders of the Supreme Court of Queensland which gave effect to a scheme of arrangement under the Corporations Law. In doing so, the Government delivered on a key element of its electricity industry restructure which will improve governance arrangements in the industry, enhance reliability of supply and position the industry to be a stronger competitor in the National Electricity Market.
- (2) All assets, including cash assets, held by the six regional electricity distribution corporations on 29 June 1999 were transferred to Ergon Energy.
- (3) The Government did not take any of the funds, assets or staff involved with the six regional electricity distribution corporations.
- (4) The amalgamation of the six regional electricity distribution corporations into Ergon Energy took place pursuant to a Corporations Law scheme of arrangement. Notices of the relevant applications to the Supreme Court were published in the Gazette on 4 June 1999. The scheme of arrangement was approved by the Supreme Court on 23 June 1999.

824. Brisbane City Council, Workplace Health and Safety

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/6/99)—

With reference to his briefing document, "Matters for the Minister's Attention—21 December" which indicates under the heading "Critical Issues" that "The Division (Workplace Health and Safety) will continue with proceedings (against the Brisbane City Council) due to the BCC having a poor performance record in workplace health and safety"—

- (1) Upon what specific evidence does the Division of Workplace Health and Safety base its opinion of the BCC's performance record?
- (2) What was the outcome of the legal proceedings taken against the Brisbane City Council by the division?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99):

(1) Legal proceedings have been instigated against Brisbane City Council for breaches under the Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 in relation to the death of Siti Aziz on September 1996 at the St Lucia Ferry. Brisbane City Council has been convicted twice previously for breaches of the Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 with the latest decision being handed down on 8 August 1998.

(2) It is anticipated that the prosecution against Brisbane City Council will be listed for hearing in the near future.

825. Great South Pacific Express

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/6/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of the public concern expressed at the recent video promotion of the Great South Pacific Express?
- (2) What were the costs to Queensland Rail for this promotion?
- (3) How many Queensland Rail staff were involved in this promotion?
- (4) Were these staff costs met by GSPE or by Queensland Rail?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/7/99):

1. Public response to the promotion of the Great South Pacific Express on the Nine network's "Getaway" television program, was overwhelmingly positive and attracts more than 4 million viewers nationally.

2. The costs to QR were nil. The cost to the Heritage Train company was the transport accommodation and meals of the television crew.

3. No Queensland Rail staff were involved in producing the program.

4. Queensland Rail incurred no costs in the production of the television program.

826. Female Teachers, Superannuation Entitlements

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Education (10/6/99)—

With reference to the female teachers disadvantaged by departmental superannuation provisions—

- (1) How many female teachers graduated into the teaching service in each of the years between 1960 and 1970 and how many of these teachers are still employed by the department?
- (2) Will he support the Queensland Teachers Union in efforts to secure compensation for those female teachers who lost benefits like superannuation benefits because they were forced to resign upon marriage and become temporary teachers; if so, what action does he intend to take; if not, why not?

Mr WELLS (12/7/99):

(1) The available data shows a total of 4909 female teachers appointed during the years 1960 to 1970. Of these 2196 are still currently employed.

(2) I will give consideration to requests from the Queensland Teachers Union in efforts to address the superannuation entitlements of this group of female employees.

827. Teacher Aides

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Education (10/6/99)—

On the first pay day of each month during 1998-99

(a) what was the number of teacher-aides employed in Queensland State schools (listed by month), (b) how many FTE teacher-aides were employed and how many were (i) FTE full-time (ii) FTE part-time, (iii) FTE casual or (iv) FTE other (please specify) (listed by month), (c) what was the total amount paid to teacher-aides on each of these pay days (listed by month) and (d) what was the total amount paid to (i) FTE full-time, (ii) FTE part-time, (iii) FTE casual or (iv) FTE other (please specify) teacher-aides on each of these pay days (listed by month)?

Mr WELLS (12/7/99): Refer to Attachment A. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Notes:

1. Teacher-aides were converted to a new payroll system on pay date 28/2/99.

2. Prior to 14/2/99 teacher-aides were paid under the Micropay payroll system. 11 paying district offices were responsible for the payment of teacher-aides within their regions. These systems were archived following the conversion of teacher-aide salaries to the new centralised payroll system. Payroll data was not migrated from Micropay to the new system. For this reason only data extracted from the new payroll system has been included with this request.

3. The weekly award hours for teacher-aides are 38. Due to working arrangements only a very small number actually work 38 hours per week. It is generally considered that a teacher-aide employed for 32 hours per week is full-time.

4. The calculation of FTE assumes a full time employee works 32 hours per week.

5. The figures supplied include all employees working or on leave full pay.

6. Amounts stated include all salary and allowance payments.

828. Environment and Heritage and Natural Resources Portfolio, SES Positions

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (10/6/99)—

How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s and at what SES levels at (a) 1 July 1998 and (b) 31 March 1999?

Mr WELFORD (12/7/99):

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Classification	01/07/1998	31/03/1999
SES 4	0	0
SES 3	2	2
SES 2	3	7
SES 1	5	4
Total	10	13

Note to EPA Numbers

The increase in SES 2 level officers was a direct result of the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Classification	01/07/1998	31/03/1999
SES 4	1	1
SES 3	7	8
SES 2	22	23
SES 1	5	4
Total	35	36

Notes to DNR Numbers

Increase of SES 3 by one is the result of the creation of the position of Executive Director, Service Delivery to ensure the adoption of a best practice service delivery culture in the Department of Natural Resources.

Increase of SES 2 by one is due to the creation of the Chief Information Officer to provide the Department with a leadership role in Information Management.

When regional boundaries were changed an SES1 position was translated to a senior officer role.

At 31 March 1999, the SES 4 was vacant and subsequently has been filled.

829. Road Accident Fatalities

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/6/99)—

With reference to the significant increase in road fatalities so far this year compared to the same period last year—

- (1) In what category of incident are the increases significant?
- (2) To what are these increases attributed?
- (3) What are the comparative figures for traffic fines collections for this year compared to last year?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/7/99):

1. The major area of increase in 1999 has been in head-on crashes where, to June 27, this year there were 19 fatal head-on crashes, an increase of 9 (or 111 percent) on 1998 figures but a decrease of (or 17 percent) on the previous five year average. Fatal crashes involving a collision with a pedestrian have also increase, from 17 in 1998 to 21 in 1999 (a 24 percent increase).

It should be noted that Queensland's 1999 road toll of 132, while 14 percent above that of last year, remains 20 per cent below average for the last five years. Further, our fatality rate per capita this year, as for last year, remains the lowest of any Australian state.

In terms of crash involvement, there has been a significant drop in the number of heavy vehicles involved in fatal crashes to June 27 in 1999 (down 37 per cent) when compared with 1998. There have been 24 motorcycles involved in fatal crashes to 27 June 1999, an increase of 16 (or 200 per cent) on the 1998 figure but a decrease of 3 (or 13 per cent) on the 1994-97 average involvement of motor cycles in fatal crashes. Pedestrian involvement to 27 June has also increased, from 17 in 1998 to 26 in 1999 (a 65 per cent increase), although this compares with an average involvement of 34 for the same period 1994-97 (a decrease of 24 per cent in 1999).

2. The major contributing factors to fatal crashes and fatalities in 1999 to date are non-wearing of seatbelts, driving under the influence of alcohol, lack of attention or dangerous driving and speed. This is consistent with the major contributors in 1998.

Those fatal crash factors showing largest increases in 1999 are:

lack of attention/dangerous driving (up to 120 per cent);

failure to keep left/cross double lines (up 100 per cent);

speed (up 80 per cent on 1998 but down 16 per cent on the 1994-97 average).

The significant extension of the speed camera program in the second half of 1999 should help restrain the increase in the year's toll.

3. Fines collected 1 July 1998 to 25 June 1999*: \$52.5 million.

Fines collected 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998*: \$42.4 million.

* Includes some Queensland Rail and marine penalty notice payments.

830. Public Housing, Labrador

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/6/99)—

Will he list every address of any public housing dwellings in Labrador and provide a brief description?

Mr SCHWARTEN (8/7/99): As previously advised, there are 435 public housing dwellings in the Labrador area. These accommodate aged persons, people with a disability and low income earners who cannot find adequate and affordable accommodation in the private sector. The Honourable Member's request for me to publicly list the private home addresses of departmental tenants is an invasion of their privacy and I cannot and will not comply with that request.

831. Wide Bay Institute of TAFE, Bundaberg Marine College

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/6/99)—

- (1) In relation to the operation of the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE's Bundaberg Marine College, are there plans to relocate the facilities; if so, when would the department expect these plans to be enacted?
- (2) Is the department considering relocating this operation to Burnett Heads; if so, what reasons can he give for this proposal?
- (3) If the college is to be relocated, would the existing centrally located land be retained for future college use or disposed of?
- (4) What would any relocation cost the community in terms of equipment sale and repurchase costs and any construction or rebuilding costs at the new location?
- (5) Has any consideration been given to the possible impact on student numbers if the college is relocated to an area not well serviced by public transport and also given that the existing central city location is a strong selling point for the attraction of students from throughout Queensland and interstate?
- (6) Will any proposed move affect other areas of college operation which interact with the maritime and seafood handling courses or which use facilities located at the existing marine college?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

(1-6) The Institute has prepared a draft discussion document which identifies a range of options available to the college for its marine training program. This document is currently being assessed by the Bundaberg College Council. Discussions are at a preliminary stage and no firm decisions have yet been made.

832. Viviani Report

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/6/99)—

With reference to the 3-page Viviani Report for which his department paid \$11,000—

- (1) Will he table the documentary evidence on which Professor Viviani based her assessment that his department is "quite underpowered on the policy-making and advice side", while "it also carries a heavy staff overhang on the business development division and training division side"?
- (2) As in her report, Professor Viviani recommends devolution of industrial relations functions from DETIR head office to TAFE institutes (a) what industrial relations functions have been devolved since the Professor tabled her 3-page report and (b) what additional industrial

relations functions does he believe should be devolved?

- (3) As one of the terms of reference given to Professor Viviani was to "develop a framework for the preferred Governance arrangements at the (TAFE) Institute level" and in her brief report, what local, institute-specific governance arrangements did Professor Viviani recommend for TAFE institutes?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99):

- (1) Professor Viviani made an informed judgment which was incorporated in her report.
- (2) In accordance with the Government's Ten Point Plan To Safeguard TAFE Queensland there is a four year commitment to negotiate key wages and employment conditions centrally for the whole of TAFE.
- (3) As a result of the Bannikoff and Viviani Reports a "framework for the preferred governance arrangements at the (TAFE) Institute level" has been developed and will be published soon.

833. TAFE

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/6/99)—

With reference to part (2) of his response to Question on Notice No. 389 where he states "approximately 120 students will participate in furnishing industry training in the north/north-west Queensland region" and as the table accompanying the answer shows 12 such students in furnishing in that region—

Will he indicate (a) which figure (if either) is correct and (b) why is furnishing training not occurring in other regions?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

- (a) Both figures are correct. The attachment to Question on Notice No. 389 refers to round 1 of the 1999 Competitive Purchasing Program and Question on Notice No. 30 identified training delivery for 1998-1999.
- (b) Furnishing training is available to Queenslanders throughout the State. Competitive Funding is being used to purchase training specific to the needs of the North/North West region. This allocation is only a minor part of the total 660,000 hours allocated in 1999 to the furnishing training area statewide under the Competitive Purchasing Program, User Choice and direct grant to TAFE.

834. Anti-Discrimination Act

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (10/6/99)—

- (1) How many people have been charged under Section 126 of the Anti-Discrimination Act for each year for the last five years?

- (2) How many resulted in successful prosecutions and what penalty was imposed?
- (3) How many complaints has the Anti-Discrimination Commission received about the incitement to racial and/or religious hatred for each year for the last five years and in which regions of the State have these complaints come from?
- (4) How many people successfully prosecuted under Section 126 of the Anti-Discrimination Act have re-offended?
- (5) How many successful prosecutions have been made under the Criminal Code Part 2—Offences Against Public Order Chapter 7—Sedition, in relation to complaints made regarding incitement to racial and/or religious hatred amongst classes of Her Majesty's subjects in each of the last five years?

Mr FOLEY (2/7/99):

- (1) None
- (2) There were no prosecutions.
- (3) The Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland started recording inquiries about racial or religious hatred from 1 July 1998 and its records for 1 July 1998 to 31 May 1999 show that its Brisbane office received 63 inquiries about incitement of racial hatred and 66 inquiries from religious groups, many of which involved religious hatred. These inquiries could not be characterised as complaints under the Anti-Discrimination Act because pursuant to section 136, a person must set out in writing reasonably sufficient details to indicate an alleged contravention of the Act, and the acts in question must involve an incitement to contravene the Anti-Discrimination Act before action under section 126 of the Act could be taken.
- (4) See response to question 2.
- (5) The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has no record of any prosecutions for the offence of sedition in the last five years.

835. State School Student Numbers

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Education (10/6/99)—

With reference to State schools in Queensland—

- (1) What is the average number of students in each year level in each school district (listed by year level and district)?
- (2) What is the average enrolment in (i) primary schools, (ii) high schools, (iii) special schools and (iv) preschools in each district (listed by school type and district)?
- (3) What is the average pupil/teacher ratio in each year level in each district (listed by year level and district)?
- (4) What is the number of over-sized classes in each year level in each district and what is the number of students in each over-sized class (listed by year level and district)?

- (5) What are the estimated average enrolments for each year level in each district over the next ten years (listed by year level and district)?

Mr WELLS (12/7/99):

(1) See Attachment A. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) See Attachment B. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3-4) The department informs me that the data available centrally is based on the February Effective Enrolment Return. Because of the changing enrolments, this data will be in a state of constant change. District Office staff manage these changes by staffing schools appropriately within the Staffing Allocative Model. This model is based on the staffing ratios of 23.475 and 28.475 for Years 1-3 and 4-7 respectively.

Schools employ specialised teachers to supplement the needs of children. For example: Teacher/librarians, Music, Learning Support & Reading Recovery.

Information the Honourable Member seeks is available in school annual reports. The department informs me that these reports are not done centrally by Education Queensland.

(5) See Attachment F. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

836. Disposal of Unused Farm Chemicals

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/6/99)—

With reference to a recent conference of the South-West Queensland Local Government Association at which some delegates expressed alarm about the dangerous situation existing at council rubbish tips caused by the disposal of used farm chemical containers and as it is patently obvious some containers are not rinsed as requested, while others still contain highly concentrated chemical liquids—

- (1) When will the national strategy for the collection of unused farm chemicals be finalised and implemented?
- (2) When will Queensland's Environmental Planning Policy (Waste) be released?
- (3) What assistance does his department intend to offer local governments to manage the serious environmental and human health risk?

Mr WELFORD (12/7/99):

(1) The proposed National Collection, Storage and Destruction Scheme for unused farm chemicals is a joint State/Commonwealth program which will be considered for approval at the meeting of ANZECC Ministers in July 1999. If approved implementation can be expected to commence in 1999.

(2) The draft of the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy (EPP Waste) was released for final key stakeholder consultation on 11 June 1999

and meetings with those groups will be held during July 1999. Depending on the outcome of these meetings, the EPP Waste and associated regulation could be in place by early 2000.

(3) The Environmental Protection Agency administers the Regional Waste Management Planning Funding Scheme. This scheme, now in its second year, is providing \$800 000 over three years to local governments to assist the development of regional waste management strategic plans. In addition, the Agency is providing technical advice to assist the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning in the administration of the Landfill Remediation Assessment Program which has \$7.5 million available over two years to subsidise up to 50 percent of the cost of investigative work to assess environmental risk from landfills closed prior to July 1998.

837. Goods and Services Tax

Mr BLACK asked the Treasurer (11/6/99)—

- (1) How will the introduction of the GST impact on Queensland?
- (2) What steps have been taken to prepare for the introduction of the GST?
- (3) Have the direct and indirect costs to Government and to business been assessed; if so, what are those costs and how will those costs be defrayed or absorbed?
- (4) Has the implementation of the GST been analysed by Government and the costs or benefits to the people assessed; if so, will the different groups be affected?
- (5) Will the State Government offer compensation of any sort to disaffected persons or groups?

Mr HAMILL (5/7/99):

1. The GST represents a major shift in the Australian taxation system, from direct to indirect taxation and to include services. The GST is likely to increase the gap between rich and poor in Queensland as most of the available evidence suggests that, even with the removal of food from the tax net, the new system is inherently more regressive than the existing system. In addition, the GST will negatively affect the tourism sector as Queensland holidays become relatively more expensive as a proportion of average income and in comparison to overseas alternatives.

2. Queensland Treasury has established a GST Implementation Unit to assist Government agencies to prepare for the implementation of a GST.

3. Queensland will incur a number of direct and indirect costs as a result of the implementation of the GST. Direct costs include the collection of the tax itself whilst indirect costs include increased costs of public housing and an increased demand for welfare from low income earners and charities. Whilst some additional funding will be provided to cover whole of government aspects of implementation, some costs will be met through existing departmental budgets.

With respect to business costs, I am very concerned about evidence suggesting that small business will share a disproportionate share of the compliance

burden. The GST will represent a substantial cost for some small businesses and may be too great a cost for some to bear. The Federal Government has earmarked \$500 million to assist small business with the transition to a GST but details of how this pool is to be distributed have yet to be announced.

4. Refer to (1) above. In addition, I refer the Member to the Queensland Government submission to the Senate Select Committee on a New Tax System.

5. No. The Queensland Government does not support the Commonwealth Government's introduction of a GST and the Queensland Government will not have additional resources to compensate those who are disadvantaged. The GST is a federal policy and, as such, responsibility for any compensation lies with the Federal Government.

838. Ipswich District, Police Beat Shopfronts

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (11/6/99)—

With reference to the rise in crime around the Ipswich City Central Business Development and suburban shopping centres—

- (1) Has he investigated the installation of a police beat shop front in the Brassall shopping centre, Brassall; if so, could he indicate if the police manning this police beat shop front will be drawn from Ipswich or Karana Downs?
- (2) How many police beat shop front centres are in the Ipswich region?
- (3) Will he indicate a completion stage for a police beat shop front for the Brassall shopping centre?

Mr BARTON (12/7/99):

(1) The Queensland Police Service considers all proposals received in relation to potential locations for Police Beat Shopfronts. At any one time a range of sites across Queensland are being investigated. A small number of proposals are ultimately successful. The establishment of a Police Beat Shop Front at Brassall Shopping Centre will ultimately be determined by a range of factors, including an identified policing need in the Brassall area, local crime levels and police facilities currently available in the area. It will also be measured against the need for such facilities in other areas of the state.

Vacancies for these positions are advertised in the Police Gazette. Police personnel from across Queensland are afforded the opportunity to apply.

(2) Of the 35 Police Beat Shop Fronts in Queensland, three (3) are currently located in the Ipswich Police District. They are situated at Ipswich City Mall, Redbank Plaza Shopping Centre and Booval Fair Shopping Centre.

(3) See (1) above.

839. Trade Tariffs, United States of America

Dr PRENZLER asked the Premier (11/6/99)—

With reference to my Question Without Notice on 9 June when I referred him to his recent trade mission to the United States—

- (1) What discussions did he have with the USDA and others regarding the constant use by that country of tariffs to protect their farmers, often to the detriment of ours and the concept of free world trade?
- (2) What agricultural trade did he discuss on his mission and what results did he achieve for Queensland and Australia?
- (3) What other trade did he discuss?
- (4) As a result of his discussions, what dialogue will he instigate with the Prime Minister regarding Australian agricultural product access to the United States?

Mr BEATTIE (12/7/99):

(1) Under international trade protocols, the Federal Government has responsibility for raising international trade issues such as tariffs with foreign countries, rather than State Governments. However, the Queensland Government has recently forwarded a submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on Australia's Approach to Further Multilateral Trade Reform and Queensland's Priorities for World Trade Organisation Negotiations. The submission provides detailed information on Queensland's major issues and priorities for agricultural trade reform and argues strongly that Australian negotiators should secure a commitment from the United States to reduce the level of trade distorting agricultural assistance provided to its farmers.

(2 & 3) The focus of my visit to the United States was to launch Queensland's 10-year Biotechnology Strategy at Bio'99, the world's biggest biotechnology conference and exhibition, and to investigate opportunities for the development in Queensland of new age industries arising from biotechnology and IT&T. This included examining the various economic development models that have been implemented in the United States to diversify regional economies. Industries based on biotechnology will have a major impact on Queensland's agriculture, making traditional agriculture more competitive and making possible new products developed from our crops and native flora and fauna. The long-term goal is thousands of new jobs for Queenslanders throughout the State.

The State's biotechnology industry is working overtime to follow up contacts made as a result of our participation in Bio'99. It is crucial to the State's future that we establish ourselves as a major hub for bioindustry development in the Asia-Pacific region. Multimillion dollar business leads are now being followed up by Queensland companies as a result of this Mission. The nine Queensland organisations at the Australia Pavilion—the largest contingent from any state—report they have all met the targets they had set. They are all pursuing between five and 10 serious leads in areas such as strategic partnering, research collaborations and licensing arrangements. Already, eight confidentiality agreements have been exchanged. These arrangements are the first stage of strategic partnering negotiations. The Mission participants report that they have all achieved goals

of publicising themselves, networking and establishing relationships for partnering and investment. They report a total of 82 serious leads that will lead to millions of dollars investment and trade. The Queensland Government stand received many worthwhile inquiries from large pharmaceutical companies, venture capitalists, biotech companies, research organisations and overseas trade organisations. Our Los Angeles trade office and our Biotechnology Taskforce are currently following-up seven serious leads and 50 general investment inquiries from Bio'99. Of the 122 Australians attending the conference, nearly 50 were Queenslanders on my Mission, with 32 of those Queenslanders from the biotechnology industry. So we dominated what was the fourth largest international delegation.

I also met with a number of representatives from the United States Tourism/Hospitality, Call Centre, Agriculture, Film and Television, Academic, Defence/Aviation and Medical Instrument sectors.

(4) The Queensland Government submission on Australia's Approach to Further Multilateral Trade Reform and Queensland's Priorities for World Trade Organisation Negotiations, argues that the upcoming agriculture talks in December 1999 provide an opportunity to build on the Agreement on Agriculture and to secure further commitments to improve market access and reduce tariffs, export subsidies and trade distorting domestic support arrangements across all agricultural industries. Queensland has requested that the Federal Government consult the Queensland State Government during the development of Australia's negotiating position and as the World Trade Organisation negotiations progress.

840. Venture Capital Industry

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (11/6/99)—

With reference to his speaking of his determination to develop a much needed venture capital industry in Queensland despite Queensland's tax regime discouraging the venture capital industry to seriously consider Queensland, along with capital gains and the proposed GST which are Federal impositions and, although former Treasurer Keith de Lacy halved the Queensland Stamp Duty on listed share trading and as Queensland still has full stamp duty on unlisted share trading and trading in intellectual property and trading and thus funding of intellectual property and unlisted shares often rely on venture capital—

What plans does he have to make the Queensland tax environment more attractive to the venture capital industry?

Mr BEATTIE (9/7/99): I am determined to do everything I can to make Queensland the Smart State. This includes the development of biotechnology research and the development of bioindustries as a major employer.

The major deterrent to the investment of venture capital in developing the results of biotechnological research lies in the Federal Government's capital gains tax.

I have repeatedly warned that Australia could miss out on the growth industries of the future, such as biotechnology, unless the Howard Government adjusts its capital gains tax to reward long term investment.

Queensland has a burgeoning biotechnology sector crying out for capital, but while there are hundreds of millions of dollars available in the global venture capital market, our rigid capital gains tax approach is scaring investment away.

While those interested in a quick buck should pay their fair share of tax, the tax system should not penalise venture capital investors who are willing to support the development of new, job-creating industries.

We have no shortage of good ideas, but there is a critical shortage of investment in what could turn out to be the major employers of the next century.

Stamp duty generally does not apply to the allotment or issue of share capital in listed or unlisted corporations. Under the national regime which applies to marketable security duty, the transfer of shares in companies including venture capital companies will attract on-market duty in the State where the order is placed with a broker and off-market duty based on the place of incorporation of the company.

This duty is at the lower marketable security rate of .6% of the consideration or value of the shares. For listed companies, the rate is still lower being .3%. In addition, the rate applies to the value of the shares after taking into account all assets and liabilities of the company.

There is no stamp duty on trading in intellectual property as such. The initial grant or transfer of intellectual property rights is not presently assessed to stamp duty although dealings with intellectual property can attract duty when part of a larger transaction.

Under the National Tax Package proposed by the Commonwealth, marketable securities duty on quoted securities will be abolished from 1 July 2001.

Queensland's low tax regime benefits the venture capital industries and other industries by providing a low cost environment. Queensland tax rates are generally lower than other Australian jurisdictions and financial institutions duty does not apply in this State.

841. Taxi Licences

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/6/99)—

With reference to swivel-seat cab licences—

- (1) How does he justify the misdirection of a benefit that he says was to offset the cost of providing a service to people not providing that service?
- (2) How does a contract with Yellow Cabs bind lessees in other companies?
- (3) How does he defend the single service provider system when it eventually had to be dismantled?

(4) After the single service provider system had to be dismantled, why have the people so grievously disadvantaged by its establishment not had their disadvantages redressed?

(5) Why were arrangements for "pioneer" operators to purchase licences at the ground floor concealed from operators not in Yellow Cabs?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/7/99):

1. There was no misdirection of a benefit.
2. It didn't.
3. Changes to the provision of wheelchair accessible taxi service licences occurred because an increase in such licences and the entry into performance based contracts with taxi booking companies.
4. It is not accepted that there was any "grievous disadvantage".
5. There has been no concealment of arrangements from operators.

842. TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/6/99)—

Will he table the relevant monthly financial print-outs for March, April and May which detail the financial status of each TAFE institute and each TAFE college within each TAFE Queensland institute?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): No. The proper process for seeking such information is pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act where appropriate.

843. Kingston, Toxic Waste Dump

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/6/99)—

With reference to the toxic waste problems suffered by the Diamond Street area at Kingston in my electorate which surfaced because of the old gold mine and as various Governments took action to cap and seal off this area some years ago and recently I have been alerted by residents that they believe that leaching is occurring again from this site—

- (1) What monitoring has been done by his department since the capping of the mine site and the toxic waste dump?
- (2) Are any reports available on this monitoring; if so, will he make them available to me as the member?
- (3) Is he aware of any environmental problems that are being caused from the site?

Mr WELFORD (12/7/99):

(1) My Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been monitoring the groundwater quality at Mount Taylor Park since the capping of the mine site and the sealing of the toxic waste dump. Egis Consulting Australia are contracted to monitor and establish baseline data of concentrations of heavy metals and chlorobenzenes in different aquifers of Mount Taylor

Park. Results reported indicate no abnormal levels of contaminants for such an old mine site.

(2) Egis Consulting Australia have prepared a draft Report for Groundwater Monitoring—Mount Taylor April 1999. I will forward a copy of this report to the Honourable Member.

(3) I am not aware of the existence of any environmental problems at this site. However, Erosion Solutions International Pty Ltd have been contracted by the EPA to restore eroded areas of Mount Taylor Park.

844. Sundale Landfill Site

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/6/99)—

Will he detail negotiations and any arrangements made with the Gold Coast City Council to close the Sundale landfill site?

Mr WELFORD (12/7/99): I am advised that there is no landfill located at Sundale. Mr Grice may be referring to Suntown Landfill which is located at Arundel.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has responsibility for licensing environmentally relevant activities such as landfills under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. Gold Coast City Council applied for licence for all of its landfills and was provided with a draft licence by EPA officers as a basis for negotiations between EPA and Council.

The licence application was granted on 23 June 1999.

845. Spectacle Supply Scheme

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health (11/6/99)—

With reference to the many optometrists who are indicating that whilst they are prepared to provide some assistance to the Spectacle Supply Scheme, they are unable to continue to provide care to more than 50 per cent of their customers at a loss and as optometrists are also concerned that the standard of some of the spectacles provided under this scheme reflects poorly upon their own business—

What will the Health Department do to resolve this problem?

Mrs EDMOND (12/7/99): Queensland Health is currently in the process of introducing measures to better align the provision of services with clients' clinical need and the target population. These measures address specific concerns raised by optometrists. Regarding the standard of spectacles, I am advised that they are part of the normal range available on the market, they meet the relevant Australian Standard (AS2228—1992), were selected by a panel that included specialist advice and are guaranteed by the supplier for a period of two years against faulty workmanship and materials.

846. Nambour Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (11/6/99)—

How many beds has the State Government decided to close at Nambour Hospital and how many jobs will be lost?

Mrs EDMOND (12/7/99): The responsibility rests with the Sunshine Coast Health Service District for the delivery of health services within the budget resources provided. The number of beds on-line at any point in time is a local decision based on the demand for services. Seasonal fluctuations in demand do occur and are planned for.

The previous Minister for Health clearly understood this issue when he stated "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds."

The Sunshine Coast Health Service District proposes to increase the number of beds available at Nambour Hospital during the current winter period. It is anticipated that the full bed capacity of the hospital will be available should the winter demand warrant this.

The need for beds to be available at Nambour will be assessed on an ongoing basis given that significant additional beds will come online when the Noosa Private Hospital is opened in September 1999.

847. Jury Service

Mr FELDMAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (11/6/99)—

With reference to the recent spate of articles concerning the reduction of professional people making themselves available for jury service and to the fact that statistics indicate that this task is seemingly falling onto the shoulders of the lower socio-economic groups in society, as reported by the Queensland Law Society—

Is it time we received the exemptions under the Act and allowed retired professionals such as retired police and retired Correctional Service officers to sit on juries?

Mr FOLEY (24/6/99): The current Jury Act 1995 was drafted following a review of jury legislation in other Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand, and of the Report of the Departmental Committee on Jury Service presented to the British Parliament in April 1965. Parliament passed the legislation which made retired police officers and correctional officers ineligible for jury service. Other professional persons, whether retired or not, may serve on juries.

848. Education Portfolio, Expenditure

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Education (11/6/99)—

With reference to expenditure within his portfolio, in 1998-99, on promotion, advertising and hospitality—

- (1) What was the advertising, promotion and hospitality of (a) his department and (b) other portfolio agencies?
- (2) How much has been spent to date, in 1998-99, on advertising, promotion and hospitality and what is the detailed breakdown of this expenditure?
- (3) How much has (a) his department and (b) other portfolio agencies spent on hospitality (including meals, etcetera) for staff, guests and others since 1 July 1998 and what was the purpose of each meeting/event/activity where hospitality was provided?
- (4) For each item of expenditure detailed above, who authorised the expenditure and to which companies, individuals or others was this money paid (including details of individual amounts paid and dates of payment)?

Mr WELLS (12/7/99):

1. Education is implementing a new SAP system and revised cost centres. Expenditure by Education Queensland, including schools, in 1998-99 on advertising was \$577,950.21 and on catering \$755,373.14. The expenditure on catering includes other costs such as venue hire and accommodation. Expenditure at training and development activities is also included. The department informs me that information from schools on promotion is not maintained in the department's ledgers and is not readily available.

The expenditure on catering covers conferences, workshops, meetings and training for teachers, public servants, teacher aides and administrative staff in schools, district offices and central office met through the department's financial system.

Expenditure on advertising by the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies was \$38,049.84. There was no expenditure on advertising by either Queensland School Curriculum Council or the Tertiary Entrance Procedures Authority.

Expenditure on catering by the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies, Queensland School Curriculum Council and the Tertiary Entrance Procedures Authority was \$12,056.77, \$15,282.28 and \$5,734.47 respectively.

2. Refer to Question 1.

3. The department informs me that no specific details are kept on "hospitality" expenditure or purpose.

4. The department informs me that there are several thousand individual transactions which support the expenditures outlined above. It is not practical to access the supporting documentation and provide the details sought.

849. North Queensland, Electricity Charges

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (11/6/99)—

With reference to a recent business survey which predicted that North Queensland businesses could pay up to 40 per cent more for their electricity,

relative to business in southern Queensland, under a deregulated energy market—

- (1) Why will these businesses be worse off?
- (2) Are North Queensland businesses that consume more than \$20,000 of electricity able to negotiate a deal with alternative suppliers; if not, why not?
- (3) Will he oppose moves from within the Government to dispense with the \$90m electricity price subsidy scheme and will he guarantee it will be retained to ensure real prices to consumers in rural, remote and provincial Queensland do not rise?
- (4) What contingencies has he developed for North Queensland in the event that the proposed Chevron gas pipeline does not proceed?
- (5) If the gas pipeline does not proceed, to what extent will North Queensland businesses be further disadvantaged if gas cannot be supplied to the existing generators at Stuart and Yabulu and the planned new generator for the Korea Zinc project?

Mr McGRADY (14/7/99):

(1) No Queensland business will be required to pay higher electricity prices due to the introduction of the competitive electricity market in Queensland. Contestable customers will not be worse off—they can elect to enter the competitive market and achieve a lower price than they pay now or continue to receive safety net tariff support.

(2) From 1 July 1999, electricity consumers connected to the State grid (including those in North Queensland) that use more than 0.2 MWh of electricity a year will be able to negotiate electricity supply with the supplier of their choice.

(3) A key element of the Government's electricity strategy is ongoing support for rural and remote areas of Queensland. Franchise electricity consumers, including those in regional areas of the State, have achieved significant reductions in their real electricity prices. The nominal tariff level has not been increased since 1994.

(4) The Government is doing everything possible to encourage the entry of new energy infrastructure in north Queensland, including the Chevron gas pipeline.

(5) The Government is acutely aware of the benefits of the Chevron gas pipeline to North Queensland and the benefits gas supply would bring to generators and businesses in the region. The Government is doing everything it can to ensure the pipeline has the maximum opportunity to succeed as well as facilitating alternative gas supply arrangements such as the proposed Transfield pipeline to Townsville.

850. Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area, Land Valuations

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/6/99)—

With reference to his decision to re-issue land valuation notices for the Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigation area, based on the same flawed criteria which resulted in valuation increases of up to 1000 per cent and to his recent visit to the area, when he refused to acknowledge the concerns of landholders with the valuation method and instead chastised them saying they, and I quote, "Should be grateful that a minister visited them"—

- (1) Why does he refuse to use his powers under the Valuation of Land Act 1944 to exempt those shires, as he has exempted other shires in Labor-held electorates?
- (2) When will he honour the Government's pre-election promise, as made by the Member for Greenslopes, to conduct an independent review of the valuation process?

Mr WELFORD (12/7/99):

(1) The exercising of my powers under the Valuation of Land Act 1944 to exempt a local government from an annual valuation is only undertaken after I have considered a market assessment of that local government by my Department of Natural Resources. Such assessments are a normal part of my Department's valuation process under that Act and indicate if there is an appreciable movement of values either upwards or downwards. In this case, the assessment indicated that a valuation of the shires of Atherton and Mareeba should be undertaken.

(2) The commitment by the Member for Greenslopes to an independent review of the valuations issued in that area in 1998 has been honoured. In October 1998, I appointed Mr Randall Warren, a former President of the Australian Property Institute, as an independent chair to review landowners' objections to the valuation increases in Coorparoo. I remain committed to the continuous improvement of my Department's valuation process that commenced in 1996 following a review of the State's valuation system. My Department is currently preparing a range of legislative amendments to address various concerns with the process and I intend to introduce these amendments to Parliament later this year.

851. SES Helicopters, Use by Members of Parliament

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (11/6/99)—

As the Minister responsible for the rescue helicopters, since 26 June 1998 will she provide the following information pertaining to each individual utilisation of the services of a helicopter for transport by Government Ministers and Members (a) what was the purpose of the trip, (b) what was the type of helicopter utilised and who was it owned by, (c) what was the destination of the trip, (d) what was the cost, including (i) hire or charter, (ii) staff wages, (iii) fuel, (iv) refreshments served and (v) any other costs involved, (e) where was the helicopter based at the time it was determined it was required for use, (f) what was the cost of repositioning to enable use, (g) who approved the use of the helicopter, (h) why was a helicopter utilised as opposed to other forms of

transport, both air and land and (i) what investigations were made to ensure that it would not be required for emergency duties?

Mrs ROSE (12/7/99):

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g). Between 26 June 1998 and 16 June 1999, Government Ministers and Members have utilised the services of the Department of Emergency Services helicopters on seven occasions. These flights included six trips to inspect flood damage and one flight for Ministerial transport. The details of these flights are attached. No refreshments were served.

(h) Following disaster events, the State's emergency helicopters are often used by the Premier and Ministers to inspect disaster affected areas in conjunction with senior officers of the State Counter Disaster Organisation. Inspection by helicopter is often the most effective method of inspecting disaster affected areas. This is particularly so in the case of flooding. With regard to the inspection of the Mackay region cane crop, the use of a helicopter was the most practical vehicle for the inspection.

(i) All requests for use of the State's emergency helicopters are referred to the senior pilot at the relevant DES Air Unit or community helicopter provider. The principle for the use of the emergency helicopters is that priority is given to emergency tasks. The location of the State's emergency helicopters is monitored by Queensland Ambulance Communication Centres and if an emergency task needs to be undertaken, aircraft are diverted to the higher priority task.

With regard to the Brisbane based Squirrel helicopter, because there is no budget for the aircraft, the Department of Emergency Services has Cabinet endorsement for a "user-pays" system for its use. Should the Squirrel be used by a Minister's office or Government Department or Agency then the source of the tasking is responsible for meeting the costs involved. Guidelines for use of the Department of Emergency Service's Squirrel helicopter in accordance with the "user-pays" system were first issued in December 1996. Revised Guidelines detailing amended hiring charges were reissued in November 1998.

In the case of the task for the Deputy Premier on 19 March 1999 the costs involved were met by the Department of State Development on 27 April 1999.

As a comparison, I have included the breakdown of Ministerial use of emergency helicopters for the financial years 1996-97 and 1997-98. It suggests that the previous government utilised Queensland Rescue as its personal air taxi. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

852. Dalby TAFE Campus

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/6/99)—

With reference to part (2) of his response to Question on Notice No. 381—

What specific items were included in the \$115,000 "for other associated costs" and how much was expended on each such item?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

The "other associated costs" included \$65,000 for computing equipment purchased for use in the new facility and subsequently used in the leased facility, and \$50,000 for professional fees paid to Project Services, Department of Works.

853. Queensland Rail, Staff Training

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/6/99)—

- (1) What training workshops, seminars or courses have been attended by the staff of Queensland Rail?
- (2) What was the number of attendees, venue, duration and purpose of each?
- (3) What was the cost of each and the total expenditure including travel and accommodation costs?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/7/99):

1. Queensland Rail conducts an array of training courses for its staff generally categorised as follows:

Operation and Safety Training

There are a total of approximately 60 separate courses in this area, including such things as First Aid, Trackside Safety, Accident Investigation, Radio Procedures, Centralised Traffic Control, Electrification Safety Awareness, Guards' Duties and Dangerous Goods.

Track and Technical Training

Technical training ranges from electrical and mechanical maintenance programs on locomotives and rollingstock to the installation and maintenance of signalling systems. Track training covers the maintenance and repair of bridges and the installation and maintenance of railway line crossings and facilities. There are approximately 70 courses in this area.

Organisational/Management Training

This area covers general training needs and organisational requirements including Recruitment and Selection training, Workplace Training, Corporate Induction, First Aid Instructors Course and Coaching and Mentoring Skills. It also includes Leadership Development, Managerial and Task training, and Front Line Management for Supervisors. There are approximately 35 Courses within area.

2. As per industry standard, training activity in Queensland Rail is recorded using total training day format. The number of participants is multiplied by the number of course days. With Queensland Rail's major reform program and the changing nature of the rail industry, the demand for upskilling employees is significant. Naturally, employees may undertake several training courses during a 12 month period.

The total estimated number of training days during this financial year (year to date 22 June 1999) was 1, 060, 243. The total estimated number of participants

was 12, 430. The total number of courses run by or for Queensland Rail was 1, 889.

Venues utilised include Queensland Rail locations, such as the Training Centres in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville, as well as external locations across the State, depending on Course requirements and availability of suitable facilities.

3. Total training expenditure incurred by Queensland Rail during the 1998/1999 financial year (year to date 22 June 1999), was \$8.63 million. Given the diverse and large number of training courses operated by Queensland Rail, it is not possible, within the current timeframe, to individually breakdown costs for each course.

854. Education Department Publication

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Education (11/6/99)—

With reference to the document entitled "The next decade: a discussion about the future of Queensland State schools"—

- (1) What was the total cost of this publication?
- (2) Who was responsible for approving the content of this publication?
- (3) Which departmental unit, or external agency produced this publication?
- (4) What was the source of each of the photographs contained in the publication?
- (5) How many of the children displayed in photographs throughout the publication are Queenslanders?
- (6) How many of the children displayed in photographs throughout the publication attend Queensland State schools?
- (7) If any of the children displayed are not Queenslanders, or do not attend Queensland State schools, where are they from and why were they included in the publication (please indicate which photos indicate children who are not from Queensland or from Queensland State schools)?

Mr WELLS (12/7/99):

1. The total cost of printing the publication was \$38 658 for 70 000 copies, an average cost of 55 cents per copy.

2. The Human Services Cabinet Committee approved the content of the publication, prior to publication.

3. The Strategic Policy Branch of the Office of Strategic Planning and Portfolio Services of Education Queensland produced the publication.

4. Photographs used in the publication were sourced from: Education Queensland stock and Stills Photo Library, which is Brisbane based; with a small number sourced from Photo CD, an American publication.

5-7. The majority of the students portrayed are Queensland students, who attend state schools. Data is not available on which schools each child attends.

855. Leading School Principals

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Education (11/6/99)—

With reference to disturbing allegations received by my office that former phase one and phase two Leading School principals are being and will continue to be excluded from consideration for certain roles such as positions on staff selection panels—

Will he, as Minister for Education, provide an unequivocal assurance that these principals are not (and will not be) subject to any reprisals or any discrimination of any kind as a result of any Government or union prejudice arising from their previous association with the Leading Schools program?

Mr WELLS (12/7/99): Education Queensland values the contribution that its teachers and principals, make to the quality of education programs delivered in our schools. School principals, in particular, play an important role in selection of professional and support staff at their school sites and in the broader context, contribute to the selection of principals and other officers at sites other than their own.

Refined selection procedures for the selection of principals are to be introduced from July this year. Under these procedures, each selection panel will consist of a nominee of Education Queensland, a nominee of the Queensland Teachers Union as standing panellists, a community representative and be chaired by a District Director or nominee.

The choice of principals for selection is handled by the Department in a totally non-discriminatory way. As evidence of this, of the seventeen (17) principals nominated by Education Queensland to undergo extensive training in preparation for this important role, eleven (11) or 65% are from schools that previously identified as phase 1 or phase 2 Leading Schools.

The Queensland Teachers Union independently selects their own nominees for selection panels.

856. Charleville-Cunnamulla Rail Line

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/6/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of concerns of rail workers and residents in the State's south west about the maintenance of the rail line from Charleville to Cunnamulla?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that sufficient funds will be allocated for this line to be safely maintained and that there will be no cut back of services on that route?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/7/99):

1. Queensland Rail is aware of the current condition of this lightly trafficked branchline in the South West of the State.

2. Queensland Rail's maintenance practices provide for cyclic re-sleeping programs which supplement local workforce maintenance activities with programs carried out by high production re-sleeping gangs.

Work for the Cunnamulla branch will be listed for attention within these programs.

857. Queensland Health, Laundry Services

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Health (11/6/99)—

With reference to laundry services for Queensland Health—

- (1) Who is the laundry service provider engaged for each individual health facility?
- (2) What is the cost of laundry services for each individual health facility?
- (3) What was the total revenue for laundry services in 1998-99 (year to date) from Queensland Health operated laundry facilities?
- (4) What were the total expenses for laundry services in 1998-99 (year to date) from Queensland Health operated laundry facilities?
- (5) What is the presence or absence of standing offer arrangements in place for any or all laundry services?

Mrs EDMOND (12/7/99):

- (1) Laundry services within Queensland Health are generally provided by Queensland Health operated laundry facilities. The exceptions are:

Queensland Corrections provide laundry services to Townsville, Rockhampton, Ipswich and Southport hospitals;

Prestige Laundry provides services for the Cairns hospital;

Rockhampton Steam Laundry provides services to North Rockhampton Nursing Home, Eventide Nursing Home and Yeppoon hospital;

Deluxe Laundry Services provides services for the Redcliffe hospital.

- (2) Queensland Health does not maintain statistics on the cost of laundry services to each individual facility.

(3) and (4) Queensland Health does not individualise revenue and expense details for discrete elements of any service within a District. Such details could only be provided through an exhaustive, manual survey of all health care facilities in the State.

(5) Standing offer arrangements are in place for a range of products associated with laundry and linen services provided to Queensland Health. These include linen and uniforms, chemicals and consumables. All standing offer arrangements are established within State purchasing policy guidelines and are regularly reviewed and readvertised in line with client demand.

858. Brisbane City Council, Ombudsman's Investigation

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (11/6/99)—

With reference to the Ombudsman's investigation of a complaint made against Brisbane City Council by three companies, Floating Images, Inflatable Images and Giant Balloons and as the Ombudsman's inquiries have been totally frustrated by Brisbane City Council, to the extent that "He has been unable to determine when the report would be forwarded to his office"—

What action will he take or has he taken to ensure the Ombudsman's inquiries are expedited?

Mr MACKENROTH (7/7/99): The Ombudsman has significant investigative powers pursuant to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1974 with which to obtain any information necessary in this instance. The Ombudsman acts independently of the Government and I have no power to direct the Brisbane City Council in relation to the Ombudsman's investigation.

859. Gold Coast, Quarrying Industry

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (11/6/99)—

With reference to housing which is encroaching on quarry resources and quarrying on the Gold Coast, particularly in relation to the Nucrush quarry at Oxenford, near Movieworld and as the situation is symptomatic of pressure from development on the important quarrying industry in the Gold Coast Shire, which produces the bulk of quarrying construction products for South-east Queensland—

- (1) Is he aware of the importance of the Gold Coast quarrying industry to the construction industry, Statewide?
- (2) Is he satisfied that adequate funding and planning mechanisms are in place to ensure that local government provide for adequate separation distances between quarry resources and activity and residential development?

Mr MACKENROTH (7/7/99):

(1) The issue of the importance of the quarrying industry in this State is one primarily for my Cabinet colleague, the Minister for Mines and Energy, the Honourable A McGrady. However, I understand the Nucrush Oxenford Quarry was the fourth largest producer of quarry rock in the Gold Coast City area in 1997-1998.

(2) State Cabinet approved the development of a State Planning Policy for Extractive Resources in May 1999. The policy will address the issues of buffering of extractive industry operations and their haul routes in particular from urban encroachment. Similarly, these issues will be considered as part of the State Interest review of the draft Gold Coast City Council's Planning Scheme anticipated in July 1999.

The current rezoning application lodged with Gold Coast City Council for residential development and related activities on the site opposite the Nucrush Oxenford quarry is currently being considered by Gold Coast City Council. Should Council approve the application it will be forwarded to the State

Government for Governor in Council approval. At that time a review of the application will be undertaken by officers of my Department to ensure buffering of quarrying operations and haul routes have been adequately considered before I take a recommendation to the Governor in Council.

860. Firearm-related Crimes

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (11/6/99)—

How many firearm related crimes have occurred from 1 January 1998 to 31 December 1998 and from 1 January 1999 to 31 May 1999 and will he breakdown these as follows (a) the number committed with legally held long arms, (b) the number committed with legally held concealable firearms, (c) the number committed with stolen or unregistered long arms and (d) the number committed with stolen or unregistered hand guns?

Mr BARTON (12/7/99): Between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 1998 there were 614 firearm related offences.

Between 1 January 1998 and 31 May 1999 there were 267 firearm related offences.

The actual type and/or category of weapon involved in offences is not recorded on the Police Service Crime Recording Information System for Police (CRISP). The Queensland Police Service are therefore unable to provide the information requested.

861. Electricity Corporations, CSO Payments

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (11/6/99)—

With reference to the CSO payments made to the electricity industry—

For each electricity corporation or unit will he provide (a) the quantum of the CSO payments for each electricity corporation or unit for 1997-98 and (b) the expected quantum of CSO payments for each electricity corporation or unit for 1998-99?

Mr HAMILL (2/7/99):

(a) Ergon Energy received a CSO payment of \$96 million for 1997-98

(b) The Budget makes provision for the payment of \$90.5 million to Ergon Energy in respect of 1998-99. The actual level of payment is currently being determined with electricity retailers but is likely to significantly exceed this level reflecting relatively higher energy prices over the course of 1998-99.

862. Barcoo Shire; Currareva Partnership, Irrigation Licence

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/6/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of an application by the Currareva Partnership to the Barcoo Shire for a change of land use which anticipates the transfer of the irrigation licence issued to Hammond Downs to Currareva?

- (2) Can he confirm that all irrigation licences matters are frozen until the draft water plan is finalised?
- (3) Will he give an assurance that any such transfer will require a public consultation process?
- (4) Is it the Labor Government's intention to permit large-scale irrigation on the Cooper?

Mr WELFORD (12/7/99):

(1) I am aware that the Currareva Partnership has lodged a development application with the Barcoo Shire. Application fees were received on 15 June 1999

(2) There is a statutory hold in place for dealing with all applications, except those of minor nature as presented in the Water Resources Act, until the planning process for the Cooper Catchment Water Management Plan is finalised. This statutory hold includes dealing with large scale irrigation licence applications that were outstanding at the commencement of the water management planning process and any applications lodged since the commencement of the planning process.

(3) Any decision relating to any proposed transfer of licences in the Cooper Catchment will be based on public consultation. Any applications to transfer a licence in an area such as the Cooper system are treated as new applications because of the increase in benefit to the subject land. Across the State, consultation on new water works licence applications, is undertaken with affected people through the normal advertising and investigation into objection processes set out in the Water Resources Act 1989.

In the case when a Water Management Plan has been prepared, consultation is also undertaken up front and on a catchment basis so that a full assessment of cumulative impacts can be considered. In accordance with the Water Resources Act 1989, decisions made on applications cannot be inconsistent with the finalised Water Management Plan and would also have regard for any local matters investigated following the advertising of the application.

(4) The Beattie Government's policy on large scale irrigation development in the Cooper system will be set out in the final Cooper Catchment Water Management Plan.

863. Bundaberg, Mental Health Service

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health (11/6/99)—

- (1) What was the budget allocation for mental health services for the Bundaberg Health District and what percentage of appropriation was quarantined to ensure mental health services were provided by the district?
- (2) Of the additional \$1.1m special budget allocation set aside in the Coalition's 1998-99 Budget for community programs for mental health in adults and youth, how much of that has now been allocated to mental health

services in the Bundaberg District Health Service?

- (3) Of the eleven additional health workers to be employed under this special funding arrangement to appropriately staff the Adult Community Mental Health and Child and Youth Community Health programs, how many have now been employed, how many psychiatrists are now employed at the service and are they on hand on weekends?
- (4) Will the Bundaberg Health District be establishing an integrated mental health service and how will it be funded?
- (5) Has the integrated mental health service established targeted services such as mobile intensive treatment, acute care and treatment, case management, assessment and triage?
- (6) How many child and youth mental health teams are located in the Bundaberg District and what targeted services do they offer the population?
- (7) How many child and youth mental health beds are located in the Bundaberg Health District?
- (8) What will be the anticipated budget of Bundaberg's mental health service in 1999-2000?

Mrs EDMOND (12/7/99):

(1) Bundaberg Mental Health Service budget allocation for 1998/99 was in excess of \$3.3 million. The Bundaberg Health Service District has an obligation to provide mental health care as part of the Service Agreement that is negotiated with each District every financial year. These services include adult inpatient care, adult community mental health care and child and youth community based care.

The Service Agreement requires regular reporting of activity and progress made towards the implementation of the Queensland Health Ten Year Mental Health Strategy.

(2) In the Coalition 1998/99 Budget allocation, \$521,600 full year costs were provided to enhance Bundaberg District's child and youth mental health services. The Labor State 1998/99 Budget saw an increase in this allocation to annual recurrent funding in excess of \$1.3 million provided for community based adult (seven clinical staff), child and youth (four clinical staff) mental health services in Bundaberg. The ability of Bundaberg Mental Health Services to provide a comprehensive service to the District has been enhanced by the development and expansion of a new Mental Health Service in the Fraser Coast; including extra specialist psychiatric services, psychologists, child and youth mental health workers and a 14 bed inpatient facility; and in the North Burnett District. In effect, this means that the Bundaberg service has more staff concentrating on service delivery in a smaller geographic area.

(3) There has been significant progress in the recruitment of staff for new mental health positions. Appointments have been finalised for a consultant psychiatrist, senior medical officer, two psychologists, a welfare worker, a speech pathologist, and two registered nurses.

One position in psychiatry remains vacant as does an occupational therapy position and a team leader position. Applications have been received for the team leader and occupational therapy position and the psychiatry position will be advertised in the near future.

Planning is under way for the development of an acute response service.

(4) An Integrated Mental Health Service has been operating in Bundaberg since July 1995, and has provided both inpatient and community based mental health care.

(5) The Integrated Mental Health Services provides acute care and treatment, case management, triage and assessment services. Mobile intensive treatment services are not currently available. However, the additional resources provided have enabled the commencement of planning for an acute response service for those clients needing to access care on weekends as well as weekdays.

(6) A Child and Youth Mental Health Service has been established in Bundaberg since 1995. This team also provides services to communities in Gayndah, Biggenden, Mundubbera, Eidsvold and Monto. The team provides intake, assessment and case management service for clients requiring care for a range of mental health issues.

(7) Child and youth mental health inpatient beds are being developed in accordance with statewide plans for mental health hospital redevelopment. The Bundaberg Health Service District refers children requiring inpatient admission for mental illness to tertiary services in Brisbane.

(8) The anticipated budget for mental health services in Bundaberg in 1999/2000 will be at a level not less than that currently allocated.

864. Correctional Facilities, Laundry Services

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (11/6/99)—

With reference to laundry services provide by correctional facilities within Queensland—

Against each correctional facility will he list (a) the customers/agencies for each facility, (b) the number of prisoners involved in laundry services, (c) the hourly rate of pay of said prisoners, (d) the total revenue for each month of 1998-99 (year to date) from laundry services, (e) the total expenses for each month of 1998-99 (year to date) for laundry services and (f) the presence or absence of standing offer arrangements in place for any or all laundry services?

Mr BARTON (15/7/99): I refer the Member to Sessional Order 69A and advise that the parameters of the question as currently drafted, are unduly expansive and would place excessive demands upon the resources of departmental staff requested to address them. The Department of Corrective Services has informed me that the requested information is not readily accessible or easily retrievable by departmental staff.

865. Education Portfolio, Legal Proceedings

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Education (11/6/99)—

With reference to legal action commenced by or involving his department or portfolio agencies—

- (1) Will he list (a) all parties that his department or portfolio agencies have commenced legal proceedings against (including dispute and tribunal hearings, conciliation and arbitration) since 1 July 1998, (b) the reason for each action, (c) the cost to the department or portfolio agency to date for each action, (d) if the matter has been finalised, (e) the outcome of each action including the name of the party ordered to pay legal costs and (f) any terms of settlement?
- (2) Will he list (a) all parties that have commenced legal proceedings (including dispute and tribunal hearings, conciliation and arbitration) against his department or portfolio agencies since 1 July 1998, (b) the reason for each action, (c) the cost to the department or portfolio agency to date for each action, (d) if the matter has been finalised, (e) the outcome of each action including the name of the party ordered to pay legal costs and (f) any terms of settlement?
- (3) For each of the cases listed in (1) and (2) above (a) who provided legal advice and advocacy (including barristers) and (b) what was the amount paid to each person, firm or Government agency?

Mr WELLS (12/7/99): It is inappropriate to provide a detailed response to a question of this kind about which another party could claim privilege. It is also inappropriate to provide details of matters that a party may claim anonymity pursuant to Section 145 of the Anti Discrimination Act, and it is inappropriate to provide information that would not be obtainable pursuant to a application under the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

I refer the Honourable Member to Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992, and Rule 981 of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules.

However, in response to the Member for Indooroopilly's question, I am informed that the total amount of payment to legal advisers including counsels fees by Education Queensland since 1 July 1998 is \$79,135.40. The total amount of costs to date are \$85,453.00 and the total number of claims are 45.

866. WorkCover, Research Priorities

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/6/99)—

With reference to page 4 of the December Quarterly Report to the Minister responsible for WorkCover Queensland in which it is indicated that research priorities are to be established as part of the planning cycle in early 1999, prior to determining future funding and recipients—

- (1) What research priorities have been established and implemented?
- (2) What funding has been allocated to these research priorities?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99):

(1) I am advised that as a result of the Futuris service delivery project and subsequent internal structural changes undertaken at WorkCover, the planning cycle for 1999 was deferred and is only now being undertaken. The determination of research priorities is part of this process.

(2) In order to ensure that there is funding available, \$250,000 has been allocated in the 1999/2000 budget for projects resulting from the planning process or any external submissions received which support and add value to WorkCover and its customers.

Also WorkCover has agreed to continue its commitment to fund the Chair of Orthopaedics until 30 June 2001 at a cost of \$350,000 per year.

867. Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (11/6/99)—

With reference to the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99—

- (1) How many claims were made on the fund by consumers who were misled by real estate agents?
- (2) How much was paid from the fund to these claimants?
- (3) How many claimants did not receive successful claims?
- (4) How many claims were made on the fund by consumers who were misled by car sellers?
- (5) How much was paid from the fund to these claimants?
- (6) How many claimants did not receive successful claims?

Ms SPENCE (12/7/99): The activities of real estate agents and motor dealers are regulated under the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971. Between them, real estate agents and motor dealers handle two of the most significant transactions that consumers are likely to make; namely the purchase of a house and a car. As such, the community has a right to expect that persons practising in these occupations are trustworthy. Sadly, this trust is sometimes abused, resulting in consumers suffering financial loss.

One of the purposes of the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund is to compensate consumers who have suffered a loss because of the misrepresentations made by real estate agents and motor dealers. Consumers, in this context, also include members of the business community.

Misrepresentations by real estate agents can include such things as misdescription of property offered for

sale and misappropriation of deposits and rental moneys entrusted.

Misrepresentations by motor dealers can include the failure to honour a statutory obligation to guarantee clear title to a motor vehicle and false representations about a motor vehicle's quality, age and distance travelled.

(1) In relation to the specific questions raised by Mr Davidson regarding claims made by consumers in their dealing with real estate agents, 171 claims were settled by the Auctioneers and Agents Committee in 1996-97, 176 claims in 1997-98 and 206 in 1998-99.

(2) This resulted in \$292,669.25 being paid to those claimants from the Fund in 1996-97, \$203,414.98 in 1997-98 and \$632,928.54 in 1998-99.

(3) Because some claims did not meet the criteria specified under the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971, 10 claims were disallowed by the Committee in 1996-97, 37 in 1997-98 and 13 in 1998-99.

(4) In relation to motor dealers, 92 claims were settled by the Auctioneers and Agents Committee in 1996-97, 174 in 1997-98 and 91 in 1998-99.

(5) These claims resulted in \$335,887.18 being paid from the Fund in 1996-97, \$971,813.43 in 1997-98 and \$279,270.81 in 1998-99.

(6) There were 10 claims relating to motor dealers that were disallowed in 1996-97, 12 in 1997-98 and 29 in 1998-99.

While the number of claims can fluctuate from year to year within each industry group, the value of those claims can also vary significantly. In total, 553 claims to the value of \$1,129,012.77 were paid from the Fund in relation to real estate agents over the past three years. During the same period, 357 claims to the value of \$1,586,971.42 were paid in respect of motor dealers.

868. Group Training Schemes

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/6/99)—

With reference to his briefing document "Matters for the Minister's Attention—21 December"—

Will he provide to and table in the Parliament the summary report of key issues, mentioned under the heading "Group Training Schemes"?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): No. The proper process for seeking such information is pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act where appropriate.

869. WorkCover, Information Regarding Claimants

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/6/99)—

With reference to access through Freedom of Information processes to seven memoranda from officers N. Guy and A. Hawkins of WorkCover to him which has appropriately been denied on the grounds that these documents relate to the personal affairs of individual claimants, they detail medical information,

treatment and personal relationship matters of those claimants—

Why is he interested in these personal and confidential issues?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): In these instances, my office received inquiries from claimants regarding their workers compensation claims. In order to answer the concerns I received relevant information on the matters raised from WorkCover, which was provided in a confidential information brief. This information was then discussed directly with the claimants.

870. TAFE

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/6/99)—

With reference to his Question Time Brief No. 10 obtained by the Coalition through Freedom of Information and to the following statement referring to the Long Report "An unofficial copy of what was believed to be the report was made available to individual TAFE officers in February 1998"—

- (1) Will he table a copy of one of those "unofficial" copies and detail the differences between such "unofficial" copies and the original?
- (2) Will he indicate what is meant by "the disk copy" which is mentioned in the same paragraph?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99):

- (1) I never received a copy of the "unofficial" report.
- (2) "The disk copy" refers to the copy of the report held on disk, which I am advised was delivered to the former Minister's office.

871. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/6/99)—

With reference to the following departmental research document "Evaluation of the Impact of VET Reforms on Queensland apprenticeships and traineeships—Report 2, User Choice", page 6, the text "approximately one third of employers were aware that they had a choice of RTOs" accompanies a histogram which indicates 45 per cent of employers were aware that they had such a choice—

Will he give an assurance that other histograms in this research project are not incorrectly labelled or described?

Mr BRADY (12/7/99): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations the answer is yes.

872. Queensland Transport, Corporate Services Division

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/6/99)—

- (1) What was the budgetary position of the Corporate Services Division of Queensland Transport at the end of May?

- (2) What are the expected budget carryovers for the Corporate Services Division?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/7/99):

1. As at the end of May 1999, the budget position of the Corporate Services Division was within available funds.
2. Budget carryovers in the order of \$4.7 Million are expected in relation to the TRAILS project but it is unlikely that there will be any significant carryovers in other areas.

873. Education Portfolio, Staffing

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (11/6/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 October 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 employed in each sub-program, by sub-program and (f) how many of these were on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?
- (2) At 1 October 1998 (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 October 1998 (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 October 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

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 portfolio?

Mr WELLS (12/7/99):

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 grounds-care), 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.

874. Regional Forest Agreement

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/6/99)—

- (1) Will he guarantee there will be no job losses due to the proposed RFA including industry related jobs?
- (2) Will the access to timber on private land be maintained?
- (3) Will he guarantee that trees farmed on private land for the growers retirement fund/superannuation remain accessible?

Mr WELFORD (12/7/99):

(1) The Government is committed to a Regional Forest Agreement based on an increase in industry-related jobs through the development of a world class timber industry incorporating a high level of value adding, improved productivity, downstream processing and expansion of softwood and hardwood plantations with adequate financial support from the State and Commonwealth Governments.

(2) The Government's policies are aimed at better supporting—and certainly not threatening—the livelihoods of landholders who sustainably grow, manage and harvest timber resources on their freehold land, consistent with the National Forest Policy Statement.

(3) The Government is strongly committed to the sustainable utilisation of private native forests, as well as public and private plantation forestry, as productive alternatives to land clearing as well as an enhanced and more secure future supply for the timber industry.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

625. Emergency Services Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/5/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by her portfolio—

Will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 25 June 1998 up to and including 29 April 1999 by portfolio area and subprogram?

Mrs ROSE (27/8/99): (Replacement for answer tabled on 24/6/99—see Hansard 20/7/99, p.2608)

The consultancies engaged by the Department of Emergency Services for the period 25 June 1998 to 29 April 1999 are presented in the attached revised Table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

These consultancies have been engaged in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy, defining consultancies separately to contractors.

673. School Uniforms; Freedom of Information Request

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education (26/5/99)—

With reference to various letters concerning school uniforms to fellow Members of Parliament and school parent and citizen associations from himself or his staff stating that Education Queensland was "investigating various options that are available, some of which might involve legislative changes" (or words of a similar nature)—

- (1) Did the department provide him with formal advice of those options it was investigating prior to his ministerial statement on 3 March outlining his chosen strategy?
- (2) Did those options include the strategy he announced in this House; if so, was it the department's preferred or recommended option?
- (3) Why did the Opposition's freedom-of-information application (FOI 1362) not secure this departmental advice or any evidence of the investigation referred to in his letters?

Mr WELLS (16/8/99) (Supplementary answer—see Hansard 20/7/99, p.2626):

As stated in answer 673 regarding "various options that are available" there was no formal written departmental documentation of advice on the matter—other than what was previously provided to the Opposition under FOI applications.

An unsigned draft of advice to the Minister was worked on but this was preliminary and was cancelled by the drafting officer without being formally submitted to the Minister.

The working draft was used as the basis of a conversation with the Minister.

The department officer made it available to the Minister in an unsigned form on the basis that it did not represent his concluded view on the subject.

For this reason the draft was not signed by the drafting officer or cleared by his superior for formal submission to the Minister.

The Departmental Register of Briefs confirms that it did not proceed to the status of a formal submission to the Minister.

However the Minister has retrieved this draft from a Crown Law adviser involved in the conversations referred to above and, given the honourable member's interest in the history of how the present successful school uniform policy came into being, the Minister is happy to make it available to the honourable member, with the appropriate matters relating to legal advice blacked out, as per FOI protocols.

875. Jury Service

Mr BLACK asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (20/7/99)—

With reference to the recent spate of articles concerning the reduction of professional people making themselves available for jury service and the fact that statistics indicate that this task is seemingly falling onto the shoulders of the lower socio-economic groups in society, as reported by the Queensland Law Society—

Is it time the exemptions were reviewed under the Act to allow retired professionals such as retired police and retired correctional service officers to sit on juries?

Mr FOLEY (19/8/99): The Jury Act 1995 was drafted following a review of jury legislation in other Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand, and of the Report of the Departmental Committee of Jury Service presented to the British Parliament in April 1965. Parliament passed the legislation which made retired police officers and correctional officers ineligible for jury service. Other professional persons, whether retired or not, may serve on juries.

876. Traffic Accidents, Fuel Spills

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Emergency Services (20/7/99)—

With reference to traffic incidents—

- (1) What is the cost of the product that is used to perform fuel spill mop-ups after traffic incidents?
- (2) Whose budget covers the cost of this product?
- (3) Are the motorists involved responsible for these costs; if so, to whom does the repayment go?
- (4) Does the money go back to the same budget that covered the cost of the product; if not, why not?

Mrs ROSE (19/8/99):

- (1) The Diatomaceous Earth material is used to mop up fuel spills and costs \$7.50 per 20 Kg bag.
- (2) The cost of the product is met by individual regional operations budgets of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority.
- (3) and (4) The current Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority Code of Practice for charging for attendance at incidents does not prescribe that charges shall apply for the use of absorbent material to pick up fuel spills at vehicle incidents.

877. Warrill Valley, Water Supply

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/7/99)—

With reference to proposed off-stream storage at the Ebenezer mines adjacent to the Warrill Creek to augment water supply from the Moogerah Dam for agricultural irrigation and electricity generation—

- (1) Is this proposal still under consideration by his department and what is the estimated cost of the storage and associated infrastructure?
- (2) If still under consideration, when can the users of water from the Warrill Valley expect it to proceed?
- (3) How much additional yield for irrigation will be then reallocated to the Warrill Valley farmers from Moogerah Dam and at what cost per megalitre?
- (4) Apart from supply for electricity generation, will this stored water be used for any other purposes and at what cost per megalitre?

Mr WELFORD (18/8/99):

- (1) This proposal is no longer under consideration by my Department of Natural Resources.

Unfortunately, there was insufficient time before commencement of backfilling of the mine pit for the availability of water from the Warrill Creek system or the long term viability of the proposal to be confirmed.

To change the whole mine operation to retain an adequate void for an offstream storage would have required a commitment of over \$3M in a project that may not have proved viable.

The total cost of the project would have been in excess of \$15M and would have required a significant commitment of Government funds for it to proceed.

DNR will continue investigations of other potential sources in the Warrill Valley including the possibility of use of other future mine pits and additionally, will explore the possibility of recycling of wastewater for irrigation.

- (2), (3) and (4) Answer not necessary, given response to (1).

878. Burdekin Electorate, Boat Ramps

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/7/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of the disgraceful condition of boat ramps in the Burdekin electorate and the lack of facilities at these ramps?
- (2) Is he also aware that these ramps were built to service the population levels of around 20 and 30 years ago and the majority of anglers travel south from Townsville to use these ramps on a regular basis?
- (3) What plan does he have in place to improve these boat ramps and their facilities so that boat users can see where their boat and trailer registration fees are being spent?

Mr BREDHAUER (19/8/99):

- (1) The Burdekin electorate has eight part tide boat ramps provided and maintained by the Government, with management of the total facility vested in the local management authority. It is the local management authority's responsibility to carry out the day to day maintenance.

- (2) A boating facility study to assess activity and demand in the Burdekin electorate recommended that the existing facilities were sufficient for the expected small growth in the regions' population. The study estimated that only 13% of the Townsville boating public regularly use Burdekin boating facilities.

- (3) Funds for boating facilities are not directly allocated from the moneys collected from registration fees. Apart from providing infrastructure such as boat ramps, Government also contributes to services such as boating safety education and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol. Queensland Transport also funds the provision and maintenance of landing facilities such as jetties and pontoons; navigation channels; and navigation aids for all recreational boating users throughout Queensland.

879. Oil Recyclers Australia Pty Ltd; Wulkuraka Industrial Estate

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/7/99)—

With reference to ORA Pty Ltd Petroleum Products UN NO. 1271 hazchem 3YE which is operating at the Wulkuraka Industrial Estate, Leichhardt, recycling oil and fuel products—

- (1) Is he aware of an oil spill that took place at this industrial estate where the oil was buried in the ground and is now leaching into the water table?
- (2) Can he indicate how long this company has operated at this location?
- (3) What permits have been issued for this oil company to operate in a suburban area and has the local authority issued any authority for this company to operate?

Mr WELFORD (18/8/99):

- (1) No. My Environmental Protection Agency has no record of an oil spill at the Oil Recyclers Australia Pty Ltd (ORA) site located in the Wulkuraka Industrial Estate, Leichhardt. Your allegation of oil pollution is

currently being investigated by officers of my Agency.

(2) The information available to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicates that ORA has been operating an oil depot at their current address for approximately 7 years.

(3) No licences or permits have been issued by the EPA for this site. Again my officers will investigate the Company's obligations, if any, to become licensed under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 by the EPA.

The activity of recycling oil and fuel products (oil refining) is currently the subject of a Planning and Environment Court Appeal decision of 29 September 1998 where the Ipswich City Council were ordered to allow the activity to be carried out if certain requirements are met. The Council is currently assessing these requirements.

Town planning consent was granted by the Ipswich City Council on 10 August 1992 for the Company to operate a waste oil depot in the Wulkuraka Industrial Estate. This approval is still current.

880. Jidabul Aboriginal Corporation; Bulowarr Farm

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (20/7/99)—

(1) Can she highlight any assistance she could provide to the new Board of Directors of the Jidabul Corporation based in Ravenshoe on the Tablelands in resolving the problems that have arisen out of the breakdown of the former board, and in particular, issues surrounding Bulowarr Farm?

(2) Can she detail any assistance that could be given to businesses and private citizens who have found themselves out of pocket because of previous mismanagement?

Ms SPENCE (19/8/99):

(1) Regional staff in my Cape York Office have been attending meetings with the new Jidabul Board of Directors, and are working together with staff from the Cairns office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the Department of State Development to develop strategies to address the current issues of Bulowarr farm.

(2) The Jidabul Aboriginal Corporation purchased Bulowarr Farm as a freehold property and existing creditors are able to pursue issues through normal legal processes.

881. South Burnett Meatworks, Murgon

Mrs PRATT asked the Premier (20/7/99)—

With reference to the Murgon Meatworks debacle and Government assistance given to AMH's Dinmore meatworks—

(1) On what grounds did he accuse Murgon Meatworks of mismanagement?

(2) Why hasn't his Government yet released the amount of assistance given to Dinmore, having publicly proclaimed assistance has been given?

(3) What is the monetary value of the assistance given to AMH?

(4) What other incentives, if any, were given?

Mr BEATTIE (19/8/99): Queensland is Australia's foremost beef producer accounting for around 80 per cent of the country's beef exports. This industry was in decline when my Government came to power in June 1998 and faced the threat of major operators shifting their operations to other states or offshore. I acted swiftly to reverse this trend by creating a \$12 million industry assistance program to stimulate new investment in this vital sector. This Government is determined to create jobs, jobs, jobs for all Queenslanders no matter where they live throughout the State's regions. In the first 14 months of this Government, more than 45,500 jobs were created throughout the State; 84 per cent of these were full-time. We are continuing the drive to lower the unemployment rate by examining employment and job creation projects on a region-by-region basis.

(1) The South Burnett Meatworks Cooperative Association's situation is a matter of public knowledge. For example, the Cooperative's own bank withdrew its credit facility from the meatworks; the Cooperative's own Board appointed an Administrator on 8 June 1999; the unsecured debts; and many of the Cooperative's own members no longer supplied cattle to the South Burnett Meatworks.

(2) Information regarding details of the assistance package for AH at Dinmore is not currently commercially confidential.

(3) None.

(4) My Government wants the Murgon Meatworks to continue to operate as we recognise its importance to the community.

882. Morningside Police Station; Police Resources

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (20/7/99)—

With reference to the nonplus response by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to an incident at the Monte Carlo Caravan Park, Morningside in relation to a serious incident on Wednesday, 14 July 1999 at about 8 pm, when one of the concerned residents of the park stated that at about that time a violent disturbance occurred in the park with a potential for serious injury. (The resident phoned the Morningside Police Station only to be told there was one officer on duty and he did not have a police vehicle; this was repeated when the Camp Hill Police Station was telephoned and when he phoned Police Operations Centre, a female officer asked him, "Can this wait till tomorrow, we are extremely busy?" or words to that effect and the resident hung up in disgust. In frustration, he redialled the Camp Hill station as the disturbance was getting worse and advised that officer that unless police arrived soon,

he would have to unlock his gun safe to protect his family and home and within minutes, several police units that were busy before suddenly appeared and the disturbance quelled) (20/7/99)—

- (1) How many stations in this area are working single officer patrols?
- (2) As this is not an isolated incident, is it only when a member of the public threatens to defend himself in his home with the use of force that the incident suddenly receives the priority it deserves from the QPS?
- (3) Is the pressure to reduce the recreational leave balance of serving operational police prior to the year 2000 reducing the capacity of the QPS to respond to pressing and urgent matters in the public domain?
- (4) What does he intend to do to ensure that this direction by the Assistant Commissioner with respect to reduction of recreational leave is not adversely affecting the capacity of police to respond to their various communities' needs?

Mr BARTON (19/8/99):

(1) All stations within the area—Morningside, Camp Hill and Coorparoo—use more than one officer for patrolling duties, however, there are occasions when one officer only will attend to routine non-urgent follow-up policing duties on minor matters.

(2) No.

(3 & 4) In catering for an event such as the Olympic Games it is important to ensure that maximum police resources are available to minimise threats to public safety and security. To this end, the taking of leave needs to be concentrated into a shorter time frame for a period of time prior to the event. Any impact in Queensland from this necessity, is similar to that being experienced in New South Wales. However, it should be noted that any impact is minimised by the enormous growth in sworn strength resulting from the Beattie Labor Government's continued delivery of record police numbers.

As the Honourable Member would be aware, calls for police assistance are by necessity ranked according to priority. At the time of the complainant's call officers of the Morningside Police Station, along with numerous officers from other Metropolitan South police stations, were attending matters relating to a siege incident in the area. However, the matter referred to above was passed to the Police Communications Centre, and an officer from the communications centre telephoned the complainant soon after. At that time, the complainant advised the matter was getting out of hand, and a car was despatched within minutes. Upon arrival at the caravan park, police were advised that a person responsible for causing damage had offered to make restitution. No further complaint was made by the complainant. In the interim a second complainant telephoned the Camp Hill Police Station. As Camp Hill Officers were planning to attend they were advised that the patrol car despatched by the communications centre was attending, and so telephoned the second complainant, and advised of the situation. Police attendance at the incident

resulted from the initial call to the Morningside Police Station.

883. Mines and Energy Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr McGRADY (19/8/99):

(1) The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

(2) The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

884. Emergency Services Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for her portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for her portfolio/s and its entities?

Mrs ROSE (19/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

885. Transport and Main Roads Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed

capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr BREDHAUER (19/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

886. Environment and Heritage and Natural Resources Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr WELFORD (18/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

887. Premier and Cabinet Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr BEATTIE (16/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

888. Health Portfolio, Capital Works

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for her portfolio/s and its entities?

- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for her portfolio/s and its entities?

Mrs EDMOND (19/8/99): (1 & 2) The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

889. Education Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr WELLS (19/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

890. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Women's Policy and Fair Trading Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for her portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for her portfolio/s and its entities?

Ms SPENCE (19/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

891. Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr MACKENROTH (19/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

892. State Development and Trade Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr ELDER (19/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

893. Tourism, Sport and Racing Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr GIBBS (20/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

894. Primary Industries Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

895. Treasury Portfolio, Capital Works

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr BEATTIE (16/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

896. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for her portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for her portfolio/s and its entities?

Ms BLIGH (19/8/99):

- (1) The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming 1999/00 State Budget.

(2) The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming 1999/00 State Budget.

897. Public Works and Housing Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr SCHWARTEN (19/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

898. Justice and Attorney-General Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr FOLEY (19/8/99): (1 & 2) The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

899. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital

outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr BARTON (19/8/99): (1 & 2) The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

900. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (20/7/99)—

- (1) What was the actual expenditure figures of the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?
- (2) What was the estimated person-weeks of employment generation figures associated with the total capital (outlays) works program (fixed capital expenditure, plant and equipment, capital grants and subsidies and other capital outlays) for 1998-99 for his portfolio/s and its entities?

Mr BRADY (19/8/99): The information will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

901. Public Housing

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/7/99)—

With reference to public housing at 30 June 1999—

- (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) couples (without children), (b) couples (with children), (c) single (with children), (d) single (without children) and (e) others 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 six months, (b) six months to 11 months, (c) one to two years, (d) two to three years, (e) three to four years and (f) greater than four years in total and by area office?
- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 July 1998 and 30 June 1999 in total and by area office?
- (5) How many applicants were allocated public housing during the month of June 1999?
- (6) How many evictions of public housing tenants have occurred during the month of June 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (19/8/99):

- (1) As at 30 June 1999, there were a total of 24,243 applicants on the public housing waitlist. 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 waitlist by family type as at 30 June 1999. (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 waitlist by wait time in months, and by area office as at 30 June 1999. (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 July 1998 and 30 June 1999 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 June 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(6) During the month of June 1999, 14 public housing tenants were evicted.

902. Biloela, HACC Program Funding

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Health (20/7/99)—

- (1) What HACC funding is provided to the Biloela community?
- (2) What changes are envisaged to this funding?
- (3) What applications for additional funding have been unsuccessful in the past year and why?

Mrs EDMOND (19/8/99):

(1) The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program provides a total of \$249,401 in recurrent funds in the Biloela area.

(2) The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming state budget.

(3) I am advised that two requests for increased HACC Program funding in 1998/99 were received from service providers in Biloela and were not successful.

Applications for additional funding through the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program are prioritised and based on identified needs in the area. The level of funds allocated to each HACC Planning Area is dependent upon the total quantum of funds available to meet these needs.

903. Nerang-Broadbeach Road, Upgrade

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/7/99)—

With reference to the Nerang Broadbeach Road upgrade in my electorate, and in particular, to the area between Garden Grove and Carrara Roads—

- (1) Is it correct that the District Director, John Worrall, at the March public meeting agreed to further consultation with affected residents regarding buffer zones sizes?
- (2) Is it also correct that no such consultation has occurred four months later and that the consultants, Maunsell McIntyre, are working

with Main Roads drawings with the buffer zones of no more than 10 metres?

- (3) When will the promised consultation occur and what efforts will he take to ensure that local residents' concerns are addressed?

Mr BREDHAUER (19/8/99):

(1) The District Director in Nerang did undertake to conduct further consultation with affected residents along the Nerang-Broadbeach Road.

(2) Individual phone calls have since been made to all owners of properties by consultants, Maunsell McIntyre, on behalf of the District Director. Letters have also been sent to every owner and resident, and District Office staff have held discussions with various elected Carrara community groups.

The proposed width of the buffer varies along the length of the road from about 7 to 18 metres. The final widths will be sent as a consequence of the consultation process.

(3) Consultation will continue in accordance with standard Main Roads practices and consistent with the director's undertaking.

904. Liquor Act

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (20/7/99)—

With reference to the National Competition Policy Review of the Queensland Liquor Act 1992, the push by the "big 3" supermarkets to access liquor sales and the growing concerns surrounding NCP—

- (1) What is the Government's intention in protecting small business (ie hotels and clubs) from this grab of market share by large conglomerates?
- (2) As easy access to alcohol is currently available via hotels, off site bottle shops and clubs, what community benefit will be gained by disadvantaging small operators in preference to larger conglomerates?
- (3) What consideration has been given by Government to employment impacts if access to alcohol sales is given to the major conglomerates?

Mr FOLEY (19/8/99): Under the Administrative Arrangements, the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing is responsible for the Liquor Act 1992 and questions should be directed to the responsible Minister.

905. St George, Water Storage

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/7/99)—

With reference to the fact that the Ministerial Council for the Murray Darling Basin had agreed to Queensland constructing the St George off stream, the Condamine Weir and the Nangram Weir prior to a cap on allocations being made—

- (1) Why does he now include these projects in the WAMP process thereby delaying construction of these job creating projects?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that these much needed projects will be funded and become realities in the very near future?

Mr WELFORD (18/8/99):

(1) The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council noted Queensland's interim cap arrangements which provided for, amongst other things, the progressing of planning for a number of water infrastructure schemes including the St George Offstream Storage. The Queensland Government's commitment to advancing the planning for these important projects is evidenced by the considerable effort that is being invested in assessing the impacts and benefits of these schemes. These assessments are occurring at the broad catchment-wide level through the WAMP process, as well as at the individual detailed project planning level which look at engineering and operational aspects. The WAMP process is not causing any delay to these projects and is an important element in progressing these projects. This Government will ensure that all factors are taken into account when making decisions involving the development of water resources.

(2) There are a number of significant issues associated with this project that need to be resolved prior to final construction, not the least of which the recent announcement by the Coalition Government in Canberra in regard to national competition payments. The Government is currently working on this.

906. Schools Uniforms

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Education (20/7/99)—

With reference to his inexplicable decision to disregard the Ombudsman's conclusion that the school uniform issue could only be resolved through legislative change and given his earlier advice that he sought formal legal advice before formulating his alternative strategy, announced in March—

- (1) On what date did he seek this legal advice, who provided this legal advice and on what date did he receive this legal advice?
- (2) What was the cost of this legal advice, when was the account for this legal advice received, when was the account for this legal advice paid and by whom was the account for this legal advice paid?
- (3) Who authorised expenditure for this legal advice and who approved payment for this legal advice?
- (4) Did this legal advice unequivocally support his strategy as the best means of addressing the concerns raised by the Ombudsman?
- (5) Did this legal advice state unequivocally that his strategy was superior to legislative amendment?
- (6) Did he provide Education Queensland with a copy of this legal advice; if not, why not?

- (7) Has he shown this legal advice to any other person or organisation outside his own office; if so, to whom and why?

Mr WELLS (19/8/99): The letters sent to school P&Cs and Principals indicating the solution to the problem of school uniforms were settled by the Solicitor-General.

While legal advisers provide advice to me as Minister, they are not responsible for making policy decisions.

907. Public Housing

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/7/99)—

With reference to public housing—

- (1) At 30 June 1999, 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 by (a) four to less than eight weeks, (b) eight to less than 12 weeks and (c) 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 June 1999, how many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?

Mr SCHWARTEN (19/8/99):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of accounts in arrears by four or more weeks rent, in total and percentage terms. Please note that tenants are not deemed to be "in arrears" until they are four or more weeks rent in arrears. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) See Attachment A for the number and percentage of public housing rental accounts in arrears for (b) four to less than eight weeks, (c) eight to less than 12 weeks and (d) greater than 12 weeks in total and by area office, and the monetary value of these categories as at 30 June 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) At 30 June 1999, of the total 48,504 public housing tenants, 2,895 or six percent, were paying full market rent.

908. Public Housing

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/7/99)—

With reference to public housing at 30 June 1999—

- (1) How many dwellings by dwelling type and bedroom number were vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) greater 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?
- (3) What is the composition of public housing stock by number and dwelling type?

Mr SCHWARTEN (19/8/99):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of dwellings, by dwelling type and bedroom number, vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) more than 12 weeks in total and by area office as at 30 June 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) At 30 June 1999, the vacant turnaround time for maintenance of public housing premises was 13.3 calendar days.

At 30 June 1999, the vacant turnaround time for allocations of public housing premises was 22.4 calendar days.

(3) See Attachment B for the composition of public housing stock by number and dwelling type. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

909. Cool Schools Program; Cooler Schools Program

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (20/7/99)—

With reference to the former Coalition Government's Cool Schools Program and the Beattie Government's Cooler Schools Program—

- (1) What schools have benefited from (a) air-conditioning and (b) passive cooling projects under each of these two programs to date (including cost and details of work undertaken)?
- (2) For each of the schools listed above, how much financial assistance was allocated (a) under the Cool Schools Program and (b) under the Cooler Schools Program?
- (3) How much in total has been spent to date on (a) air-conditioning and (b) passive cooling projects under each of these two programs?
- (4) What schools in the Cool Schools zone specified under the Coalition policy have benefited from air-conditioning and passive cooling projects (a) before and (b) after 26 June 1998 (including cost and details of work undertaken)?
- (5) What schools have benefited from (a) air-conditioning and (b) passive cooling projects under these programs outside the former Cool Schools zone since 26 June 1998 (including cost and details of work undertaken)?

Mr WELLS (19/8/99): The Honourable Member has asked a series of detailed questions.

The former government introduced the Cool Schools program in 1996. It was announced as a \$73m program comprising \$65 million for state school and \$8 million for non-state schools.

This government approved the implementation of the Cooler Schools program following its election in 1998 by endorsing the Cooler Schools program in the 1998-99 year.

Cooler Schools encompasses the former Cool Schools program and both enhances it and expands it.

Cooler Schools comprises the following three scope of work components.

1. Subsidy projects in state schools to support parents and citizens associations with the installation of split air conditioning systems (and some evaporative cooling systems) into teaching and other nominated areas.

2. Works in state schools at full state cost.

(a) Installation of split air conditioning systems (and some evaporative cooling systems) into resource centres.

(b) Electrical upgrade works where required, (not all schools require this component of the works); and

(c) Passive building cooling measures to reduce the effects of heat in schoolrooms.

3. Projects in non-state schools.

The department has also incorporated air conditioning as standard at new schools and buildings in the Cooler Schools zones.

The implementation of the Cooler Schools election commitment of this Government in 1998 extended the geographical boundary from latitude 20 degrees (near Bowen) under the former Cool Schools program south to include 230 additional eligible schools located in the former Northern and Capricornia Education Regions.

This Government has provided an additional \$48 million over four years under its Cooler Schools initiative to expand and enhance the former Cool Schools program.

This Government raised the subsidy assistance from 2:1 ratio to the current 4:1 ratio.

This 4:1 subsidy has allowed the installation of air conditioning into nominated teaching and other areas, which would otherwise not have been air-conditioned under the former program. This is reflected by the high level of interest from the school communities and is being well received.

\$16.07 million was spent delivering subsidy projects and other works in 1998-99.

The overall expenditure on school air conditioning was \$49.15 million to the end of 1998-99.

910. Public Works Department, Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/7/99)—

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 the month of June in 1998-99?

(2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for each month of 1998-99 by (a) cost of sales and (b) operating expenses?

- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 30 June 1999?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for the month of June 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (12/8/99):

(1) The total revenue derived from sales (accrual based) in the month of June in 1998-99 was \$3.182M.

(2) The breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for each month of 1998-99 for (a) cost of sales was:

July—\$2,816,000
 Aug—\$2,382,000
 Sept—\$2,381,000
 Oct—\$2,159,000
 Nov—\$2,631,000
 Dec—\$2,978,000
 Jan—\$3,900,000
 Feb—\$3,255,000
 Mar—\$3,089,000
 Apr—\$2,058,000
 May—\$2,368,000
 June—\$2,441,000
 Total—\$32,458,000

(b) operating expenses were:

July—\$806,000
 Aug—\$790,000
 Sept—\$781,000
 Oct—\$815,000
 Nov—\$840,000
 Dec—\$932,000
 Jan—\$831,000
 Feb—\$826,000
 Mar—\$821,000
 Apr—\$842,000
 May—\$834,000
 June—\$765,000
 Total—\$9,883,000

(3) The value of the inventory on hand at 30 June 1999 was \$4.745M.

(4) The net profit/loss achieved by SDS for the month of June 1999 was \$0.024M (Loss).

911. Leading School Principals

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Education (20/7/99)—

With further reference to disturbing allegations received by my office that the Queensland Teachers' Union (QTU) is excluding former phase one Leading School principals from consideration as union nominees for departmental projects and staff selection panels and to s243 of the Industrial Organisations Act 1997 (Industrial associations acting against members) which states that, among other things "An industrial association, or an officer or member of an association, must not impose, or threaten to impose, a penalty, forfeiture or disability of any kind on a member of the association—(b) because the member has refused or failed to join in industrial action"—

(1) Does he accept that, as Minister, he has a clear responsibility to ensure that no school or

departmental staff are unfairly or illegally disadvantaged in seeking any position on departmental projects or staff selection panels through breaches of any statutory provision, including s243?

- (2) How many departmental projects or staff selection panels have included school or departmental officers nominated by the QTU (please provide full details including all nominee names, position titles, award classifications, projects, panels, dates and duration of appointments etc)?
- (3) How many of these QTU nominees on departmental projects or staff selection panels were phase one Leading School principals (please provide full details including principals' names, schools, bands, projects, panels, dates and duration of appointments etc)?
- (4) What action has been taken to investigate possible breaches of s243 concerning departmental projects or staff selection panels since the Opposition first referred these serious allegations to him in June?
- (5) If no action has been taken to investigate possible breaches of s243, why not?
- (6) Has his office or department received any other allegations about possible breaches of s243 in relation to departmental projects or staff selection panels; if so, what are the details of those allegations, what action has been taken to investigate each allegation and what have been the findings of those investigations?
- (7) What steps has he taken to ensure that future QTU nominations to departmental projects or staff selection panels do not breach s243?
- (8) If no steps have been taken to ensure that future QTU nominations to departmental projects or staff selection panels do not breach s243, why not?

Mr WELLS (19/8/99): The question refers to an Act, the Industrial Organisations Act 1997 that has been superseded by the Industrial Relations Act 1999. The responsibility for the implementation of this legislation is the responsibility of the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

912. State School Student Numbers

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Education (20/7/99)—

How many students attend (a) Government schools and (b) non-Government schools in Brisbane?

Mr WELLS (19/8/99): The latest available Queensland enrolment data were collected on 26 February 1999.

For the Local Government Area (LGA) of Brisbane the enrolments data for full-time students as at February 1999 are:

- (a) Government Schools—\$89,931
 (b) Non-Government Schools—\$54,944
 Total—\$144,875

913. Hardwood Plantations

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (20/7/99)—

With reference to the report commissioned by ABARE and written by Jaakko Poyry "Global Outlook for Plantations" in 1999 which concluded that the level of present information on plantations means that any projections of future supply should be considered with caution, knowledge of growth and yield is often poor, tree species and provinces chosen are often not suited to the site e.g. high MAIs for eucalyptus are often achieved outside their natural environment, where there are fewer pests and diseases, production—establishment and maintenance—and environmental costs are often underestimated e.g. excluding land costs hardwood plantation establishment costs vary between US1,200 and US4,200 per hectare, hardwood plantations are a long term investment: five (pulp) to 50 years, subject to pests, disease (narrow genetic base increases morbidity) and fire, returns on investment are often low; good returns from exotic pine plantations in New Zealand, given improved management and improved research information, fertiliser, herbicides and pesticides, have shown a real return of 7per cent and to the fact that Queensland does not have significant experience with hardwood plantations—

Can he provide me with detailed R and D plans and the R and D budget which will facilitate the successful and economic production of hardwood from plantations in Queensland?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/8/99): The Department of Primary Industries' Queensland Forestry Research Institute has made a major international impact with the breeding of the hybrid between slash and Caribbean pines, and now leads the world with its clonal forestry program. My Department's expertise in plantation technologies and strategies is now in great demand in many countries of the world—in the Asia-Pacific region in particular and in the United States of America.

It is this unsurpassed expertise in plantation technologies that my Department is now bringing to bear on the development of a vibrant hardwood plantation industry for Queensland. My Department has invested more than \$1 million annually over the last three years in an R&D program which includes detailed species-site matching and land suitability studies, genetic improvement programs, development of silvicultural strategies, studies of pests and diseases, and utilisation studies.

The Department of Primary Industries' Queensland Forestry Research Institute is now developing a comprehensive R&D strategy that will expand and extend this program. This strategy will specifically focus on developing plantation systems that will maximise economic returns by yielding high quality products over shorter rotations.

914. Ambulance Service, Patient Transfers

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services (20/7/99)—

With reference to Queensland Ambulance Service's inter-hospital transfers—

- (1) What are the guidelines which determine patient transfer to larger hospitals eg. Charters Towers to Townsville/Clermont to Mackay?
- (2) What are the guidelines which also determine the return of patients to the point of origin?

Mrs ROSE (19/8/99):

- (1) The QAS provides patient transfers from one hospital to another at the request of the patient's treating physician within the hospital. The decision of the appropriate facility, patient transfers and the mode of transport is also determined by the patient's treating physician within the hospital.
- (2) The return of patients to the point of origin is determined by the patient's treating physician.

915. Queensland Rail, Purchase of Victorian Milk

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Primary Industries (20/7/99)—

Noting that he professes to support the Queensland dairy industry; how is it possible that Victorian milk is being purchased and consumed by Queensland Rail (a corporatised arm of the very Government of which he is a Member)?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/8/99): I am advised that Queensland Rail uses both fresh and UHT milk on its passenger trains and this milk is sourced from local Queensland supply firms.

I am advised that one of these firms based in Central Queensland did have difficulties in securing regular supplies of its 18ml packs of UHT milk.

I am advised that this firm in order to meet its commitments, apparently sourced some New Zealand produced and packaged UHT milk.

However, I am also advised that since becoming aware of this matter Queensland Rail has taken steps to ensure that all milk supplied to its passenger trains is produced, processed and packaged in Queensland.

916. Chinchilla Weir

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (21/7/99)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's water pricing policy and its effect on the Chinchilla Weir users and as the policy of full cost pricing in relation to the Chinchilla Weir proposes a 200 per cent increase in water charges and I am advised full cost pricing includes Department of Natural Resources overheads and labour costs—

- (1) If, in the past, departmental costs were regarded as their Community Service Obligations (CSO), how can he now justify bringing these new charges on the water users rather than all the community as a CSO?

- (2) Does he have no regard for the impact of a 200 per cent rise in the cost of water on water users in particular and the Chinchilla community in general?

Mr WELFORD (18/8/99):

(1) Current pricing arrangements are not providing sufficient revenue to cover the basic operating and maintenance costs of many schemes or providing for future refurbishment needs of existing infrastructure. Without resiling from CSO obligations, the Government is concerned about the future financial viability of some irrigation schemes. This explains why there is general agreement amongst producer organisations that water prices should reflect the basic costs of service provision.

Currently, the Chinchilla Weir recoups approximately 33% of basic operating expenses.

(2) I have been successful in negotiating additional time—up to 2004—for new pricing arrangements for irrigation schemes to be implemented in Queensland. This means that schemes like Chinchilla can have up to 6 years to achieve cost recovery. In developing this timetable the Water Reform Unit within my Department of Natural Resources is paying regard to on-farm impacts as well as impacts on the community in general. Moreover, where prices based on full cost recovery would be too onerous for some schemes, the Government will then provide ongoing support. It is also relevant that the irrigation sector is not being asked to make a contribution to capital whereas urban water users and industrial customers will pay the full price for water, including a commercial return on capital. This is a major concession to the irrigation industry.

(3) Water users will only be asked to pay for the legitimate costs incurred in delivering their water. The Government will not be seeking to recoup any Departmental costs not associated with water delivery to a particular scheme. In addition, users will be required to cover only the efficient costs of service provision.

The Water Reform Unit is working closely with industry groups to develop a five-year price path for irrigation schemes across the State.

917. Radio For All Australians

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (21/7/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of the Radio For All Australians Association?
- (2) Does he know how many in Queensland suffer from the affects of being print handicapped?
- (3) What is his Government going to do about the abnormally high figures of print handicapped people, and when?
- (4) What financial assistance and support is his Government prepared to give Radio For All Australians in achieving its objectives?

- (5) How many Members of the Legislative Assembly have or are about to renew their membership with Radio For All Australians?

Mr MACKENROTH (20/8/99):

(1) Yes.

(2) The Australian Bureau of Statistics survey of 1998 reported 20 900 persons in Queensland as having "diseases of the eye and adnexa" as their main disabling condition.

Audited surveys for the Queensland provider of the Radio for the Print Handicapped (RPH) service, community broadcast station 4RPH, indicate that the audience for their program is 17 000, covering Brisbane as far west as Gatton and the Gold and Sunshine Coast areas.

(3) I am advised those who are print handicapped are assisted directly by the programs of a number of Queensland Government agencies, including the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, Education Queensland and the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations. The Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning does not provide any specific assistance or support for print handicap services. I suggest the Honourable Member seek the advice of the relevant Ministers with regard to specific financial support and assistance provided by their departments for print handicapped people.

(4) I advise the Honourable Member that the Commonwealth Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts controls matters of licensing in relation to community broadcasting.

(5) My Department does not collect statistics on the memberships of organisations held by members of the Legislative Assembly.

918. Prince Charles Hospital, Foundation Cafe

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Health (21/7/99)—

- (1) Is she aware of a Foodsafe Hygiene Audit of the Foundation Café at Prince Charles Hospital, which found that the establishment did not meet the Foodsafe Hygiene Audit standard?
- (2) Is she aware that some staff believe that standards are far worse even than the significant deficiencies outlined in the report?
- (3) Is she concerned that conditions at this establishment pose a severe risk to public health?
- (4) What action will she take to address this problem?

Mrs EDMOND (20/8/99):

(1) I am advised that a Food Safety Audit was conducted on 10 May 1999, by an Environmental Health officer and that the report identified areas requiring some attention.

(2) I am advised that the recommendations in the report were principally related to temperature control and documentation issues.

(3) I have been advised that the issues identified for attention have been attended to.

(4) I am advised that the issues have already been addressed by the Cafeteria Management.

919. School Funding

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Education (21/7/99)—

- (1) Will he provide a detailed analysis of the funding provided to State schools versus non-State and private schools?
- (2) Is he aware of the serious difficulties faced by State schools regarding funding for their students who may be disadvantaged, as opposed to private schools which are not obliged to accept all students?
- (3) Is he aware that the spirit of equality for all Queenslanders promoted by the Government is being seriously eroded by the way in which the mighty dollar is received and passed on?
- (4) What are his plans to remedy the situation?

Mr WELLS (20/8/99):

1. As you are aware, funding is provided from a range of sources, including the Commonwealth Government, the Queensland Government and parents to a greater or less extent for both State and non-state schools.
2. I am aware of a range of funding issues which impact on State schools and my department is actively working to identify and target resource allocations to where needs are highest.
3. This question was addressed by my previous answer.
4. The department, since the election of the Beattie Labor Government, has already redirected significant funds from within its budget to service delivery in schools and is having a fresh look at activities to ensure that the maximum available resources are devoted to teachers and students in schools.

920. Protection of Children

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (21/7/99)—

With reference to a previous Question on Notice from the Member for Hervey Bay regarding the current situation where parents in Queensland have no rights when they want to protect their children from harm outside the family home and young people of all ages are able to leave home and live in environments which are dangerous eg. in known drug houses and with perverts and paedophiles, and experiences of some parents that usually some part of the criminal element is ready to feed from the gullibility of this age group and the fact that parents continually bring to the attention of Government agencies the dangers facing these young people as well as the activities of their associates, however in the reply from her of 12 July 1999, part (5) of the previous Question on Notice was not answered—

Does she see the enormity of the web of destruction which is created when a family is fighting to protect its child, particularly in regard to the spin-offs and resulting costs to the community which are enormous eg. health of family members, family breakdown, suicides etc?

Ms BLIGH (19/8/99): Both personally and as a Minister, I am aware of and concerned about the pain caused to families as a result of family conflict and breakdown as well as the costs to the community.

921. Tarong Power Station

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (21/7/99)—

With reference to the Tarong Power Station and other energy proposals—

- (1) As an article in The Courier-Mail, on 14 July, reported the Premier as stating on the future energy needs of the State, "all future projects would be based on commercial decisions by private operators" and as Tarong is not privately owned, has the Premier inadvertently told the truth about the future of the power station or has he made a mistake and the future of the Tarong expansion is secure?
- (2) With the Government interest in the gas pipeline from PNG and the Government's pushing for the Comalco alumina project for Queensland, will he confirm that if Comalco does decide to build in Queensland, the Queensland Government has promised to match the \$100m inducement offered by the Federal Government?
- (3) As an article in Inside Canberra stated "Australian engineering industries are being denied any role in the Comalco alumina project," and as the project is to be a major beneficiary of the PNG gas line, will the Government ensure that the \$100m inducement to build will be subject to a guarantee of employment for Australian workers?
- (4) If Comalco does not build here but in Malaysia, will the Government no longer support the PNG gas line and if it continues to, will he explain why it is preferentially converting a currently non viable oil field into a potentially viable oil field in a politically and geologically unstable country?

Mr McGRADY (20/8/99):

- (1) The proposed Tarong Extension is planned to be constructed in partnership with a private company and will compete in the national electricity market. The Government is assessing the commercial merits of the proposed extension, as is its potential partner.
- (2) The Queensland Government support to Comalco is not linked to the support offered by the Commonwealth Government. The Queensland Government has offered a package of support to Comalco which is largely based on assistance with infrastructure associated with the project.

(3) The Queensland Government will work closely with Comalco, other potential customers and the pipeline developer to ensure that Queensland and Australian companies have the maximum opportunity to secure contracts associated with the project.

(4) The PNG gas project is not necessarily dependent on Comalco and the Government will continue to support the project should Comalco not commit. The PNG gas project has the potential to provide Queensland with abundant and competitively priced quantities of gas. The project is expected to result in a quantum boost in gas demand and industrial development especially in regional Queensland. The Government is supporting the PNG gas project because of its benefits in terms of providing gas-on-gas competition, stimulating the economy of regional Queensland and the substantial greenhouse benefits associated with the project.

922. Hardwood Plantations

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (21/7/99)—

With reference to the report commissioned by ABARE and written by Jaakko Poyry "Global Outlook for Plantations" in 1999 which concluded that the level of present information on plantations means that any projections of future supply should be considered with caution, the transformation to plantations can result in simplified ecosystems, given that most plantations are of single species; further any exotic species may not support the understorey of native vegetation, fauna and soil micro-organisms that are commonly endemic and essential, resulting in decrease of biodiversity, poor decisions concerning site and plantation design and management can result in significant environmental damage; most tropical soils are highly erodible, intrinsically poor in nutrients, and rely on rapidly decomposing humus to supply nutrients and protection from erosion; heavy machinery disturbance can be rapidly detrimental, in seasonally dry environments, trees and other land uses compete for water; some eucalypt plantations have been found to affect the availability of local water by lowering water tables—creeks and wells have dried up, insecticides, herbicides and fertilisers required to achieve good yields can affect the quality of local water supplies and aquatic fauna, plantations also increase the risk of disease and pest infestation, which spread easily to neighbouring native forest, exotic plantation species have been known to spread into surrounding areas of natural forests, where they compete with local vegetation or hybridise with it; such hybridisation has resulted in the loss of valuable and unique adaptive features among local species, including suitability as native fauna habitat and to the fact that Queensland does not have significant experience with hardwood plantations, and with two of the objectives of the SEQ RFA being biodiversity and better environmental management of our land—

Will he provide me with detailed plans that will ensure the economic viability of hardwood plantations, coupled with the improvement of biodiversity, the improved land management, decreased erosion,

improved biodiversity, low risk of invasion of native forests and disease, compatibility with native fauna and protection of supply and quality of local water supplies?

Mr WELFORD (18/8/99): The Government's plans for plantation expansion do not include the clearing of native vegetation on public lands. Its primary focus is on the proactive reforestation of land that has already been cleared of trees. Many of the issues raised are therefore not fully canvassed by any current proposals. Rather, it is well known that re-establishing trees on certain previously cleared lands can provide major benefits in terms of soil retention, nutrient cycling, reduced risk of groundwater salinity and support for biodiversity retention. The Jaakko Poyry report makes this point quite clearly when it says "Plantations offer environmental benefits when established on degraded land, by contributing to site rehabilitation. Trees improve soil structure, increase soil organic matter and improve fertility on such land, benefiting the microclimate and local habitat."

Even when planting on cleared lands, however, there is a need for good planning to ensure compatibility with other land uses, as well as sound operational practices to ensure adequate protection, amongst other things, of soil and water.

In this regard my Department of Natural Resources is currently working closely with the Department of Primary Industries to review, and where appropriate improve, existing mechanisms for planning and assessing plantation developments under the Integrated Planning Act 1997. This work is also recognising the need of plantation growers for consistent Statewide standards and long term land use security if they are to be encouraged to invest in growing this State's future timber resources.

The matter of the economic viability of hardwood plantations is more a matter for my colleague the Minister for Primary Industries. However my portfolio, particularly through my Department of Natural Resources, is providing active support for the expansion of a viable and sustainable hardwood plantation sector, which experience elsewhere in Australia, and the Government's own forecasts both suggest have an extremely high probability of yielding historic economic, employment and environmental benefits for Queensland.

923. Prison Escapes

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (21/7/99)—

- (1) Will he provide the number of escapes and the number of absconds that have occurred from Queensland Corrections facilities or facilities operated under contract to the Government during the period 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999?
- (2) Will he also detail the number of escapes or absconds for each facility?

Mr BARTON (19/8/99): There were a total of 34 escapes and absconds from Queensland correctional facilities in 1998/99, down from a high of 53 under the Coalition (1997/98). Making up the

figure of 34 are 21 escapes and 13 absconds. None of the 21 escapes in Labor's first year were from secure custody; the first time in a decade. By comparison, there were 41 escapes during the Coalition's last year in office, and 13 of these were from secure custody. There were 12 absconds in that year. Escapes under Labor are down by a total of 48.78 percent on the previous year. Contributing to this very significant drop, has been the introduction of a range of additional security measures. These include the implementation of the General Managers' Taskforce, an increase in the number of dog squad officers, \$1.0 million in extra security equipment (promised by Labor prior to the last election, and delivered in Labor's first budget), and the employment of 50 additional prison officers.

(2) Facility—

Western Outreach Camps (WORC): escapes, 6; absconds, 3

Helena Jones Community Corrections Centre: escapes, 2; absconds, 1

Townsville Correctional Centre—Farm: escapes, 3; absconds, nil

West Brisbane Community Corrections Centre: escapes, nil; absconds, 7

St. Vincent De Paul Community Corrections Centre: escapes, nil; absconds, 2

Numinbah Correctional Centre: escapes, 5; absconds, nil

Darling Downs Correctional Centre: escapes, 2; absconds, nil

Palen Creek Correctional Centre: escapes, 1; absconds, nil

Moreton A Correctional Centre: escapes, 1; absconds, nil

KASH (Kalkadoon Aboriginal Sobriety House) Outstation: escapes, 1; absconds, nil

TOTALS: escapes, 21; absconds, 13.

924. HACC Program Funding

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Health (21/7/99)—

With reference to numerous letters forwarded to her by me in relation to the issue of home help for older persons and over 50 inquiries I have received from concerned elderly persons who have had their home help reduced substantially and some cut completely—

- (1) Is there a problem with the HACC funding?
- (2) Is there a shortfall in the budget for this issue?
- (3) Why are the older persons with disabilities and major health problems having to suffer because of the problems of the Health budget?
- (4) Bearing in mind this is the International Year of the Older Person, what does she intend to do to provide longevity in the ability for these independent older persons to remain in their own homes rather than place further strain on the overstretched resources in aged care?

- (5) In particular, how does she intend to address this issue in the Caboolture and Bribie Island communities?

Mrs EDMOND (20/8/99):

(1) No. The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program budget for the 1998/1999 financial year was \$135.7 million which represented an increase of 8.9% over the previous year.

(2) All funding allocated to HACC was expended on HACC services.

(3) The HACC Program requires that all clients receiving services must be reassessed annually to determine any changes in circumstances in their general functional ability, mobility and social support networks in relation to their daily living activities.

The Health Service District has advised that of the 1,378 clients currently receiving home care services, 801 have been reviewed and of these, 87 have had their home care services ceased as they no longer meet the criteria. This represents only 6.3% of the total number of people receiving a service.

Any assessment which may lead to a decision to reduce or cease home care services would be based on the level of risk of premature or inappropriate institutionalisation.

(4) Queensland Health is committed to providing services equitably to enable access to home care services for all eligible clients to ensure that clients with high needs, that is clients for whom a service is crucial to avoid long term residential care, are targeted.

(5) The Redcliffe-Caboolture Health Service District is responding to the needs of each individual in the target group by systematically reviewing all recipients of home care.

925. Rocky Ponds, Beach Huts

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (21/7/99)—

- (1) What is he doing to give permanent tenure to those hut owners at Rocky Ponds?
- (2) Will he give a guarantee that these residences will not be taken away from those owners?
- (3) Will he give title status that will guarantee hut owners in the Rocky Ponds area permanent tenure?

Mr WELFORD (18/8/99):

(1) On 15 July 1999 I met with representatives of the Hut Owners Association at Bowen and discussed a range of matters including local issues confronting hut owners at Rocky Ponds. I indicated to these representatives that I would inspect the huts in this area at the earliest opportunity.

The Government's position is that unauthorised huts in environmentally sensitive areas along coastal Queensland should be removed. This is consistent with the policy adopted by the previous Coalition Government of which you were a part and led to the removal of similar huts in other areas. Inspectors from both my Department of Natural Resources and my

Environmental Protection Agency have advised of the high conservation value of this area of state land. Various other issues also need to be addressed including the potential existence of Native Title and access rights to this area by all Queenslanders.

As you know, the Government is obligated to administer state lands for the benefit of all Queenslanders. I will continue to consider all options and talk to local residents in reaching a decision.

Present and previous Governments have removed unauthorised huts in environmentally sensitive areas at a considerable expense to Queensland taxpayers. I am keen to ensure this problem does not escalate and also prevent further potential damage to our sensitive coastline areas.

(2) I cannot provide the guarantee that is sought as I am not prepared to pre-empt any particular outcomes prior to my inspection of the Rocky Ponds area. However, consideration will be given to any special or exceptional circumstances.

(3) No, at this stage I cannot guarantee permanent tenure for any unauthorised huts along any area of coastal Queensland. I made this clear to Hut Owners Association representatives I met recently. Your request invites me to countenance an unlawful occupation of public land, something that as a member of the crown it would not be proper for me to do.

926. Recreational Fishing, Bag Limits

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Primary Industries (21/7/99)—

Will he abide by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority's decision to reduce bag limits to 15 reef fish, despite the numerous objections and submissions that have already been put forward by the recreational fishing fraternity?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/8/99): The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority has not made a decision to reduce bag limits to 15 reef fish.

927. Premier and Cabinet Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Premier (21/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

- (1) What funds were budgeted within his portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?
- (2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?
- (3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?
- (4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Mr BEATTIE (16/8/99):

(1), (2)&(3) The information sought is contained in the 1998-1999 Budget papers.

(4) The information sought will be contained in the forthcoming State Budget.

928. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (21/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

- (1) What funds were budgeted within his portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?
- (2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?
- (3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?
- (4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Mr BARTON (19/8/99):

(1-3) The information sought is contained in the 1998/99 Budget papers.

(4) The information sought will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

929. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Women's Policy and Fair Trading Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (21/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

- (1) What funds were budgeted within her portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?
- (2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?
- (3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?
- (4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Ms SPENCE (20/8/99): The information sought is contained in the 1998-99 budget papers, or will be contained in the forthcoming State Budget.

930. Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (21/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

- (1) What funds were budgeted within his portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?
- (2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?
- (3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?
- (4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Mr MACKENROTH (20/8/99): The answer to Parts (1), (2) and (3) is: the information requested is detailed in the 1998-99 State Budget.

The answer to Part (4) is: the information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State budget.

931. Tourism, Sport and Racing Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (21/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

- (1) What funds were budgeted within his portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?
- (2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?
- (3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?
- (4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Mr GIBBS (20/8/99):

- (1) The information sought is contained in the 1998/99 budget papers.
- (2) The information sought is contained in the 1998/99 budget papers.
- (3) The information sought is contained in the 1998/99 budget papers.
- (4) The information sought will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

932. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (21/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

- (1) What funds were budgeted within her portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?
- (2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?
- (3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?
- (4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Ms BLIGH (19/8/99):

- (1) The information sought is contained in the 1998/99 budget papers.
- (2) The information sought is contained in the 1998/99 budget papers.
- (3) The information sought is contained in the 1998/99 budget papers.
- (4) The information sought will be detailed in the forthcoming 1999/00 budget papers.

933. Education Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (21/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

- (1) What funds were budgeted within his portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?
- (2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?
- (3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?
- (4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Mr WELLS (20/8/99):

- (1-3) The information sought is contained in the 1998/99 budget papers.
- (4) The information sought will be contained in the forthcoming State Budget.

934. Justice and Attorney-General Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (21/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

- (1) What funds were budgeted within his portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?
- (2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?
- (3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?
- (4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Mr FOLEY (19/8/99):

(1-3) The information sought is contained in the 1998/99 budget papers.

(4) The information sought will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

935. Health Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health (21/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

- (1) What funds were budgeted within her portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?
- (2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?
- (3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?
- (4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Mrs EDMOND (20/8/99):

(1-3) The information sought is contained in the 1998/99 budget papers.

(4) The information sought will be contained in the forthcoming budget.

936. Transport and Main Roads Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

- (1) What funds were budgeted within his portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?

(2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?

(3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?

(4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/8/99):

(1-3) The Honourable member is referred the 1998-99 budget papers.

(4) The full budgetary position of the Department for 1998/99 financial year will be set out in the forthcoming budget.

937. Emergency Services Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (21/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

(1) What funds were budgeted within her portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?

(2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?

(3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?

(4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Mrs ROSE (19/8/99):

(1-3) The information sought is contained in the 1998-99 budget papers.

(4) The information sought will be contained in the forthcoming State Budget.

938. Overseas Students

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (21/7/99)—

With reference to the disturbing fall-off in 1998 of international student numbers for Queensland, particularly in comparison to the national growth of about 10 per cent—

(1) Has he, other Government Ministers or departmental staff initiated a report/analysis into this disturbing trend; if so, what are the main findings and will he table the report/reports?

(2) What is the International Education Advisory Board's suggested reasons for the loss of momentum which saw only a 1 per cent rise in Queensland overseas student numbers

compared to an overall national increase of almost 10 per cent?

- (3) Will he explain why key personnel focused on the area of education exports, were diverted into other programs?
- (4) Given the apparent slow-down and the potential earnings in this area, will he now reconsider this move and increase resources available for the marketing of Queensland as Australia's premier educational destination?
- (5) Is the department still committed to the target of 20 per cent of national market share for Queensland by the year 2000 and is he confident the Government will achieve this?

Mr ELDER (19/8/99):

- (1) The Departments of Premier and Cabinet, Education, State Development, and Employment, Training and Industrial Relations are considering the options regarding an in depth study on how Queensland institutions might be best positioned to capture an improved share of international students studying in Australia. Findings from such a study would be made available.

Intelligence from industry and our overseas office network is continually being monitored and used to develop initiatives to protect traditional markets and to diversify into new markets.

- (2) The International Education Advisory Board is no longer operational.
- (3) Key personnel focused on the area of education exports were funded from a special budget allocation, which ceased on 30 June 1999.
- (4) This matter will be considered during the 1999/2000 Budget process.
- (5) The Department of State Development is committed to maximising the proportion of international students recruited in the current market environment.

939. Queensland Transport, Rail, Ports and Aviation Division

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/7/99)—

- (1) What was the budgetary position of the Rail, Ports and Aviation Division of Queensland Transport at the end of May 1999?
- (2) What are the expected budget carryovers for the Rail, Ports and Aviation Division?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/8/99): (1 & 2) The full budgetary position of the Department for the 1998/99 financial year will be set out in the forthcoming budget.

940. Main Roads Department, Commercial Operations Division

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/7/99)—

- (1) What was the budgetary position of the Commercial Operations Division of the Main Roads Department at the end of May 1999?

- (2) What are the expected budget carryovers for the Commercial Operations Division?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/8/99): (1 & 2) The full budgetary position of the Department for the 1998/99 financial year will be set out in the forthcoming budget.

941. Queensland Transport, Integrated Planning Division

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/7/99)—

- (1) What was the budgetary position of the Integrated Planning Division of Queensland Transport at the end of May 1999?
- (2) What are the expected budget carryovers for the Integrated Planning Division?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/8/99): (1 & 2) The full budgetary position of the Department for the 1998/99 financial year will be set out in the forthcoming budget.

942. Queensland Transport, Land Transport and Safety Division

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/7/99)—

- (1) What was the budgetary position of the Land Transport and Safety Division of Queensland Transport at the end of May 1999?
- (2) What are the expected budget carryovers for the Land Transport and Safety Division?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/8/99): (1 & 2) The full budgetary position of the Department for the 1998/99 financial year will be set out in the forthcoming budget.

943. Queensland Transport, Public Transport Division

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/7/99)—

- (1) What was the budgetary position of the Public Transport Division of Queensland Transport at the end of May 1999?
- (2) What are the expected budget carryovers for the Public Transport Division?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/8/99): (1 & 2) The full budgetary position of the Department for the 1998/99 financial year will be set out in the forthcoming budget.

944. Driver's Licence Tests

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/7/99)—

- (1) What is the average waiting time for driver's licence tests in the South East Queensland region?
- (2) How many permanent driving examiners are currently employed in South East Queensland?
- (3) Are there any vacancies for driving examiners in South East Queensland?

- (4) Are any client service centre staff being trained to conduct driver's licence tests; if so, will their positions at the customer service centres be filled to maintain staff levels?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/8/99): For the purpose of the answer to Mr Johnson's question, South East Queensland includes the seventeen Customer Service Centres between Strathpine in the north, south to the State border and west to Ipswich.

- (1) The average waiting time for a driving test in South East Queensland is twenty working days.
- (2) There are thirty five percent driving examiners employed within South East Queensland. This figure does not include four Principal Advisers (Driver Assessment) and eight temporary driving examiners.
- (3) There are four driving examiner positions vacant. All positions are being backfilled.
- (4) In South East Queensland there are no permanent customer service centre staff being trained to conduct driver testing at the moment.

945. Narangba, High School

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Education (21/7/99)—

Was a Bill of Quantity provided to tenderers for the proposed Narangba High School?

Mr WELLS (20/8/99): This is a matter relating to the Department of Public Works.

946. Spanner Crabs

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries (21/7/99)—

Given the rhetoric in relation to "no disadvantage" in the allocation of spanner crab catch, will he review and adjust the allocation of any individual fishermen where clear disadvantage and inequity can be demonstrated?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/8/99): There is provision under the Fisheries Act 1994 for appeal, under certain circumstances, should an authority holder feel dissatisfied with a decision of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority in relation to the issue of ITQ units. I am advised that all authority holders have been advised of this provision.

947. Motor Vehicle Registration Payments

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/7/99)—

With reference to the discontinuance of the planned payment system for vehicle registration by Queensland Transport which has operated through Australia Post outlets—

- (1) Why is this facility being withdrawn?
- (2) Is there a fee attached to one alternative being offered being a six monthly repayment?
- (3) Apart from Queensland Transport Service Centres, where will vehicle registration annual or prepayments be able to be made?

- (4) Does he anticipate an increase in unregistered vehicles being driven owing to the inability of some people to budget in order to meet the annual renewal date when due?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/8/99):

- (1) The planned payment system is not being withdrawn.
- (2) The total surcharge is \$11 per payment for concessional registration and \$14 for all other light vehicles. The \$14 surcharge comprises a Queensland Transport administration fee of \$6 and an additional CTP insurance premium component of \$8.
- (3) Queensland Transport is continually looking at providing flexible and convenient payment options for their customers.

The department now offers customers the ability to make their annual or six monthly renewal payments as follows:

in person, at over 60 Queensland Transport Customer Service Centres; at over 600 Australia Post offices, at Queensland Government Agency Program offices (in rural/regional areas), and at authorised Magistrates Courts and Police Stations;

by telephone, using credit card phonepay or the recently introduced BPAY option allowing access to payment from debit, credit or cheque accounts; and

by mail to Queensland Transport.

- (4) No.

948. Queensland Health, Salary of Director-General

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Health (21/7/99)—

Noting the lack of detail in her answer to a Question on Notice on 10 June 1999, where she was asked what the Director-General's salary package was—

Will she confirm that the Director-General is being paid \$190,000 plus \$28,500 as well as a \$7,000 car allowance; if not, what is the actual salary package?

Mrs EDMOND (20/8/99): The salary package is CEO 3 level.

The Director-General's performance bonus as per the contract signed by the then Premier, Mr R Borbidge MLA, was up to approximately \$60,000. This arrangement has been replaced by the CEO 3 level salary package and a market allowance of \$28,500.

As previously advised, under the terms of the Chief Executive Officer package, Directors-General contribute \$7,000 from their packages for the private use of a vehicle, as published in the Queensland Government Gazette No. 28 (28 May 1999).

949. Spectacle Supply Scheme

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (21/7/99)—

How many Optometrists were participating in the public spectacle supply scheme at 1 July 1998 and how many are participating now?

Mrs EDMOND (20/8/99): There were 400 Optometrists participating in the scheme at 1 July 1998 and there are now 332 Optometrists participating in the scheme.

950. Gympie Hospital

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Health (21/7/99)—

What is the cost of bed days at the Gympie Hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (20/8/99): The estimated average cost per bed day has been calculated to be \$546.

951. Main Roads Department, Staff Training

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/7/99)—

- (1) What training workshops, seminars or courses have been attended by the staff of Main Roads?
- (2) What was the number of attendees, venue, duration and purpose of each?
- (3) What was the cost of each and the total expenditure including travel and accommodation costs?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/8/99):

(1) A variety of training and development opportunities have been provided to Main Roads staff in the areas of safety, quality, information technology, leadership and management development. Additional to this, Main Roads employees attend professional and technical development courses to support the professional and technical nature of work undertaken by the department.

(2) A considerable percentage of Main Roads staff have attended courses specific to their individual training needs, legislation requirements, system improvements and symposia for organisational development purposes. The duration of courses range from 10 to 10 days, with venues generally local. Given the timeframe for the response to the question, accessing details of some 4000 employees is not possible.

(3) In 1997-98 financial year, \$3,342 million was spent on training compared to \$3,412 million in the 1998/99 financial year. This does not include a number of internal training programs, travel and accommodation. Given the diverse range of training conducted throughout the State, it is not possible to break down the individual costs in the current time frame.

952. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (21/7/99)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by his portfolio agencies and department since 1 July 1998—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1998-99 budget (listed by name and location of project)?
- (2) What is the description and details of the work budgeted and approved to be undertaken in each of the projects listed above in (1) (listed by name and location of project)?
- (3) At 30 June 1999, how much money had actually been expended on each of the projects listed above in (1) (listed by name and location of project)?
- (4) What is the description and details of the work actually undertaken in each of the projects listed in (3) above (listed by name and location of project)?
- (5) At 30 June 1999, how much money has his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1998-99?
- (6) What budgeted and approved capital works projects listed above in (1) does he no longer have any intention of undertaking or completing and why (listed by name and location of project)?
- (7) For those projects not listed in (6) and not yet commenced or completed, will he give a commitment that funds budgeted and approved in 1998-99 capital works program will be rolled over and allocated to the same project in the next financial year; if not, why not?
- (8) Why have the projects listed in (7) not yet been commenced or completed and when does he expect commencement or completion to occur?

Mr BRADY (20/8/99):

(1-4), (6) & (8) as per attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(5) \$48.448m.

(7) Yes.

(8) All capital works approved for inclusion in the 1998/99 budget, with the exception of the TAFE Call Centre, have commenced and are at some stage between initial planning and finalisation, or have been finalised (project completion dates are contained in the attached table). (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

953. Mining Industry

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (21/7/99)—

With reference to the mining industry—

- (1) Will he provide a list of mining developments in Queensland?
- (2) Which of these are metalliferous mines, coal mines and petroleum mines?
- (3) Which of these mine areas of less than 20 hectares?

- (4) Will he provide a breakdown of employee numbers and contractor numbers for each mining development?
- (5) What are the range of minerals mined and will he supply a map of where each mine development is located?
- (6) How many mines are on freehold tenure?
- (7) How many mines are on leasehold tenure?
- (8) How many mine developments are awaiting native title clearance?
- (9) What is the value of each metalliferous and coal mine and the export revenue generated by each of these?
- (10) What is the value of petroleum products segregated into gas and liquid fuel mining operations?

Mr McGRADY (24/8/99):

(1) Yes. A list of significant mineral mines that is those with a production value for 1997/98 greater than \$1 million is shown in Attachment 1. A list of all operating coal mines is shown in Attachment 2. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) There are 52 major mineral mines. There would also be hundreds/thousands of small mines with smaller production values, given there are a total of 2873 mining leases current in Queensland. There are 43 coal mines as of 30th June 1998. In terms of petroleum, in 1996/97 there were 105 gas fields of which 69 were in production, 115 oil fields with 79 producing, and 19 coal seam gas fields with 11 in production

(3) None of the major mines listed in Attachment 1 are less than 20 hectares in area. However, out of the total of 2873 currently granted mining leases there are 1801 mining leases which are less than 20 hectares. However, it must be realised that each mining lease does not represent a mine as a number of mining leases may make up "a mine".

(4) While my Department has estimated employee numbers, the latest and most accurate figures for each significant mining development can be provided by each company. I would be happy to provide the Honourable member with the postal address and or telephone contact number for each of these companies.

(5) The range of minerals mined are listed in Attachments 1 and 2, and associated maps (Metallic, Industrial Minerals and Coal) showing mine locations are attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(6) As of 22 July 1999, there are 432 granted mining leases partly or wholly over freehold land.

(7) As of 22 July 1999, there are 2873 granted mining leases in Queensland which means there are 2441 mining leases partly or wholly over leasehold land.

The number of major project developments including mine expansions that are awaiting native title clearance is 12.

(9) The value of the major mineral interests and coal mines and the export revenue generated by each of these is listed in Attachments 1 and 2. Mr Rowell will note that the value of mineral exports exceeds the value of production by \$670 million. This is a measure of value-adding being achieved in this State. The obvious examples are aluminium and magnesium, but exports of other commodities (eg copper) also exceed their value at the mine gate. In the case for coal, the export value (FOB) exceeds the mine production value (FOR) because of rail freight and port charges.

(10) The value of petroleum products segregated into gas and liquid fuel mining operations for 1997/98 include: Crude Oil \$62,307,737, Natural gas condensate \$28,355,140, Natural gas \$192,905,205, Liquefied petroleum gas (propane) \$18,843,165, Liquefied petroleum gas (butane) \$12,167,725.

954. Public Transport Operators

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/7/99)—

- (1) What is the current position regarding operator accreditation and driver authorisation for the various segments of the passenger transport industry?
- (2) How many accreditations and authorities have been issued in the past 12 months?
- (3) What are the requirements for drivers of tourist and charter coaches?
- (4) Are there similar requirements for the so-called "courtesy coach" drivers; if so, how are they administered?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/8/99):

(1) Operator Accreditation

All public transport operators are required to hold Operator Accreditation unless specifically exempt. Public passenger services that require Operator Accreditation include:

- taxi and limousine services;
- scheduled passenger services (urban, minor, school and long distance);
- charter bus services;
- tourist services;
- transfer services (tourist and accommodation);
- community and courtesy transport services; and
- ad hoc services (public passenger services not covered by the above categories)

Driver Authorisation

Drivers of the above categories, with the exception of community and courtesy transport services, are required to hold driver authorisation.

Drivers for community and courtesy transport services are exempt from Driver Authorisation until 1 December 1999.

(2) There were 35,430 Driver Authorisations issued (including renewals) during the 1998/1999 year.

(3) Drivers of tourist and charter coaches are required to:

- undergo criminal and traffic history check;
- submit an approved medical certificate;
- hold an Australian driver's licence (or hold a provisional licence issued under section 108BB(3)(b) of the Traffic Regulation 1962); and
- have three years driving experience (or pass an equivalent competency test).

(4) Courtesy and community transport services are currently exempt from Driver Authorisation until 1 December 1999.

955. Solicitors Complaints Tribunal

Dr PRENZLER asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (22/7/99)—

With reference to proven overcharging of clients by some cost assessors appointed by the Queensland Solicitors' Complaints Tribunal to rule on such disputed account overcharging—

- (1) Is he aware of these cases?
- (2) What is the criteria used to select members to this Cost Assessor Tribunal and who selects them?
- (3) If solicitors such as Diane Wright and Christopher Pike have been found guilty of overcharging by this tribunal (on which they currently sit), why are they not immediately dismissed from the tribunal?
- (4) How will he reassure the public that their complaints of overcharging are being heard fairly, considering the now doubtful impartiality of some of these assessors?
- (5) Is there some disciplinary action being taken against these people by his department or the Solicitors' Registration Board to try to restore some public confidence; if not, why not?

Mr FOLEY (19/8/99):

(1) Press reports with regard to overcharging by practitioners who have been appointed as cost assessors have been noted.

(2) Cost assessors are appointed by the Solicitors Complaints Tribunal. Under the Queensland Law Society (Solicitors Complaints Tribunal) Rule 1997, a cost assessor must be—

- a solicitor who has been in actual practice for at least 5 years; or
- a person who has practised as a cost assessor for at least 5 years; or
- a person the tribunal considers has appropriate experience to be a cost assessor for the tribunal.

(3) Appointed cost assessors consider cost disputes individually and do not form a Tribunal.

(4) The current cost assessment regime, as introduced by the previous Coalition Government, is

under review. A Green Paper has been released outlining the Government's proposals for Legal Profession Reform. There are a number of proposals designed to enhance the independence, accountability, competence and consistency of the cost assessment process. The Green Paper is open for public consultation until 9 August 1999.

(5) Neither the Department nor the Solicitors' Board has the authority to investigate the matter. The Solicitors Complaints Tribunal is responsible for the approval of cost assessors. Under the Queensland Law Society Act 1952, the Queensland Law Society is responsible for the investigation of complaints about solicitors' conduct.

956. Bundaberg-Brisbane Tilt Train Service

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/7/99)—

With reference to the recent introduction of the Bundaberg to Brisbane tilt train service—

- (1) Does he have an intention of providing the community of Hervey Bay with a bus service to link up with the tilt train on all week days (Monday to Friday); if so, when can the people of Hervey Bay expect to see this service in operation; if not, why not?
- (2) Does he realise how beneficial it would be to provide this much needed additional service?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/8/99):

(1) Queensland Rail commenced operation of the Bundaberg-Brisbane Tilt Train service on Monday 26 July 1999. A daily Trainlink connection to and from Maryborough West Station to connect with all Bundaberg Tilt Train services commenced concurrently with the Tilt Train service.

(2) The additional five Trainlink connections provided by Queensland Rail to link up with the Bundaberg-Brisbane Tilt Train service on a daily basis from Monday 26 July 1999 complements the Trainlink connections already established, and offers a full and complete service to commuters.

957. Churchill State School

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/7/99)—

With reference to Churchill Ipswich State School situated on Warwick/Boonah Road, Churchill which has a very large school enrolment and to complaints by the Parents and Citizens' Association and other concerned residents since the beginning of the year to have a 40 kph school zone on Warwick/Boonah Road that was once the main Cunningham Highway that has now been bypassed by the Ipswich Southern bypass and to letters written by myself with no response—

- (1) Will it take the loss of a child's life for a 40 kph zone to be put into this locality?
- (2) Will he take urgent steps to address the problems raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association and concerned residents?
- (3) What steps has he taken with the Main Roads Department Safety Division?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/8/99):

(1) The Department of Main Roads has provided a traffic signal-controlled crossing at Warwick Road, outside the Churchill State School. This has operated satisfactorily for many years without any record of injury to children.

Queensland Transport is currently undertaking a review of school zone guidelines. The proposed school zone guidelines will be released for public consultation.

(2) I have been informed that officers of Main Roads and Queensland transport have met with the representatives of the school community and Ipswich City Council on several occasions and will continue to meet whenever required.

(3) There is no Main Roads Department safety division.

This goal is being met by both Main Roads and Queensland Transport through the inclusion of road safety considerations in all aspects of their work from planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance, as well as public education, enforcement and regulation.

958. Queensland Rail, Purchase of New Zealand Milk

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/7/99)—

With reference to a report from one of my constituents who travelled on the Sunlander from Maryborough to Brisbane on 22 June 1999 and returned on the Spirit of Capricorn on 26 June 1999 and who believes in Queensland and Queensland products but to his shock and disappointment upon having a cup of tea discovered that the milk supplied was imported from New Zealand—

- (1) Why does the Government not have the same faith in Queensland products?
- (2) Why does the Government purport to lean towards helping small Queensland family business but does not actually support Queensland industry?
- (3) What is the purchasing policy of Queensland Transport?
- (4) Does his department intend to support Queensland business or will it continue to import goods such as milk?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/8/99):

(1) Dairy Farmers fresh milk is supplied to the Great South Pacific Express. Pauls fresh milk is supplied to all Queensland Rail airconditioned trains including the Sunlander and the Spirit of Capricorn by Qantas Catering (QR Suppliers) and topped up en route as required. Pauls fresh milk is also supplied to Business Class on the Tilt Train.

(2) UHT milk is supplied by Qantas Catering to the Economy section of the Tilt Train and also supplied to the Spirit of Capricorn on Saturday (when the Tilt train does not run).

(3) The supply of UHT milk to both the Tilt Train and Spirit of Capricorn is supplemented at Rockhampton

by QR's own Train Store. A small supply of UHT milk is kept on hand at the Rockhampton Train Store, which is supplied by a local supplier—J B Distributors.

(4) Queensland Rail always endeavours to purchase Australian and local produce where possible.

959. Prison Officers, Handcuffing to Prisoners

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (22/7/99)—

- (1) Did he, after a recent prisoner absconding, give a directive that corrections officers hand cuff themselves to prisoners when on escort duties?
- (2) Is the personal safety of officers not in danger when carrying out this directive and does the Workplace Health and Safety Act legislate against such dangerous work practices?
- (3) Is he aware of numerous prisoner restraint aides which would ensure no escapes and maintain the safety of the officers without handcuffing them to the prisoner; if so, why has he given the above directive and not purchased the aides instead?
- (4) Would this directive open the Government to massive compensation litigation?
- (5) Will he confirm the existence of the document, "Liability issues relating to handcuffing of prisoners under escort" as this document states under recommendations, point 6 "the practice of handcuffing a correctional officer to a prisoner is dangerous and could lead to extensive litigation against those correctional administrators responsible for issuing such a tactically erroneous directive"?
- (6) Why has he issued a directive contrary to the above documents' recommendations?

Mr BARTON (23/8/99):

(1) Yes, a directive has been issued as an interim measure pending further consultation with relevant unions.

(2) Workplace Health and Safety Act does not legislate specific dangerous workplaces practices like that, rather provides for a duty of care in relation to work practices. Also this practice is only required in a very small part of the organisation and relates to the specific nature of escort limitations in narrow hospital hallways. Normal escort arrangements are very difficult in these physical circumstances.

(3) The Department of Corrective Services does have other restraint aids including body belts and leg restraints which are currently used throughout the correctional system particularly on maximum security prisoners. However, these restraints are designed to limit movement, which, for example, would make mobility and escort in a hospital environment very difficult.

(4) I am advised that the practice of handcuffing high security prisoners to escorting officers during external escort would not open the Government to massive litigation compensation. The specific use of the practice in narrow applications is because of the particular circumstances involved. I am also advised

that handcuffing of prisoners to prison officers has been a practice used for some time when escorting prisoners in court. I am not aware of any problems or claims resulting from this practice.

(5) I am not aware of the document and extensive investigation by the Department of Corrective Services has not located the document referred to in the question.

960. Caboolture Police Station; Bribie Island Police Station

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (22/7/99)—

When will the increase in police officers assigned to the Caboolture Police Station and the Bribie Island Police Station proposed by him at the Caboolture community cabinet meeting in February 1999 actually arrive to bolster the numbers in these depleted police stations?

Mr BARTON (23/8/99): As the Honourable Member will recall during the Community Cabinet meeting in Caboolture I made an announcement that the approved strength at Caboolture Station would increase from 38 to 43 officers. I also said that Bribie Island Station would gain an extra constable position, which would take the number of police officers at Bribie Island to nine.

Advice from the Queensland Police Service (QPS) states that the allocated strength for Caboolture is currently 43 officers in accordance with my commitment. One of these positions is currently in the process of being filled, which means the number of officers at Caboolture Station as at 31 July was 42.

Further advice from the QPS is that there are currently ten police officers at Bribie Island Station. One of these officers is a first year constable permanently appointed to the Station, while another first year constable is rotated monthly within the Redcliffe District.

961. Police Resources

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the issue of police to population ratios—

- (1) What is the latest national police to population ratio average?
- (2) What is the latest Queensland 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. 456?

Mr BARTON (23/8/99):

(1) The estimated national police to population ratio as at 30 June 1999 was 1:466, up from the 30 June 1998; when in it was 1:463

(2) By comparison, Queensland's estimated police to population ratio has improved considerably over the

same period. As at 30 June 1999 it was 1:490, comparing favourably with the police to population ratio under the Coalition Government of 1:507 as at 30 June 1998.

(3) As at 30 June 1999, the estimated police to population ratios throughout Queensland were down in 27 out of 33 districts on the previous year when the Coalition Government was in office. The figures for the two years were as follows:

Region/District	30.6.98	30.6.99
Far Northern	1:474	1:446
Cairns	1:534	1:480
Innisfail	1:545	1:503
Mareeba	1:463	1:474
Northern	1:483	1:474
Mt Isa	1:256	1:257
Townsville	1:581	1:581
Central	1:577	1:571
Gladstone	1:577	1:619
Longreach	1:242	1:251
Mackay	1:661	1:697
Rockhampton	1:592	1:549
North Coast	1:762	1:728
Bundaberg	1:840	1:813
Gympie	1:630	1:532
Maryborough	1:695	1:714
Redcliffe	1:889	1:803
Sunshine Coast	1:766	1:763
Southern	1:639	1:586
Charleville	1:227	1:198
Dalby	1:609	1:520
Ipswich	1:710	1:629
Roma	1:392	1:342
Toowoomba	1:816	1:795
Warwick	1:561	1:523
South Eastern	1:668	1:649
Gold Coast	1:631	1:628
Logan	1:766	1:721
Metropolitan South	1:749	1:726
Oxley	1:898	1:799
South Brisbane	1:765	1:658
Wynnum	1:1067	1:969
Metropolitan North	1:575	1:555
Boondall	1:1294	1:1052
Brisbane City	1:75	1:63
Clayfield	1:904	1:780
Ferny Grove	1:1406	1:1182
Fortitude Valley	1:220	1:177
Indooroopilly	1:1422	1:1112
Petrie	1:871	1:758
Sandgate	1:1065	1:807

It should be noted that the National and State police to population ratio figures are inclusive of sworn officers undertaking duties that are centrally located, including many support functions for the whole state, such as the Property Crime Squad, the Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) and the Public Safety Response Team. However, these officers, although included in the overall figure and an integral part of the operational activities of Districts and Regions, are not included in the figures listed in (3) above.

962. Air Rescue Services

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the budget program statement that she would improve air medical and air rescue helicopter services—

- (1) What are the elements of this program of "improvement"?
- (2) What programs had been completed at 30 June 1999?
- (3) What had the program cost at 30 June 1999?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99):

1. QAS has undertaken two initiatives during 1998/99. The first involved relocation of the Aero-medical Coordination Unit to AFCOM to facilitate greater coordination with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Air Ambulance Service operating out of Rockhampton and Bundaberg. The second initiative involved QAS reviewing the patient transport guidelines involving aero-medical transports.

2. The relocation of the Aero-medical Coordination Unit into AFCOM was completed in June 1999. The review of the aero-medical transport guidelines was completed in June 1999.

3. Separate cost details in relation to the above initiative were not kept as both initiatives were met from the 1998/99 operational budget.

963. Fire Stations

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the allocation of \$1,491,000 in the 1998-99 budget for the purpose of various station enhancements for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—

- (1) What projects had been undertaken at 30 June 1999?
- (2) What projects were completed?
- (3) What amount had been expended at 30 June 1999?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99): The answers relevant to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority are as follows:

(1) The funds allocated were for enhancements to various fire stations and operational buildings throughout the State. The projects included refurbishments, alterations and extensions to existing buildings at the following locations—

Townsville, Mt Isa, Garbutt, Bowen, Home Hill, Ayr, Kirwan, Forest Beach, Charters Towers, Halifax, Wulguru, Mitchell, Wallumbilla, Dulacca, Meandarra, Taroom, Chinchilla, Dalby, Cecil Plains, St George, Goondiwindi, Cunnamulla, Roma, Torquay, Nambour, Eidsvold, Wooroolin, Blackbutt, Nanango, Bundaberg, Noosa, Gayndah, Monto, Kingaroy, Caloundra, Gympie, Maryborough, Kawana, Imbil, Buderim, Murgon, Roma Street, Windsor, Arana Hills, Annerley, Kemp Place, Oxley, Cleveland, Eagle

Farm Workshops, Southport, Beenleigh, Hollywell, Ipswich, Karana Downs, West Logan, Loganlea, Woodridge, Beaudesert, Bilinga, Burleigh, Millaa Millaa, Yungaburra, Malanda, Cairns, Port Douglas, Tully, Innisfail, Atherton, Dysart, Theodore, Moranbah, Gold Coast South Area Office, Redcliffe Rural Fire Service Office, Ipswich Rural Fire Service Office

- (2) All planned projects within the \$1,491, 000 allocation have been completed.
- (3) \$1,636,560.

964. Fire and Rescue Authority, Purchase of Land

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the allocation of \$1,045,000 in the 1998-99 budget for the purpose of land purchases for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—

- (1) What areas of land had been purchased at 30 June 1999?
- (2) What was the cost of each parcel of land?
- (3) Where is the land situated?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99): The answers relevant to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority are as follows—

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

965. Fire Appliances

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the allocation of \$10,552,000 in the 1998-99 budget for the purpose of plant and equipment—fire appliances for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—

- (1) What equipment has been purchased at 30 June 1999?
- (2) What was the cost of each item?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99):

(1) The following appliances and equipment were purchased during 1998-99:

11 Urban Pumper Tankers (Austral Specialised Vehicles (ASV) Progress Payments);

6 Urban Pumper Tankers (Varley Specialised Vehicles Progress Payments);

2 Incident Support Vehicles (Progress Payments);

48 Crew Cab Chassis' for Urban Pumper Tankers;

40 Pumps for Urban Pumper Tankers;

6 Crew Cab Chassis' for Urban Pumper Prototypes;

6 Pumps for Urban Pumper Prototypes;

15 Sets Rescue Equipment for Prototypes;

4 Mercedes Vans for BA Hazmat and Service and fitout;

Aerial Ladder Platform Rebuild (Progress Payments);
 Cab Chassis for Incident Support Vehicle;
 Equipment and fitout of appliances for BA Equipment Upgrades;
 Additional work on vehicles (Warranty work ASV manufactured Vehicles and minor work);
 Vehicle Operational Equipment Fitout;
 Vehicle Electronic and Communication Fitout; and
 Vehicle Ancillary Equipment.

(2) The cost of each item was:

11 Urban Pumper Tankers (ASV Progress Payments)—\$1,428,289.23;
 6 Urban Pumper Tankers (VSV Progress Payments)—\$264,275.70;
 2 Incident Support Vehicles (Progress Payments)—\$228,371.00;
 48 Crew Cab Chassis' for Urban Pumper Tankers—\$2,797,160.00;
 40 Pumps for Urban Pumper Tankers—\$758,916.00;
 6 Crew Cab Chassis' for Urban Pumper Prototypes—\$1,129,340.00;
 6 Pumps for Urban Pumper Prototypes—\$325,013.02;
 15 Sets Rescue Equipment for Prototypes—\$608,858.55;
 4 Mercedes Vans for BA Hazmat and Service and fitout—\$172,726.92;
 Aerial Ladder Platform Rebuild (Progress Payments)—\$80,127.82;
 Cab Chassis for Incident Support Vehicle—\$78,176.00;
 Equipment and fitout of appliances for BA Equipment Upgrades—\$41,183.00;
 Additional work on vehicles (Warranty work ASV manufactured Vehicles and minor work)—\$31,746.74;
 Vehicle Operational Equipment Fitout—\$72,375.75;
 Vehicle Electronic and Communication Fitout—\$73,505.11; and
 Vehicle Ancillary Equipment—\$317,789.16.

QFRA's vehicle replacement program was stalled late last year by the collapse of Austral Specialised Vehicles. It has now been accelerated. The contracts held by Austral have been taken over by Varley Specialised Vehicles and other contracts have been awarded to other manufacturers. It is estimated that, in all, up to 170 rural and urban vehicles—costing around \$20 million—will be delivered to brigades and stations in the 1999-2000 financial year in a major program aimed at reducing the average age of the rural and urban fleets.

966. ATSI Coordination Unit, Cairns

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the provision of "enhanced" services to ATSI communities by the establishment of an ATSI Co-ordination Unit in Cairns and a replacement station at Bamaga—

- (1) What is the current status of this initiative?
- (2) What costs have been incurred to date?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99): The ATSI Coordination Unit in Cairns was established on 12 October 1998. It employs two (2) officers. The cost of the unit as at 28 July 1999 was \$90,239.

The new ambulance station at Bamaga—which has a budget of \$350,000—is under construction. It is expected to be completed by early November. The cost as at 28 July was \$70,200.

It is planned to extend ambulance services to Doomadgee and Palm Island as QAS improves access of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in isolated communities to pre-hospital care.

Consultation is also being undertaken by unit head Paul Elliott in the communities of Coen, Lockhart River, Aurukun, Mapoon, Pormpurraw and Kowanyama. A strategic plan will be developed for the delivery of quality pre-hospital services to the Cape York area.

The ATSI Coordination Unit, while based in Cairns, will operate statewide. It will develop and implement a comprehensive policy framework to provide ambulance services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Another aim of the unit is to increase employment and career opportunities for indigenous people with the QAS. It is hoped to increase representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in permanent and meaningful employment in the QAS.

967. Ambulance Service, Purchase of Land

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the allocation of \$783,000 in the 1998-99 budget for the purpose of land purchases for the Queensland Ambulance Service—

- (1) What areas of land have been purchased at 30 June 1999?
- (2) What is the cost of each parcel of land?
- (3) Where is the land situated?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99):

(1) QAS has purchased land at Agnes Waters (2500 sqm) and Longreach (2502 sqm) prior to 30 June 1999 and Northgate (2956 sqm) in early July 1999. QAS is currently in the process of negotiating a suitable site in the western suburbs of Brisbane (1998/99 budget estimate \$330,000).

(2 & 3)

Project—Cost

Agnes Waters—\$33,000

Longreach—\$32,000

Northgate—\$248,000.

968. SES Floodboat Fleet**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the statement regarding the commencement of a floodboat replacement program—

- (1) What projects have been completed to date?
- (2) Of those projects not completed, at what stage are they currently?
- (3) What amount has been expended at 30 June 1999?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99): The Floodboat Replacement Program is proceeding in accordance with the plan put in place by my department.

The \$250,000 allocated for 1998-99 has been fully expended or committed. These funds cover the purchase of 10 new boats and replacement of boating safety equipment and other boat related items such as outboard motors and trailers.

The Government will be providing \$500,000 for 1999/2000, \$500,000 for 2000/2001 and \$250,000 for 2001/2002.

This Government's commitment to the Floodboat Replacement Program will do much to improve the operational readiness of the SES floodboat fleet.

969. Fire and Rescue Authority, Capital Works**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the allocation of \$7,723,000 in the 1998-99 budget for the purpose of building and general works for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—

- (1) What projects were completed at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Of those projects not completed, at what stage were they at, at 30 June 1999 and what is their current status?
- (3) What amount had been expended at 30 June 1999?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99): Projects completed by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority as at 30 June 1999 include—

(1) Chermside Fire Station, Edmonton Fire Station, Helensvale Fire Station, Imbil Fire Station, Injune Fire Station, Kooralbyn Fire Station, Robina Fire Station

(2) Projects not completed at 30 June 1999—

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

- (3) \$6,474,282.

970. Helicopter Rescue Service**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the statement that the Government-owned Queensland rescue emergency helicopter operations would be placed on a business unit basis—

What action has been taken to implement this project?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99): Counter Disaster & Rescue Services has undertaken a project to accurately identify all of the operational costs of the Government's emergency helicopter service, and to separate out other "government planning and support" costs such as support to Community Helicopter Providers.

Significant progress has been made in developing an Activity Based Costing model to fully define all operational costs.

971. Ambulance Service, Purchase of Rural Residences**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service—

- (1) Have any residences in remote and rural areas as part of the rural incentives initiatives been purchased to date and what is their location?
- (2) What is the cost of each residence?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99):

1. QAS has purchased residences at Ravenshoe and Miriam Vale and constructed a residence at Karumba.
- 2.

Project—Cost

Ravenshoe—\$80,000

Karumba—\$110,000

Miriam Vale—\$100,000.

972. Mental Health Services**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Health (22/7/99)—

With reference to the lack of assistance and counselling for those suffering mental health problems and, in particular, the patient whose details were forwarded to her by me on 12 July 1999—(Ref VW—BDAY) (22/7/99)—

- (1) Why do psychiatrists who see patients for five or more years prescribe medication but do not give, or arrange to have given, counselling services?
- (2) Why was this patient told to present himself to a Brisbane hospital, a three hour drive from his home, only on arrival to be told there were no beds available and he was left stranded in Brisbane?
- (3) Why did this same patient on being admitted to Prince Charles Hospital's Winston Noble

Psychiatric Unit, feel compelled after two days to sign himself out as he had received no counselling and was only kept sedated?

- (4) Where can people who cannot afford high fees go to receive the counselling they so desperately are seeking?

Mrs EDMOND (23/8/99):

(1) The treatment regime determined for individual patients is subject to the professional judgment of treating psychiatrists. If a patient is concerned at any aspect of treatment, there are a range of avenues where that concern can be explored by the patient. Concerns can be addressed with the Director of Psychiatry/Head of Program of the relevant Mental Health Service, with the Medical Superintendent of the relevant hospital, with the Mental Health Review Tribunal, or with the Health Rights Commission.

Each of these authorities has the capacity to review a patient's concerns and attempt to arrange an outcome acceptable to the individual. Such reviews are able to consider the role of counselling in the broader context of the individuals clinical condition.

(2) I cannot answer this question, as I am not aware of the incident referred to and am unable to establish which service the patient presented to. Despite an extensive search for the correspondence referred to, a copy cannot be found. A request for a further copy from the honourable member's electorate office, also failed to locate the said document.

(3) It is inappropriate for me to speculate on personal and clinical matters. I would advise that in general terms the following process is followed by mental health services. Generally, when a patient presents at The Prince Charles Hospital Mental Health Unit, he/she is assessed as to whether admission to hospital is required, whether an alternative approach to treatment is appropriate, or whether there is a need for a referral to another agency if that agency would better meet the needs of the patient.

If admitted to hospital the patient is allocated to an appropriate multidisciplinary clinical team, and a treatment plan is formulated. If the patient has a case manager, he/she is contacted along with any other relevant health professionals. A nurse is allocated to be responsible for the nursing care of the patient during the inpatient stay. During the initial assessment phase of admission the patient is seen on a daily basis by the Registrar, and allied health professionals may be involved. If long term counselling is indicated, the patient would be referred to their local clinic and be followed up by a member of the integrated team. He/she may be case managed contingent on need. On discharge, patients are given information about their follow up arrangements/appointments. Patients are also given contact numbers to call if this is necessary prior to their first scheduled appointment. Discharged patients are routinely contacted at five days post discharge as a supportive measure irrespective of any other arrangements.

(4) Members of the Community who have a mental illness are able to access support and help through each District's Mental Health Service Program.

973. Brisbane-Darling Downs, Water Supply

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (22/7/99)—

With reference to the proposal to pipe renewed water from Brisbane to the Lockyer Valley and Darling Downs and the Government's establishment of a cross-Government committee to examine the project—

- (1) What is the role of his department on this committee?
- (2) What other work is his department doing to progress this project?
- (3) What is the progress and results of his department's work to date?
- (4) What time-frames, deadlines and parameters have been set for his department in regard to this project?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/8/99):

1. DPI's focus is to investigate suitable agricultural uses for this type of water and to help explore the potential markets for the increased production.

2. DPI officers are members of the Queensland Water Recycling Strategy providing input to schemes such as the one proposed. Specifically, membership of the Reuse Applications Technical Advisory Group has allowed considerable input by my Department into options being investigated for reuse of renewed waters throughout Queensland.

Current DPI research is investigating matters that are closely related to issues associated with this project and include:

Water quality standards for agriculture;

Effluent treatment requirements;

Sustainable irrigation and soil management; and

Impacts on groundwater quality and quantity.

The results of these studies can be extrapolated for use in assessing the feasibility and ecological sustainability of this project.

3. The Intensive Livestock Environmental Management Section of my Department recently completed the Agricultural Water Recycling Practices Background Strategy. Under this strategy, a number of relevant issues were investigated including current water recycling practices; the potential for water recycling in agriculture; as well as making recommendations about potential areas and possible crops where increased reuse of these waters could be made throughout the State.

4. The overall project is being led by the Department of Natural Resources.

974. Brisbane-Darling Downs, Water Supply

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health (22/7/99)—

With reference to the proposal to pipe renewed water from Brisbane to the Lockyer Valley and Darling Downs and the Government's establishment of a cross-Government committee to examine the project—

- (1) What is the role of her department on this committee?
- (2) What other work is her department doing to progress this project?
- (3) What is the progress and results of her department's work to date?
- (4) What time-frames, deadlines and parameters have been set for her department in regard to this project?

Mrs EDMOND (23/8/99): (1-4) I am advised a cross-Government committee to examine the Lockyer Valley and Darling Downs project has not yet been formally established.

975. Brisbane-Darling Downs, Water Supply

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (22/7/99)—

With reference to the proposal to pipe renewed water from Brisbane to the Lockyer Valley and Darling Downs and the Government's establishment of a cross-Government committee to examine the project—

- (1) What is the role of his department on this committee?
- (2) What other work is his department doing to progress this project?
- (3) What is the progress and results of his department's work to date?
- (4) What time-frames, deadlines and parameters have been set for his department in regard to this project?

Mr MACKENROTH (20/8/99):

(1) I am advised an inter-agency reference committee is being established by the Department of Natural Resources to further consider the proposal to pipe water from Brisbane to the Lockyer Valley and Darling Downs. The committee will include representation from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane, Logan and Ipswich City Councils, and other major stakeholders.

While the Department of Communication, Information, Local Government and Planning is not represented on the committee, my Department will be kept informed of the committee's progress. The future formal involvement of my Department on this committee will depend on whether issues emerge that are of relevance to my portfolio's activities.

(2) As advised, my Department is not represented on this committee, and as such, has not undertaken any action in relation to matters to be considered by the committee, or the project in general. However, my Department may provide comment or advice from time to time as requested.

(3) As advised, my Department is not represented on this committee, and as such, has not undertaken any action in relation to matters to be considered by the committee, or the project in general.

(4) As advised, my Department is not represented on this committee, and as such, has not undertaken any action in relation to matters to be considered by the committee, or the project in general.

976. Queensland Transport, Staff Training

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/7/99)—

- (1) What training workshops, seminars or courses have been attended by the staff of Queensland Transport?
- (2) What was the number of attendees, venue, duration and purpose of each?
- (3) What was the cost of each and the total expenditure including travel and accommodation costs?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/8/99): (1-3) Queensland Transport's human resource policies target specific training and development opportunities for staff identified with managers as part of their workplan under Performance Planning & Review agreements. Skills acquisition requirements are then pursued in many and varied ways depending on the most appropriate method including on-the-job training, coaching, mentoring, externally run courses, internal courses, workshops, conferences etc. Each type of development is organised by business areas and in most cases approved by business area managers. Central departmental records are not necessarily kept on all developmental opportunities taken by employees and it is the responsibility of individual business areas to attend this. In addition, most development courses predominantly take place locally but in some cases may require some limited travel.

977. SDS Furnco; Education Department

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (22/7/99)—

With reference to Education Queensland—

Will he provide a breakdown of the total stationery and furniture purchases from (a) SDS-Furnco and (b) all other providers made by or on behalf of Education Queensland for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 in dollar and percentage terms by head office and each of the 36 districts?

Mr WELLS (23/8/99): I am informed that comparative information for 1998/99 year is unavailable as the department rationalised its chart of accounts on 1 May 1998. Stationery costs have been subsumed into consumable materials which also includes such items as photocopier and computer paper and toner etc. Expenditure on furniture now forms part of capital project costs. Project Managers of new school buildings place furniture orders with Sales and Distribution Services consistent with State Purchasing Policy.

The information listed for 1997/98 year is for ten months only. Payment details for May and June 1998 are also unavailable due to the change in the chart of accounts from 1 May 1998.

The figures provided exclude grants to schools for furniture purchases.

My department has provided the information set out in the following tables. Refer to (Attachment A) & (Attachment B) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

978. SDS Furnco; Education Department

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (22/7/99)—

With reference to SDS-Furnco—

- (1) For 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, will he give the total expenditure made on stock and further provide in dollar terms and percentage of stock terms within the breakdown of purchases in the following categories (a) Queensland made, (b) Australian made (including Queensland), (c) imported, (d) sourced from Queensland companies, (e) sourced from Australian companies and (f) sourced from overseas?
- (2) How many permanent employees are located throughout Queensland (excluding Brisbane)?

Mr SCHWARTEN (23/8/99):

- (1) SDS Furnco was not created as a separate business entity until February 1996. For that reason, records which separately identified furniture sales are not available for years prior to 1996/97.

With respect to (a), (b) and (c), SDS does not keep any records of where furniture or its components are manufactured. Records maintained by SDS identify the location of the company from which it purchased furniture. The following information is provided in relation to furniture sourced from various locations.

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

For the purpose of the above table, "sourced" has been taken to mean the location from which the purchase order was issued and the resulting invoice sent.

The New Zealand product has been separately identified even though for the purposes of the National Competition Policy and as a result of the Closer Economic Relations treaty, such product is deemed to be Australian made.

It is recognised that local manufacturers do from time to time incorporate imported components into the finished product and so there is a difficulty generally, in establishing what is meant by the terms "Made in Australia" and "Australian Made".

SDS Furnco places a priority on sourcing from Queensland-based manufacturers and suppliers at all times.

Nonetheless, where customers such as Education Queensland have evaluated and specify products by brand, manufactured interstate, (eg. school chairs), SDS has no option other than to purchase as directed.

- (2) Nil.

979. WorkCover

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/7/99)—

- (1) Will he provide the full details of all of the costs incurred by WorkCover in the past twelve months associated with the hiring of private consultants?
- (2) Will he also provide the full details of executive staff appointments in the past six months, who they have replaced and the number and classification of executive staff who have left WorkCover in that period?

Mr BRADY (23/8/99):

- (1) WorkCover Queensland, an independent statutory authority has advised me that the following consultancies were undertaken in the 1998/99 financial year.

Review of Environmental Survey—\$5,328.00

Arthur Andersen—Taxation Advice—\$12,360.00

Air Quality Services—Environmental Survey—\$5,328.00

Facility Management Solutions Pty Ltd (Building Maintenance Systems)—\$12,800.00

Carpe Diem Consulting (IT)—\$4,500.00

Comtech Communications Co. Ltd (IT)—\$35,000.00

Data 3 Group (IT)—\$960.00

Sunrise Computer Systems (IT)—\$1,650.00

Knight Frank (Queensland) (Market Rental Determination)—\$1,450.00

Sinclair Knight Merz (Accommodation Requirements)—\$707.50

Price Waterhouse Coopers—Actuarial Advice—\$199,299.00

*Review of WorkCover Business Processes—\$2,093,639

*The business process review included \$1.492M for the service project and \$601,639 for IT strategy review. The previous WorkCover Board approved Stage 1 of the Review (\$256,000) in May and July 1998. This established the parameters of the subsequent stages of the Review which were approved by the WorkCover Board at various intervals between August 1998 and April 1999 (\$1,837,693). WorkCover advises that the implementation of the Business Review Process is expected to result in savings of approximately \$30M per annum for WorkCover Queensland.

- (2) WorkCover advise that since 1 January 1999, the following senior executives have been appointed by the Governor in Council, to contract positions with WorkCover:

General Manager Claims—Ms Evron McMahon

General Manager Insurance Services—Mr Gordon Lawson

General Manager Customer Management—Mr Paul O'Connor

General Manager Regulatory Functions—Ms Cath Wood

These are new positions that followed an organisational restructure and as such did not replace existing executives.

Since 1 January 1999 the following senior executives have left WorkCover following an organisational review that resulted in their positions being restructured:

Mr John Hastie, General Manager—Business Development

Mr John Randolph, General Manager—Insurance Operations

980. State Government Department and Agency Budgets

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (22/7/99)—

With reference to his responsibility for overall budget management—

For each department and agency (a) what proportion (in dollar and percentage terms) of their non-capital 1998-99 budget was expended at 30 June 1999, (b) what proportion (in dollar and percentage terms) of their capital 1998-99 budget was expended at 30 June 1999 and (c) what proportion (in dollar and percentage terms) of their total 1998-99 budget was expended at 30 June 1999?

Mr BEATTIE (16/8/99): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget.

981. WorkCover

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/7/99)—

- (1) What is he doing to address significant concerns of staff at WorkCover Queensland in relation to future workloads and the capacity of staff to undertake their roles productively, given that a high number of longer serving staff with high level technical skills have been accepting VER's?
- (2) Why does he not share staff concerns regarding the skills base erosion within WorkCover Queensland which is threatening WorkCover's ability to serve injured workers and employers at the standard required?

Mr BRADY (23/8/99):

(1) WorkCover Queensland is an independent statutory authority responsible for all administration matters including staffing. I am assured by WorkCover that concerns staff may have in relation to workloads and their capacity to undertake their roles productively, are being addressed as the new business processes are progressively implemented.

(2) I have been assured by the Chief Executive Officer of WorkCover that WorkCover will continue to have the skills needed to deliver high level quality service and that services to injured workers and employers will not be eroded, but improved.

982. Queensland Transport and Main Roads Department, Purchase of Stock

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/7/99)—

What orders were placed for the supply of computer equipment and furniture for Queensland Transport and Main Roads for the month of May compared to the other months in 1998-99?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/8/99): Queensland Transport placed fourteen (14) orders for computers during May 1999 to a total value of \$121,004. The average, for the other months of the year, was thirteen (13) orders per month to a total average value of \$352,970.

Twenty (20) orders for furniture to a value of \$42,939 were placed during May 1999. The average, for the other months of the year, was eleven (11) orders per month to a total average value of \$33,713.

983. Paramedics

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

How many new paramedics have been trained in 1998-99 and are currently in active duty?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99): In 1998-1999 there were 21 new paramedics trained, all of whom are in active duty. QAS has 108 paramedics in active duty.

984. Police Resources

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the positive moves towards police shop fronts and additional police officers—

What plans has he to increase police numbers and support community initiatives such as police shop fronts in the following electorates (a) Whitsunday, (b) Hervey Bay (c) Caboolture (d) Ipswich West and (e) Lockyer?

Mr BARTON (23/8/99): The Beattie Labor Government is committed to increasing police numbers across the state to 9100 by the year 2005. This will be achieved through the recruitment and training of around 600 recruits each year to 2005 and will result in an historic average increase of 325 officers per year. However, the allocation of police is an operational decision made by the Police Management Team, which consists of the Police Commissioner, regional Assistant Commissioners and Directors of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). As regards community policing, the Beattie Labor Opposition went to the last election with a promise to provide 10 police beats and 10 shopfronts. Since coming to office, the Labor Government has already delivered 12 new police beats, and six new shopfronts in locations across the state. Broad police resourcing information will be available in the forthcoming state budget. Further specific locations will be determined after that date.

985. Daintree Region, Electricity Supply

Mr ROWELL asked the Premier (22/7/99)—

- (1) Is the Government going to continue its opposition to extending the mains power supply north of the Daintree River?
- (2) Has he been requested by the Douglas Shire to consider a plan for mains power in a form of nodes and has the Government considered the plan; if so, what outcome is likely and will all residents wanting mains power north of the Daintree River be considered?
- (3) Are the people north of the Daintree who want mains power to be refused this commodity destined to persevere with solar panels which are often ineffective due to unavoidable shaded and overcast conditions?
- (4) Is there any alternative to starting up petrol or diesel generators that belch CO₂ into the atmosphere to generate electricity which most Queenslanders expect as an essential service?
- (5) Surely if a telephone service can be connected, an electricity service should be provided for those who, not unreasonably, expect a quality of life which most Queenslanders enjoy and if Telstra can achieve a service, why can't the State achieve an equally important service where the visual impact of power lines can be minimised?
- (6) As he has made claims that the Pro Power lobby may have resorted to vandalism and as almost 3 months has passed since the claim was made, can he substantiate the statement?
- (7) Does he believe the EIAS carried out in 1996 lacks credibility regarding the connecting of mains power to the greater majority of residents in the report's designated area north of the Daintree River?
- (8) As a proposal for a corporate buy back plan has been put forward where private investment would purchase freehold land rather than Government under an agreement through the Wet Tropics Foundation with annual fees to cover rates and managerial costs and this would reduce the likely proliferation of development, an issue identified in the recent feasibility study, would this gain favourable consideration by his Government as a sound compromise to control growth and allow those residents who want power to have it connected in the immediate future?
- (9) What dialogue has occurred recently with those people north of the Daintree wanting mains power and the Government?

Mr BEATTIE (23/8/99):

- (1) The Government has a clear position of opposing the extension of mains power north of the Daintree. This position was clearly stated during the last election. The extension of mains power into this valuable environmental and tourism area would inevitably lead to further clearing and development of freehold blocks of land created by a former conservative Government.

(2) The Douglas Shire Council has written to the Government on the issue of provision of power, proposing a three point plan. A deputation from the Council attended the Atherton Community Cabinet meeting on 26 July 1999. At this meeting, I confirmed the Government's position against mains power north of the Daintree and its support for Remote Area Power Systems. However, I also said that Government is prepared to receive further information and advice on the Council's position.

(3) I am advised that appropriately designed and maintained RAPs system will work in the Daintree.

(4) As the Daintree power EIAS report has clearly demonstrated, any power supply option, including RAPs systems, to be used in the Daintree will need to have minimal environment impact. Appropriately designed systems can comply with required environmental performance levels.

(5) The provision of power in the Daintree is not a commercial proposition. The Government has to consider a wide range of issues, not only the cost of supply. It has determined that, in order to limit development and to maintain the unique environmental character of the area, the provision of RAPs is a better solution, and it will provide financial assistance to residents adopting approved RAPs systems.

(6) Yes. This statement was based on written complaints from tourism operators in the Daintree. It has been confirmed by concerns expressed by the pro-power group, the Daintree Alliance, at the Atherton Community Cabinet meeting in their deputation. The purpose of that deputation was to find ways to stop the vandal actions of a limited number of pro-power people.

(7) No. However the EIAS notes that there were a number of prudent and feasible alternatives and at the end of the day the Government had to look for a balance of development control, environmental protection and financial costs.

(8) The proposal referred to will no doubt be considered as part of the broad infrastructure planning and environmental management study of the WTWHA Ministerial Council. Clearly, the State Government will assess the findings of this study when it is completed next year.

(9) There has been ongoing exchanges between the Government and Daintree residents on this matter. This has included extensive correspondence and deputations at the Atherton Community Cabinet meeting.

986. Bundaberg Base Hospital

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health (22/7/99)—

With reference to the additional 1,000 signatures on a community petition tabled on 22 July 1999, totalling 5,000 names in protest of the closure of the general outpatients clinic—

- (1) Will she finally acknowledge that service was highly valued by the people of Bundaberg?

- (2) What is the current waiting time for orthopaedic surgery or appointments (all categories) at the Bundaberg Base Hospital?
- (3) What orthopaedic specialists are employed or contracted to the hospital and on what basis, ie how many hours or operations per week are they contracted to and when are their contracts due to end?
- (4) How is the health service dealing with the backlog caused by the extended leave of one of the doctors?
- (5) What is the waiting period for paediatric or community access to an occupational therapist?
- (6) Will the \$200,000 raided from Bundaberg's mental health service in 1998-99 be returned over and above its recurrent allocation?
- (7) How many psychiatrists are now employed and are they on hand at weekends?
- (8) Does she deny that between 15 and 20 operational jobs will be phased out at the Bundaberg Base Hospital under the current reviews of the catering, linen and operational services?
- (9) Will she guarantee that all nursing positions in the Bundaberg District Health Service are safe?

Mrs EDMOND (23/8/99):

(1) The first petition referring to the "proposed closure of the Outpatients facility" was clearly misleading to petitioners. As I stated in my response to the Clerk of the Parliament, there is no proposal to close the Outpatient facility which has expanded from five to fifteen rooms. The general practice clinic in the Outpatients Department has been progressively wound down over the past ten years. Since late 1997, it has operated only nine hours per week and provided a service to only a small number of patients. The decision to complete the phasing out was made in October 1998 by the District Health Service in consultation with the District Health Council. Patients have been reassured that they can access the Department of Emergency Medicine, where they will be assessed appropriately. Under triage protocols, urgent cases have priority. For non-urgent conditions, it is preferable for people to access their general practitioner who can provide continuity of care. The Australian Medical Association promotes this practice through its General Practice webpage (The Modern Patient-Doctor Relationship Is A Partnership).

(2) Waiting times for orthopaedic surgical patients at the Bundaberg Hospital are published in the Elective Surgery Waiting List Report which is provided to hospitals and general practitioners and published on the Internet. Publishing elective surgery waiting times was a Labor election commitment to open the State's waiting lists to public scrutiny. This contrasts with the former Coalition's tactic of releasing only selective and manipulated data which concealed the real number of people waiting for elective surgery in Queensland. Outpatient data is collected for clinical purposes only. This is to ensure that patients are seen according to their medical priority.

(3)&(4) Two temporary visiting medical officers have been employed. Districts are cooperating to provide services as was intended under the zonal system. The Bundaberg District Health Service has advertised for a temporary full-time orthopaedic surgeon.

(5) Waiting periods are determined by the complexity of treatment required for each patient. Urgent cases are seen immediately.

(6) Mental health funds are quarantined. Funds not spent because four new positions were not filled were required to be returned to Corporate Office, as happened in previous years. In our 1998/99 Budget, the Labor Government allocated extra funding to mental health services in the Bundaberg District. Eleven new positions were created. To date, an extra consultant psychiatrist, a senior medical officer, two psychologists, a welfare worker, and two registered nurses have been recruited. The recruitment process for the remaining four positions, including another psychiatrist, has begun. At the same time the level of services provided by the Bundaberg District Health Service mental health staff to cover the Fraser Coast District Health Service has reduced with the opening of Maryborough's new inpatient service and the allocation of extra community-based staff.

(7) There are currently five medical officers and two visiting medical officers employed in the delivery of mental health services in Bundaberg. A medical practitioner currently visits patients in the mental health unit over the course of each weekend, and a specialist psychiatrist is on call for any urgent issues.

(8)& (9) I have assured staff that any permanent employee who wants a job will have one; and where matters affecting the interest of any employees are concerned, proper consultation must take place.

987. TAFE

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/7/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 530—

- (1) Which training providers, TAFE or private, had longer to prepare themselves for the introduction of (a) user choice and (b) competitive tendering?
- (2) What selection criteria were used by the panels determining to whom (a) user choice contracts should be offered and (b) competitive tenders should be offered?
- (3) In view of his answers to 1(a) and (b) and 2(a) and (b), how does he justify his rapidly expanding claim that TAFE lost \$31m, \$34m or \$43m solely because of its inability to deal with the rate at which the Coalition continued the competitive agenda introduced years earlier by the previous Labor Government?

Mr BRADY (23/8/99):

(1) As much of this expansion occurred while the Opposition were in Government, I am sure members of the Opposition are aware that no provider had advantage over another.

(2)(a) There are no selection panels for User Choice as it is the employer and apprentice or trainee who determines which Registered Training Organisation is to deliver the training.

(b) The selection criteria for awarding Competitive Purchasing Program contracts are quality, distribution and price. These being equal, preference is given to Registered Training Organisations based in the region where the training is to be delivered. In addition to all of the above criteria, consideration is given to outcomes of audits conducted on Registered Training Organisations by the Department.

(3) The figures speak for themselves and are representative of the impact of the introduction of the competitive agenda.

988. Community Employment Forums

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/7/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice Number 560—

- (1) Who is the chairman referred to in part (d) of his response?
- (2) Who were his assistants?
- (3) Will he provide a breakdown of costs for each venue as requested in the original question?
- (4) As the response to part (d) indicates that accounts for three venues have not yet been received, is the total cost of \$21,682 an interim total?
- (5) What is the actual final cost?
- (6) What was the approximate total salary cost of departmental officers for the duration of their involvement in planning and presenting the forums?
- (7) Has this salary cost been included in (5)?

Mr BRADY (23/8/99):

1. Mr Harry Hauenschild AO.
2. Various departmental officers allocated to the task.
3. To breakdown the costs in the manner you request would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
4. Yes.
5. \$22,715.
6. To provide the costs in the manner you request would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
7. No.

989. Electricity Industry

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (22/7/99)—

With reference to the concept of contestable energy which was to provide competitive power to industry initially and subsequently to all consumers—

Why then have administration charges been allowed to increase, in one instance, from \$3,120 per annum in April 1998 to \$205,000 per annum in July 1999?

Mr McGRADY (25/8/99): In response to the specific question made by Mrs Cunningham, I can advise as follows:

I am not able to comment on the reported increase in administration costs paid by any particular contestable customer in the National Electricity Market (NEM), as the apportionment and way costs are passed on, is a commercial matter between those customers and their retail supplier.

I am aware that total administration costs charged by the National Electricity Market Management Company (NEMMCO) under the Queensland Interim Market (QIM) which operated up until the start of the NEM on 13 December 1998 were significantly lower than those currently charged in the NEM. However, there are reasons for these increases.

Under the QIM, market participants were not charged the full costs of operating the market. Also, market participants were not charged for the provision of ancillary services as contractual arrangements for the provision of these services were not finalised until the commencement of the NEM.

Under the NEM, NEMMCO charges participants market fees, in accordance with the National Electricity Code, reflecting the full costs of operating and establishing the market. Also, market participants are charged for the provision of ancillary services. While there have been significant increases in administration costs since the commencement of the NEM, which many retailers pass on to contestable customers in their supply contracts, the Government is liaising closely with NEMMCO to ensure fees are minimised as far as possible. Also, these costs need to be considered in the overall context of the competitive market arrangements that allow contestable customers to source electricity from the supplier of their choice. To date, a large number of contestable customers have entered the competitive market and secured total savings estimated at over \$90 million a year. That is, despite the higher administration costs, many customers have achieved significant net savings in their power bills and will continue to do so.

990. City/Valley Bypass

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/7/99)—

What land given to the Beattie Government to the Brisbane City Council now forms part of the route of the City Valley Bypass?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/8/99): The State Government has agreed to an assistance package of \$100 million towards Brisbane City Councils Brisbane Transport Plan. Up to \$40 million of this package will be in the form of land currently owned by the State Government in the Bowen Hills/Fortitude Valley area. Approximately 138 properties are likely to be transferred.

Of this land, there are five properties in Evans Street, three in Campbell Street and one in Earle Street, which are on the proposed route of Council's inner City Bypass.

991. Medical Specialists

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (22/7/99)—

With reference to concerns in regional Queensland about the inability to attract specialist doctors into public and private health sectors, general practitioners into private practice and allied health professionals into public and private sectors—

- (1) What action is she taking to overcome the shortages?
- (2) What assistance is she getting from the medical colleges and the Federal Government?

Mrs EDMOND (23/8/99):

(1) The following are actions being taken by Queensland health to attract specialists into public and private sectors and general practitioners into the private sector: (Medical Superintendents and Medical Officers with Right of Private Practice provide general practitioner services to both the public and private sectors)

Temporary Resident Doctors

Queensland's Health Service Districts actively recruit Temporary Resident Doctors (TRDs) to ensure a sufficient supply of doctors for effective delivery of care to Queenslanders. It was estimated that there were 371 TRDs working in Queensland Health on 1 March 1998. At least 80% were employed as house officers in public hospitals with 29 specialists, 8 medical superintendents and 9 senior medical officers. With the exception of the Gold Coast and Royal Brisbane Hospitals, Queensland public hospitals utilise a centralised recruitment process known as "Doctors Down Under". A subcommittee of medical superintendents and the Principal Medical Adviser oversees the process.

The process assists small hospitals to access a large pool of potential staff. Feedback is sought from TRDs at the end of their placement to ensure the program provides a positive experience for all involved.

Incentives for Full Time Specialists

To attract full-time specialists to Queensland, country centres include an option of Right of Private Practice allowance of 45% of base salary compared to 35% for metropolitan specialists, free accommodation, provision of communications equipment and private use of vehicles. Specialist vacancies have fallen from 82 in March 1996 to 45 in July 1999 even though 28 new positions have been created since July 1998.

Incentives for Specialist Visiting Medical Officers

Access to salary sacrificing and higher commencement pay rates are paid for visiting specialists in rural areas.

Incentives for Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice (MSRPPs)

MSRPPs have access to accommodation, private use of a motor vehicle, communications equipment and the free use of a private surgery where available. Recent improvements have included an additional half-day off per week and the introduction of Medical

Officers with Right of Private Practice (MORPP) in locations where this is feasible.

State Scholarship Scheme

An increase in the Scholarship Fund from \$1.088M to \$2.443M and the introduction of four year scholarships to ensure longer bonded periods will result in 30 medical scholarship holders graduating each year. Benefits include a living allowance of \$7,000 per academic year, a tertiary grant of \$3,500 and an annual travel allowance of \$500.

Rural Medical Indemnity Scheme for Rural Private General Practitioners

A subsidy of up to \$4,100 (increased from \$3,500 in 1999) is provided to private rural General Practitioners who perform procedures such as obstetrics, anaesthetics and surgery, in towns where there is no specialist available to provide the required procedure/s. This assists country people to obtain services locally and prevents the deskilling of support staff, especially nurses.

Indemnity for Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice

Indemnity cover is extended to MSRPPs for procedures performed on private patients in public hospitals or in their private rooms.

Accommodation

Asset Management, Queensland Health, is currently conducting a review on accommodation for rural doctors. The provision of accommodation of good standard aids recruitment and retention.

Specialist Outreach Services

A program of visiting specialist services in the specialties of dermatology to Mackay, Mt Isa and Longreach and ophthalmology to Mackay and Mt Isa.

Junior Doctor Training Program

The Junior Doctor Training Program commenced in 1996 and was enhanced in 1998 with a 1998/1999 budget of \$622,040. It provides educational resources to improve the educational experience in the second and subsequent years following graduation. Procedural skills and essential knowledge to enable them to provide rural relief in country hospitals is included in the program.

Rural Health Training Units

Rural general practice training is provided through the rural health training units in Toowoomba, Rockhampton, and Townsville.

Rural Coordination Networks

Rural Coordination Networks are based in Brisbane and Townsville and enable a more accurate placement of relief staff into locations for which they are suitably skilled. These networks have established databases of the requirements for each location, including available local equipment, staff and other resources.

Telemedicine

Facilities are now available in around 140 sites. This has potential to enable assessments of patients in remote areas by specialist practitioners in major centres. Telepsychiatry has already proven to be

highly successful. The facilities are also available to provide professional support to staff in the form of education.

Rural Registrar Program

A Commonwealth/State program supporting nine rural specialist registrar training positions and outreach dermatology services.

Rural Undergraduate Placement Program

This program provides opportunities for medical students to spend elective periods in certain rural and remote areas. The 1998/1999 budget was \$25,000.

Rural High School Students to the Health Professions Program

Workshops are held with rural and remote students; years 10 and 11 in Toowoomba, Rockhampton and Townsville and year 12 at the University of Queensland.

Medical Adviser Rural Health Services

This new position has recently been filled reporting to the Principal Medical Adviser.

Pilot Remote Vocational Training Program (PRVTP)

This program commenced in July 1999 with 10 places funded by the Commonwealth Government throughout Australia (two in Queensland). It will provide on site training in remote practice through distance supervision and education methods. Queensland Health is keen to develop this model further within the proposed "Doctors for the Bush" Project.

The "Doctors for the Bush" Project

This scheme will attract local and overseas trained doctors to rural and remote areas. It will provide vocational training and supervision under the joint auspices of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. Overseas trained doctors will enjoy a new pathway to permanent residency and an unrestricted provider number.

Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme

Financial assistance is provided to patients to assist them in accessing specialist services not available in their local community.

Royal Flying Doctor Service

The RFDS is funded by Queensland Health to provide primary health care, general practice clinics and evacuation and state-wide retrieval services.

Flying Specialist Services

Based in Longreach and Roma providing routine and emergency surgical and obstetric and gynaecology services throughout the State.

Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health

The centre is funded by the Commonwealth in collaboration with Queensland Health.

Allied Health Professionals

An Allied Health Recruitment and Retention Taskforce has been initiated which is investigating and will make recommendations regarding the

recruitment and retention of Allied Health Professionals in regional Queensland.

The Queensland Health Rural Scholarship Scheme provides eleven scholarships for undergraduate Allied Health Professionals each year. Scholars are bonded to work in rural and remote health services for two years post graduation.

Additional funding has been provided through the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement for targeted professional development and training for Allied Health Professionals.

\$26 million was provided in the 1998/99 Budget to fund more than 200 positions in Mental Health services throughout Queensland. The majority of these positions are in rural, provincial and remote areas. 69 of these additional positions are for Allied Health Professional staff.

Conference Leave for Medical Officers

Conference leave is available to medical superintendents and medical officers with right of private practice in accordance with IRM 11.6-1. Full time senior medical staff are entitled to one week of conference leave on full pay with expenses for each year of continuous service.

Rural/Remote Accommodation Assistance

New and existing employees who have had to relocate their residence on appointment are eligible for free accommodation (where available) or \$75 per week rental subsidy for 17 months from the commencement of duty.

(2) The major medical colleges incorporate rotations to provincial and rural areas as part of their training programs. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians is working with Queensland Health to establish a program to assist advanced trainees to obtain general medicine skills in North Queensland (Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton). The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians have been funded by the Federal Government to establish a rural locum program. The Federal Government part funds nine rural registrar positions in Queensland and an advanced rural surgical fellow post based in Townsville.

However, there are also difficulties with the Federal Government in overcoming the shortage of doctors in non-metropolitan areas Queensland. The following difficulties apply:

Making it harder for doctors to immigrate by changing immigration requirements has made it more difficult for Queensland to attract and retain suitably qualified doctors from overseas to rural areas. Not applying the Rural Incentives Program Grants to Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice. The decreased provision of Provider Numbers in Queensland means that there are no incentives to go into rural practice. Not increasing the Medicare Benefits to rural doctors. Not helping with the Queensland Rural Scholarships scheme for Medical Undergraduates. Queensland has the lowest number of Medical Students per capita of any State in Australia except Western Australia (student numbers are under Federal Control).

The various Allied Health Professional Associations are actively participating in the Allied Health Recruitment and Retention Taskforce. The Federal Government provides limited funding of local initiatives, through Rural Health Support Education Training (RHSET) grants, to support allied health professionals in rural and remote practice.

992. Rolo Rent-a-Car

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/7/99)—

- (1) Has his department carried out an investigation into any defects in cars operated by Rolo Rent-a-Car; if so, were there any defects noted?
- (2) What action is the department taking to ensure this company complies with motor vehicle roadworthy requirements?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/8/99):

(1) Queensland Transport South East Compliance Function carried out an investigation into Rolo Rent-a-Car on 24 June 1999. Nine vehicles were inspected by a team of four inspectors and eight defect notices were issued.

On re-inspection four vehicles were deemed satisfactory, three were deregistered and one vehicle was requested to undergo a further inspection in the week commencing 24 August 1999.

(2) At the time of the initial inspection of the vehicles the Manager of Rolo Rent-a-Car was instructed to monitor roadworthiness of his fleet at all times. He was further advised that random inspections of his fleet by departmental officers would occur.

993. Hazardous Material Safety Legislation

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/7/99)—

With reference to the statement that hazardous material safety legislation would be developed—

What action has been taken in relation to this statement?

Mrs ROSE (23/8/99): The storage and handling of dangerous goods is currently covered by several Acts and Regulations administered by a number of agencies. Industry and State and Local Government have recognised the need for a more coordinated and integrated approach and the Queensland Government is developing the Dangerous Goods Safety Management Bill to meet this challenge.

The Bill is important legislation, providing more comprehensive coverage of public safety issues than does present legislation. In particular, it will provide special coverage of high risk industrial facilities (known as major hazard facilities) where no coverage exists at present.

In Queensland, there are approximately thirty such facilities, and the need to provide for their control is highlighted by the findings of the Royal Commission into the Esso Longford incident in Victoria, which suggest that a more proactive approach by the Victorian Government might have helped to prevent

the disaster. Queensland is working towards such an approach through this legislation.

The Bill will be based on two national standards developed by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, the National Standard for the Storage and Handling of Goods and the National Standard for the Control of Major Hazard Facilities.

The main forum for consultation to date has been the Dangerous Goods Working Group (DGWG), which comprises representatives of industry, State and Local Government, the Queensland Council of Unions and the Queensland Conservation Council. There has also been community consultation, with an invitation for interested parties to provide input.

The Dangerous Goods Safety Management Bill is expected to be presented to Parliament in October/November this year, with implementation planned to commence during the first half of next year.

Once enacted, it is expected that the legislation will be proclaimed in May 2000.

994. Brisbane-Darling Downs, Water Supply

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (22/7/99)—

With reference to the proposal to pipe renewed water from Brisbane to the Lockyer Valley and Darling Downs and the Government's establishment of a cross-Government committee to examine the project and to his answer to my Question Without Notice on 21 July 1999—

Will he provide a written briefing of the progress of this committee, in terms of his department's involvement, including issues such as (a) what role his department is playing on this committee, (b) what other work his department is doing to progress this project, (c) what the progress and results of his department's work to date has been and (d) what time-frames, deadlines and parameters that have been set for his department in regard to this project?

Mr ELDER (19/8/99): At the State Development Conference held on 14 July 1999, the Honourable the Premier indicated that this proposal was included in a number of projects that the Government would consider as candidates for private sector provision.

The work the Department of State Development is currently involved in is to develop a strategy for the assessment and management of this project for consideration by the Government. This preliminary work will identify the key economic, environmental, engineering and financial issues to be addressed, before the Government will be in a position to determine if, and in what form, the project should proceed.

The Honourable Member will be aware that the work carried out to date by the Department of Natural Resources has indicated that successful implementation of this project will require the community to be satisfied as to the water quality standards that will apply, and development of a suitable cost structure.

995. Construction Industry

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/7/99)—

With reference to part of his answer to a question to him by the Member for Clayfield on 21 July 1999 where he stated "At this Government's insistence there is now a program whereby this time next year we will have in place a levy system which will complete the reformation of the major fraud that occurs in that industry in this State..."—

Will he provide the details of the abovementioned program?

Mr BRADDY (23/8/99): As I have stated publicly, my program is to introduce an activity-based premium collection system for the building and construction industry from 1 July 2000. The preparatory work has commenced, industry will be consulted over the coming months and legislation will follow once industry input has been obtained.

996. Dairy Industry

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Primary Industries (22/7/99)—

With reference to certain milk tanker owner/operators who are being pressured to withdraw from operations, leaving Queensland's current dairy farmers to have their milk picked up at the farm gate by multi-national processors who have come in due to deregulation of the milk industry and thus all Queensland dairy farmers could very shortly be held to ransom by these particular processing companies and as this is just the beginning of the hard side of the deregulation of the milk industry in Australia in which, sadly, our farmers and inevitably consumers will lose out, as I warned some months ago in the Parliament—

What can he do to protect these Queensland owner/operator tanker drivers from being driven out of an industry where farmers rely on the drivers for the continuing independence of their farms?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/8/99): I am advised that commercial and contractual arrangements between all Queensland processors and milk carriers are not, and have never been, controlled by legislation.

997. Burdekin Special School

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Education (22/7/99)—

With reference to the Burdekin Special School—

Will he abide by any decision by his department to close down this school which is a much needed learning facility for children with disabilities and one that provides essential peace of mind for the families of these students?

Mr WELLS (23/8/99): The Burdekin Special School enrolments have been declining over recent years.

District Office staff are talking with the parents and staff of Burdekin Special School about the needs of current and prospective students with disabilities and their parents.

I expect to receive a full report in due course.

998. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, Drug Program Funding

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/7/99)—

With reference to the fight against illicit drug use and related activities—

- (1) What funds were budgeted within his portfolio to address illicit drug use and related activities in 1998-99?
- (2) What was the source and purpose of this funding (eg. name of Commonwealth department or other State department, consolidated revenue, loan funds, etc.)?
- (3) For what purpose/program was this funding intended?
- (4) How much of this funding was actually spent on the intended purpose/program during 1998-99 and how much will be carried over to 1999-2000?

Mr BRADDY (23/8/99):

(1-3) The information sought is contained in the 1998-99 Budget Papers.

(4) The information sought will be contained in the forthcoming State Budget.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

465. Valhalla Uranium Project; Summit Resources and Resolute Limited

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/4/99)—

With reference to the Valhalla uranium vanadium project in north-west Queensland for which he previously issued exploration permits between February 1993 and February 1999—

- (1) When did he advise Summit Resources and Resolute Limited that a Labor Government would not allow uranium mining or processing in Queensland?
- (2) When did his department advise Summit Resources and Resolute Limited that a Labor Government would not allow uranium mining or processing in Queensland?
- (3) Will the Government provide compensation to the company for denying them a mining lease and the right to develop the mine after issuing exploration permits?
- (4) What legal precedent is there for compensation on these grounds?

Mr McGRADY (8/10/99): (Replacement for answer tabled on 15/4/99—see Hansard 25/5/99, p.1780):

(1) I met with Summit Resources representatives on 1 December 1998 and I explained Labor policy on uranium to them. Subsequently, the Government's position on leases for uranium mining was confirmed to Summit on 21 December.

(2) Summit Gold (Australia) Pty Ltd was granted a number of Exploration Permits for Minerals in 1993 and 1994. The applicant applied to explore for all minerals, as is usual for most explorers.

During a meeting with Summit Resources on 29 August 1997, departmental officers alerted Summit Resources of the potential change of policy if Labor was elected.

In August 1998, during telephone calls between Summit and departmental officers, Summit inquired as to what action they should take. They were aware of the new Directions Statement and were concerned over what action to take.

On 1 December 1998 Mr Alan Eggers of Summit Resources met with the Deputy Director-General, who again restated the Government's policy regarding uranium mining leases and processing and indicated that this policy is highly unlikely to be changed in the near future.

(3) Let me clearly say that an exploration permit only confers a right to explore. The granting of an exploration permit does not imply that a mining lease will be granted. It is not the intention of this Government to provide compensation.

(4) The company has no legal rights to mine uranium as it only has a permit to explore. I am not aware of any legal precedent for compensation on these grounds.

999. Western Downs Electorate, Employment; Kogan Creek

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Premier (17/8/99)—

With reference to his commitment to Jobs, Jobs, Jobs, and to my warning that there were only three identified prospects of job creation in the Western Downs—they being water storages, develop coal reserves or build a prison (these three options were also supported by the local authorities and chambers of commerce) and as the new jail will now be built elsewhere and his Government has not committed itself to the two dams planned at Nangran and Condamine—

Does he recognise that the proposed Kogan Creek powerhouse and associated coal mine must be approved if his Government is to honour at least part of its promise?

Mr BEATTIE (16/9/99): The Honourable Member should be aware of the massive Queensland Heritage Trails Network spending planned by my Government which will create tourism and jobs throughout rural and regional Queensland, including his own electorate. Recently, the State Government approved a \$100,000 grant to the historic Jondaryan Woolshed as part of funding for the Network. The Jondaryan Woolshed is a significant heritage building and tourist attraction which will be one of many attractions on the Network which is designed to attract interstate and foreign tourists who want to drive through some of our wonderful scenery and experience our cultural heritage. The State Government's \$100,000 contribution to the Jondaryan Woolshed was part of a \$2 million package proposed for the attraction. Queensland's Heritage Trails Network is a \$100 million statewide project between the State and Federal governments and local communities. The Network encompasses 28 projects and is aimed at giving tourists a new Queensland experience, with four themed trails of natural and historic attractions.

For example, the Jondaryan Woolshed will be one of the highlights on the Early Settlers' Trail. The other trails in the Network will be the Coast Trail, the Mining and Dinosaurs Trail, and the Matilda Trail. As well as preserving our heritage, the project will create jobs, and stimulate development and foster tourism in regional and rural Queensland.

You may also be assured that my Government is aware of the importance of projects such as the Kogan Creek Coal Project. My Government is committed to facilitating the progress of this project along with our commitment to jobs. Such a project would create both short term jobs during the construction phase and long term employment in the coal mine and power station. The decision to proceed with the Kogan Creek power station and coal mine lies solely with the proponents and will depend on whether they believe the project is financially viable and can succeed in the national electricity market. My Government's recent Budget has been extremely well received by business and industry. The Budget was designed to create jobs through a partnership between the Government and the private sector. The Budget will help create a

favourable business climate in Queensland and will instil confidence in the future of Queensland.

If the proponents of Kogan Creek decide to proceed, the project will be subject to the usual strict approval process, which examines many issues including environmental, social and economic impacts. My Government is currently engaged in a right to negotiate process under the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993, with three native title claimants as well as the proponent, which concerns mining leases for the proposed Kogan Creek Coal Project.

1000. Irvinebank State Treatment Works; Mr F. Hilla

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (17/8/99)—

With reference to the current situation surrounding the Irvinebank State treatment works and the ongoing dispute with the operator Mr Frank Hilla—

- (1) Can he explain why full disclosure was not given to Mr Hilla in relation to the apparent heritage listing of the works in 1978?
- (2) How can he expect Mr Hilla to comply with the demand to lodge a mining lease knowing full well that (a) it is not necessary under the original Heads of Agreement and (b) the near impossibility and futility of lodging a mining lease when it is rumoured that one has not been granted in the region for over two years?
- (3) Will he explain why large corporations like Comalco are allowed special mining leases, much like the one Mr Hilla believed he had, yet small operators are not allowed to negotiate in this manner?

Mr McGRADY (16/9/99):

(1) I was not the Minister in 1983 when the Preliminary Agreement was signed and was not party to any of the negotiations that occurred prior to that time. Therefore I cannot comment on any dealings that took place. However, I am advised that the ISTW was heritage listed on 21 March 1978, well before the Preliminary Agreement and the subsequent 1990 Act formalising this agreement. As part of the due diligence process, one could have expected Mr Hilla to undertake the normal investigations before committing to the purchase of the property.

(2)(a) The Honourable Member should be aware that the original Heads of Agreement as annexed to the Preliminary Agreement that was signed by Mr Hilla on the 30 June 1983 was intended to be proposed provisions only. This is clearly spelt out in the Heads of Agreement. It should also be pointed out that Part IV Clause 1 of the Heads of Agreement requires Mr Hilla to comply with all relevant laws and statutory requirements of the Commonwealth and State. The Preliminary Agreement enabled Mr Hilla to occupy and operate the Irvinebank State Treatment Works in the interim period leading up to the execution of the Agreement as annexed to the Irvinebank State Treatment Works (Sale and Operation) Act 1990. I would remind Mr Nelson that Mr Hilla signed the

Agreement in August 1991. He did not however meet his legal obligations under Part III Clause 1 of the Agreement following the signing. (b) I assume that the Honourable Member is referring to Native Title matters in the second part of his second question. Mr Hilla has been associated with the area for many years and I understand that he has a thorough knowledge of the mining history of the Irvinebank State Treatment Works and the immediate region. Accordingly, he should be aware that most of the area has been covered by mining leases at some time during historic mining activities. It is considered that these now dead mining leases and the early activities at the Irvinebank State Treatment Works would have extinguished Native Title in the areas covered by them.

(3) The Honourable Member is correct in saying that Comalco has been granted "special" mining leases over its bauxite reserves. The reason is that Comalco and a number of other major mining developments in Queensland operate under special "Agreement Acts". The Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement Act 1957 is an extensive agreement traversing exploration, mining, royalty and rent, processing of bauxite and alumina, infrastructure (electric power, water and harbour), environmental rehabilitation and establishing a town and associated provisions. The Act passed in the Irvinebank case was necessary to facilitate the sale of the State Treatment Works and basically established ownership rights. I would suggest that the honourable member's attempt to equate Mr Hilla's situation with that of Comalco and the like is drawing an extremely long bow as there is absolutely no comparison between the two.

1001. Criminal Offenders, Sentences

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many people, for each year since and including 1992-93, have been sentenced in Queensland Courts for (a) drug trafficking, (b) production of dangerous drugs, (c) supply of dangerous drugs, (d) rape and attempted rape, (e) armed robbery, (f) unarmed robbery and (g) serious assault?
- (2) For each of the above sentences, how many people sentenced have received the maximum allowable jail term for each sentence for each year since and including 1992-93?

Mr FOLEY (16/9/99):

(1) From data available to the DPP Office for the period between 1/1/92 and end of 1997 for sentences in the Supreme and District Courts in Queensland—

(a) 264; (b) 726; (c) 731; (d) 344; (e) 1163; (f) 655; (g) 116

(2) From data available to the DPP Office for the period between 1/1/92 and end of 1997 for sentences in the Supreme and District Courts in Queensland—

(a) 2; (b) Nil; (c) Nil; (d) 2; (e) Nil; (f) Nil; (g) Nil

1002. Tarong Power Station

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (17/8/99)—

With reference to Tarong Power Station—

- (1) With the Millmerran power station confirmed, will he confirm that the Tarong Power Station's coal-fired extension will be a certainty to proceed during this Government's term of office?
- (2) With the gas-fired turbine being established at Wivenhoe, will he confirm that the gas-fired extension for Tarong is a certainty to proceed during this Government's term of office?
- (3) Can he show me evidence of implementation planning for these two Tarong projects?

Mr McGRADY (16/9/99):

- (1) In view of Entergy's withdrawal, Tarong Energy is developing a revised proposal for a coal-fired generation plant adjacent to the Tarong Power Station.
- (2) At present, Tarong Energy Corporation favours Wivenhoe rather than Tarong as a site for gas fired generation. This is a commercial matter for the Tarong Energy Corporation Board.
- (3) Details of project feasibility investigations and implementation planning are commercial-in-confidence and are unable to be made available.

1003. Question ruled out of order**1004. Fishing Industry, Gill Netting**

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/8/99)—

With reference to my having more than 20 years experience in the fishing industry (gill netting) (17/8/99)—

- (1) Does he realise that if Senator Hill's changes to attendance on off shore gill nets are put in place, it will destroy the grey mackerel industry, thus putting hundreds of fishermen out of work?
- (2) Does he realise also that it will not contribute to the preservation of dugong in any way?

Mr WELFORD (16/9/99): The mackerel fishery on Queensland's east coast has been established relatively recently. It is a small seasonal fishery involving around 30-40 fishers. Most mackerel in Queensland are taken in the Gulf of Carpentaria fishery.

The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority has agreed to implementing a 100 metre attendance rule at all offshore set mesh nets. This rule is being introduced to enhance protection for dugong as part of the measures approved by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council. Dugong are currently threatened by unattended nets set in areas used by the species as animals move between established Dugong

Protection Areas. Changes to the legislation will be implemented as soon as possible.

Mackerel fishers will still be able to fish for mackerel so long as they are in attendance at their nets. Because they use small boats to catch mackerel, these fishers may not be able to stay and attend their nets during rough weather and so may lose some opportunities to fish. However, the new attendance rules are reasonable considering that irresponsible practices have occurred in the past, including set nets being left unattended for several days during bad weather. Not only can dugong be killed if this occurs, but many fish are wasted and other non-target species killed unnecessarily.

1005. Question ruled out of order**1006. Local Authorities, Code of Conduct**

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (17/8/99)—

With reference to the promotion by the Queensland Government through his department of the idea that Local Government should be elected for four year terms and that the Local Government in Queensland is regulated by the Local Government Act 1936-1985—

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to revise the Act where it is silent upon the dismissal from office of an elected Member?
- (2) Is it the Government's intention to insert an identifiable code/standard of conduct required of elected Members?
- (3) Is it the Government's intention to include references to any regime or procedure which provides for the dismissal of an elected Member in the event that requisite standards of conduct are not observed?
- (4) Is he aware that at this time, where official/improper conduct by an elected Member of a local authority can be proven, it cannot be treated as official misconduct under the Criminal Justice Act 1989, this being due to the absence of any legally recognised standard as to the conduct expected of such an office holder?
- (5) Is he intending to correct this situation and bring elected local officials' requirements as to standards of conduct up to a standard of at least those required of Members of the Legislative Assembly?

Mr MACKENROTH (22/9/99):

- (1) The Act currently sets out a number of circumstances where a person is not entitled to continue in office as a councillor, or to become a councillor. This includes matters such as bankruptcy and imprisonment. These disqualifications are broadly similar to the disqualifications applying to members of the Legislative Assembly under the Electoral Act 1992.

The Act also sets out a number of circumstances where a person if found guilty of an offence would not be qualified to hold office as councillor, unless a court directed otherwise. This covers offences in relation to the electoral process (such as influencing voting). This is similar to the requirements applying to members of the Legislative Assembly.

Other circumstances where conviction of an offence could lead to disqualification from being a councillor include offences in relation to registers of interests and the disclosure of election donations, and offences in relation to material personal interests in matters considered at council meetings.

The Act currently provides that a person who is disqualified from office as a councillor as a result of conviction for these offences cannot become a councillor for three years after the conviction.

As a part of the introduction of four year terms for councillors, it is intended to introduce an amendment to extend this disqualification period to four years.

(2) In 1992 the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission recommended the development of codes of conduct for members of the Legislative Assembly and local government councillors respectively. This recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the Parliamentary Committee for Electoral and Administrative Review.

In terms of councillors, the approach that has been taken to date is that once a code of conduct is in place for members of the Legislative Assembly, consideration will be given to requiring the development of codes of conduct for councillors.

In May 1998 the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee released a report on a draft code of conduct for members of the Legislative Assembly. The report was accompanied by a draft code of ethical conduct. Since this matter is yet to be considered by the Legislative Assembly, no action has yet been taken in relation to councillors.

(3) As is the case with the proposed code of conduct for members of the Legislative Assembly, a requirement for codes of conduct for councillors would need to include mechanisms for enforcement. This will be considered at the appropriate time.

(4) The Criminal Justice Act 1989 is administered by my colleague, the Honourable Premier. You may wish to direct this question to him.

(5) The disqualifications that apply to the office of councillor are broadly similar to those applying to the office of member of the Legislative Assembly. There are also additional circumstances where a person may be disqualified from holding office as a councillor. Consideration will be given to introducing a code for councillors after the question of a code of conduct for members of the Legislative Assembly has been dealt with.

1007. Dellen Lodge, Ipswich

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/8/99)—

With reference to alleged physical abuse at Dellen House, 8 Wearne Street, Booval, Ipswich—

- (1) Is she aware of accusations of abuse of residents at this nursing hostel for the disabled by its owners; if so, what steps have been taken to rectify the problems?
- (2) Is she aware that officers from her department have told parents/guardians that they can do nothing to prevent the abuse because it is a private hostel and the Government cannot interfere?
- (3) Is she aware that because of this advice, these social workers advise these parents/guardians to move their children/young adults to other hostels?
- (4) If there is evidence of systemic abuse in this private hostel, why has it been allowed to continue its operations?

Ms BLIGH (16/9/99): Departmental staff have dealt with a number of accusations of alleged physical abuse at Dellen Lodge, a private hostel at Booval. A number of these instances of abuse have been the basis of formal complaints made by the alleged victims to the Ipswich Police.

Private hostels receive no government funding. However, the industry is working with the Government's Hostel Industry Development Unit to develop industry standards and an accreditation process to improve the quality of hostel and boarding house services

Departmental staff maintain contact with residents and have assisted ex-residents to relocate or to access relevant government services including the Adult Guardian and the Queensland Police.

Abuse is a criminal action and as such is the responsibility of the Queensland Police Service.

1008. Warrego Highway, Blacksoil

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/8/99)—

With reference to the intersection of the Warrego Highway and Brisbane Valley Highway, Blacksoil, which has a high fatality accident statistic—

- (1) What fatalities have occurred over the past two years?
- (2) Will he indicate when it is proposed to build an overpass at this location?
- (3) When would the construction begin and what is the proposed completion date?

Mr BREDHAUER (16/9/99):

1. One
2. The Warrego Highway is a National Highway. All works on National Highways are funded by the Federal Government
3. To date, the funds have not been made available.

1009. Electorate Offices

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (17/8/99)—

With reference to the guidelines for the use of electorate offices and considering the convention that such use is for Parliamentary rather than party business—

- (1) Does he agree with the convention?
- (2) What action is he taking, in collaboration with the Speaker, to order the removal of the plethora of party—political advertising displayed on and in the Mulgrave electorate office?

Mr BEATTIE (16/9/99): Each Member is provided with a single Electorate Office to support activities in servicing his or her Electorate. Conventionally, Members define their own activities to service the Electorate.

1010. Fishing Industry, Commercial Licences

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries (17/8/99)—

- (1) Does this Government support, either overtly or covertly, the demise of Queensland's commercial fishing industry?
- (2) If the Government intends to allow this industry to significantly decline or disappear, why hasn't an effective vessel licence buy-back scheme been introduced?
- (3) Will such a scheme be considered?

Mr PALASZCZUK (16/9/99):

1. No. The Government has through the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority an agreed legislative fisheries management planning process designed to achieve a sustainable fishing industry. The basis of this management process is the Fishery Management Plan for each major fishery. Fishery Management Plans are subordinate legislation within the provisions of the Fisheries Act 1994.

Fishery Management Plans are developed by Management Advisory Committees, after wide ranging consultation with all sectors of the fishing industry and the community. These Plans provide the overall objectives for management of the fishery as well as appropriate management measures, such as area and seasonal fishing closures, gear restrictions, effort controls or catch limits, which both protect fish stocks, fisheries habitat and meet community conservation requirements, and allow for long term sustainable fishing.

2. The Government has in recent years funded four specific schemes to restructure commercial fisheries.

The Pumicestone Passage has been set aside as a tourism and recreational fishery venue. This required a restructuring scheme to remove existing commercial net fishing.

A joint Queensland/Commonwealth scheme established Dugong Protection Areas and restructured the commercial net fishery and bought back some net fishing licences.

A general restructuring scheme recently sought to reduce certain types of commercial fishing licences through buyback arrangements.

At present I am progressing with arrangements to reduce net fishing in the Trinity Inlet region adjacent to Cairns so that greater emphasis can be given to tourism and recreational activities.

I would emphasise that all these schemes have sought the cooperation of the commercial fishing industry. I believe that restructuring schemes to date have been largely supported by all sectors of the fishing industry.

3. At present there are no additional fishing industry restructuring schemes under consideration in this State. However I expect that such schemes could be considered in the future as required by changing circumstances.

1011. Mining Leases

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/8/99)—

With reference to the conversion of Mining Homestead Perpetual Leases to Non-Competitive Leases occurring to constituents on the Gemfields in my electorate—

- (1) Is he aware that some applicants have been directed to pay back-rent from 1995?
- (2) Under what provision are leaseholders required to pay back-rent on Non-Competitive Leases?
- (3) Were all residents notified in advance of the intention to collect this back-rent?

Mr WELFORD (16/9/99):

(1) I am aware of the converting of mining homestead perpetual leases to perpetual town leases (non-competitive leases) on the Emerald Gemfields. My Department of Natural Resources has advised that eleven lessees were requested to pay rents dating back to 1 January 1995. This occurred because these perpetual town leases were issued at various times after that commencement date. The delays in issuing these particular leases were due to the need to resolve Native Title issues and to undertake a land planning study that was required following investigations by the Ombudsman.

(2) Under Section 499 of the Land Act 1994, a miners homestead becomes a perpetual town lease (non-competitive lease) if a current application for conversion to freehold is refused by the Registrar of Miners' Homesteads as was the case with the subject leases. Lessees are required to pay annual rent from the date of commencement of a perpetual town lease and Section 499 also provides that the first rental period commences on 1 January 1995.

(3) My Department of Natural Resources formally notified all lessees concerned, that unless converted to freehold, their miners homesteads would be converted to perpetual town leases under the provisions of the Land Act 1994 and Regulations. An extensive media campaign was undertaken in the Emerald district and other parts of the State. In addition, letters were sent to all lessees on 30 June 1999 providing early advice that billing notices would be posted on 25 July 1999. The billing notices requested payment within 30 days.

All eleven lessees have been advised of the availability of rental concessions in cases of hardship. To date, six of these lessees have either applied for, or have been granted, a 40% reduction in

their annual rentals under these concessional provisions.

1012. Primary Industries Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr PALASZCZUK (16/9/99): Please refer to the Premier's response to Question on Notice Number 1024 for the response to this Question.

1013. Mines and Energy Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr McGRADY (16/9/99): The Office of the Public Service Commissioner, which falls within the Premier's administrative responsibilities, will provide the whole of Government information required to respond to the Question on Notice. (Note: Question on Notice No. 1024 asked of the Premier).

1014. Public Works and Housing Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr SCHWARTEN (16/9/99): Please refer to the answer tabled by the Honourable the Premier to Question on Notice No. 1024.

1015. State Development and Trade Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr ELDER (16/9/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the Honourable the Premier's response to question on notice 1024.

1016. Tourism, Sport and Racing Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999

by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr GIBBS (16/9/99): I refer the Member to the response by the Premier to Question on Notice No. 1024.

1017. Health Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within her portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to her portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mrs EDMOND (16/9/99): (1-3) I refer the Honourable Member to the answer tabled by the Honourable the Premier to Question on Notice No. 1024.

1018. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Women's Policy and Fair Trading Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within her portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to her portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Ms SPENCE (16/9/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the response for Question on Notice No.1024 which has been tabled by the Honourable Peter Beattie, Premier.

1019. Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr MACKENROTH (16/9/99): (1-3) The information requested by the Honourable Member involves considerable time and effort by public servants whose skills would be better utilised in the delivery of services. Relevant details are as follows: SES Roles Trend Analysis—1995 to 1999 (excluding Senior Officers):

As at 30 June of Each Year—Total

1994-95—567
 1995-96—617
 1996-97—587
 1997-98—549
 1998-99—566.

1020. Environment and Heritage and Natural Resources Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by

FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr WELFORD (16/9/99): I thank the honourable member for his question and ask that he refer to the Premier's response to Question on Notice 1024.

1021. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within her portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to her portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Ms BLIGH (16/9/99): I refer you to the Honourable the Premier's response to Question on Notice No 1024.

1022. Emergency Services Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in her portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within her portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to her portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mrs ROSE (16/9/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the Premier's response to Question on Notice No. 1024 of Wednesday, 18 August 1999.

1023. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr BRADY (16/9/99): I refer the Member for Clayfield to the response provided by the Premier to Question on Notice No. 1024.

1024. Premier and Cabinet Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr BEATTIE (16/9/99): (1-3) The information requested by the Honourable Member involves considerable time and effort by public servants whose skills would be better utilised in the delivery of services. Relevant details are as follows:

SES Roles Trend Analysis—1995 to 1999 (excluding Senior Officers):

As at 30 June of Each Year—Total

1994-95—567

1995-96—617

1996-97—587

1997-98—549

1998-99—566

1025. Treasury Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Dr WATSON asked the acting Treasurer (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr BEATTIE (16/9/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the whole of Government response provided under Question 1024.

1026. Education Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr WELLS (16/9/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the answer from the Premier to Question On Notice Number 1024.

1027. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (17/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels, at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the

new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?

- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr BARTON (16/9/99): I refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by the Premier to Question on Notice number 1024.

1028. Urban Fire Services

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/8/99)—

With reference to the budget proposal to enhance capital funding for the urban fire services by \$1.25m—

- (1) What projects had been undertaken at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Of those projects not completed, at what stage are they currently?
- (3) What amount has been expended at 30 June 1999?

Mrs ROSE (16/9/99):

- (1) Projects undertaken at 30 June 1999 in relation to the funding provided for urban fire services were:
 - (a) the provision of turnout coats to all auxiliary firefighters;
 - (b) the provision of urban search and rescue equipment; and
 - (c) the provision of replacement equipment for breathing apparatus.
- (2) These projects, as related to the Government Election Commitment, are all completed.
- (3) The amount expended at 30 June 1999 was \$1.24m.

1029. Ambulance Service, Communications Centres

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/8/99)—

With reference to the undertaking of a significant upgrade of the Queensland Ambulance Service communications centres at Townsville and Rockhampton—

- (1) What programs have been undertaken to date to fulfil this commitment?
- (2) What cost has been incurred?

Mrs ROSE (16/9/99):

- (1) The programs undertaken at Rockhampton include renovation of the Station to provide a new Communications Room to accommodate up to 5 communications staff, to provide a new equipment room, installation of new equipment to facilitate the

introduction of Computer Aided Dispatch system and associated upgrade of electrical system, including installation of a new emergency generator.

The programs undertaken at Townsville include a new Communications Room, a new training facility, provision of radio and electronics equipment, and provision for the installation of RightCAD.

(2) The total cost for the upgrade of Rockhampton Communications Room is \$247,245, which includes \$55,471 for extensions to the Communications Building.

The total cost for the upgrade of the Townsville Communications Room \$650,000, of which \$150,000 has been allocated for building works and \$500,000 for radio and electronic equipment upgrade.

1030. Hot Fire Training Facility

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/8/99)—

With reference to the budget proposal to construct a "Hot Fire" training facility—

- (1) Has this project been completed?
- (2) What was the cost of this project?
- (3) If not completed, what has been the cost to date?

Mrs ROSE (16/9/99):

- (1) No.
- (2) The project has not been completed; please see answer to part (3).
- (3) As at 18 August 1999 \$2.056M was expended on the project.

1031. Ambulance Service, Call Centre

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/8/99)—

With reference to the establishment of a Queensland Ambulance Service professional customer call centre—

- (1) What is the current status of this project?
- (2) What costs have been incurred to date?

Mrs ROSE (16/9/99):

(1) In March 1998, a dedicated Call Centre was established and strategically placed under the QAS State Marketing Unit.

A Call Centre Manager has been appointed, hours of operation have been extended, 7.00 am to 6.00 pm and to 9.00 pm during campaigns, state-of-the-art facilities have been provided, staff numbers have been increased and all staff now receive specialist training and support in call centre techniques.

The Call Centre now averages 1,200 calls per day. Over 83% of all calls are answered within 20 seconds (compared to the industry standard of 80%) and over 97% of calls are successful.

(2) The total Call Centre cash expenditure budget for 1998/99 was \$683,045. \$24,086 provided for a new telephone technology and call management system,

\$11,000 provided an upgraded work environment including privacy screens, \$65,000 provided a PC based system to replace 'dumb' terminals, \$15,000 for staff training, with the balance being allocated to salaries and administration costs.

1032. Townsville, Government Office Building

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/8/99)—

With reference to the allocation of \$0.4m in the 1998-99 budget to complete the refurbishment of the Government Office Building No. 1 in Townsville—

- (1) What works had been completed at 30 June 1999?
- (2) What amounts had been expended at 30 June 1999?

Mrs ROSE (16/9/99): The Department of Emergency Services' Northern Regional Office is currently a tenant in Government Office Building No. 1 at 12 Wickham Street, Townsville. My Department relocated from its previous accommodation at 419 Flinders Street on 28 August 1998.

The project to refurbish Government Office Building No. 1 was undertaken by the Department of Public Works.

I refer you to the Honourable the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing for further information on this project.

1033. Reef Helicopters Pty Ltd

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/8/99)—

With reference to the statement that there would be an extension of the contract with Reef Helicopters Pty Ltd for the delivery of emergency helicopter services in the Torres Strait—

What action has been taken to implement this project?

Mrs ROSE (16/9/99): The Service Agreement between the State of Queensland (through the Department of Emergency Services) and Reef Helicopters Pty Ltd for provision of aeromedical and air rescue helicopter services in the Torres Strait was renewed on 30 June 1999.

This service was established on 1 July 1996 with a two year contract, including an option to continue on an annual basis for a further three years.

Following an evaluation by my Department of the service provided by Reef Helicopters Pty Ltd for the period 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 the existing Service Agreement was extended under the same terms and conditions for the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000.

1034. Public Housing

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (17/8/99)—

With reference to the disposal/sale of housing (houses and/or vacant land) by Housing Queensland (including public, ATSI and community housing) since 26 June 1999—

Will he provide by area office (a) the date of each transaction, (b) the address of each asset (house and/or block of land) sold, (c) the pre-determined (departmental) value of each asset sold, (d) how the asset was advertised for disposal (where and when), (e) method of disposal, (f) the sale price of each asset sold and (g) the name of each purchaser (if it is a company, please provide the company name)?

Mr SCHWARTEN (16/9/99): See Attachment A for information relating to the disposal/sale of housing (houses and/or vacant land) by Housing Queensland (including public, ATSI and community housing) as at 26 June 1999. The schedule includes sales up to and including 17 August 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Please note that the sales listed in Inala are an ongoing commercial arrangement with LJ Hooker Land Marketing for the disposal of surplus dwellings in poor condition to generate private sector investment and refurbishment.

1035. Ambulance Service, Capital Works Projects

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/8/99)—

With reference to the allocation of \$5,134,000 in the 1998-99 Budget for building and general works for the Queensland Ambulance Service—

- (1) What projects were completed at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Of those projects not completed, at what stage were they at 30 June 1999 and what is their current status?
- (3) What amount had been expended for each project at 30 June 1999?
- (4) What amount is to be carried over to 1999-2000 for each project not completed?

Mrs ROSE (16/9/99):

- (1) The projects completed at 30 June 1999 were:

Replacement Stations at Bribie Island, Cleveland, Cooroy, Macleay Island and Meandarra; New Station and Residence at Karumba; New Stations at Mornington Island, Redland Bay and West Toowoomba; Communications Centre upgrade at Rockhampton and Townsville, and Residence at Rosewood.

- (2) The stage of projects not completed as at 30 June 1999 and their current status are:

Bamaga will not be completed until November/December 1999; Childers was completed on 16 July 1999, Dalby due to be completed by 20 September 1999, North Rockhampton completed in July 1999, and the Rosewood Station to be completed by June 2000, Kedron Park Stage 2 is ongoing and will be completed by November 1999.

(3) At 30 June 1999, costs for the life of the projects were as follows: \$0.070M was expended on Bamaga, \$0.432M on Bribie Island, \$0.445M on Childers, \$1.002M on Cleveland, \$0.502M on Cooroy, \$0.182M on Dalby, \$0.090M on Karumba, \$0.127M on Macleay Island, \$0.368M on Meandarra, \$0.210M on Mornington Island, \$0.349M on Redland Bay, \$0.075M on Rockhampton Communications Centre (building component), \$0.425M on North Rockhampton, \$0.109M on Rosewood Residence, \$0.150M on Townsville Communications Centre (building component), \$0.254M on West Toowoomba and \$6.169M on QAS share of Kedron Park (including land component). These figures include expenditure incurred in previous financial years on these projects.

(4) The carryover amount to 1999-2000 for each project not completed is: Bamaga \$0.280M, Childers \$0.046M, Dalby \$0.074M, North Rockhampton \$0.025M and Rosewood \$0.117M.

1036. Arts Queensland, Peer Assessment Panels

Mr STEPHAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (17/8/99)—

- (1) What are the details of the peer assessment panels that operate in Arts Queensland?
- (2) What are the fees paid to those who serve on panels indicating travel costs/allowances and other out of pocket expenses?
- (3) What are the names of those on the panels and their backgrounds and for what period of time are they appointed?

Mr FOLEY (16/9/99):

(1) Recommendations for arts grants are informed through the peer assessment process as part of the annual grant round. Artform Peer Assessment Panels assess grants and make recommendations to the Cultural Advisory Council who then provide recommendations to The Minister for The Arts for final approval.

There are five artform panels: Multi-arts; Museums; Performing Arts; Visual Arts, Craft and Design; and Writing.

The deliberations of the Artform Panels are informed by three Consultative Committees in the areas of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts and Culture, Cultural Diversity, and Youth, for applications requiring specific arts and cultural knowledge.

(2) Ordinary Members, Meetings \$210 per day; Chair Assessment Panel/Consultative Committee, Meetings \$220 per day; Chair Cultural Advisory Council, Meetings \$260 per day. In addition, Arts Queensland reimburses members for reasonable costs associated with attendance at meetings such as: taxi fares, car parking, travel, hotel accommodation and meals for members away from their homes, and reading fees for at home assessment.

(3) Details of Panels are set out in Attachment 'A'. Appointments are for a period of up to three years,

reviewed annually. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1037. Arts Queensland, Review

Mr LINGARD asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (17/8/99)—

Will he provide the details on the nature and extent of the review undertaken in Arts Queensland, its costs and proposed outcomes?

Mr FOLEY (16/9/99): The Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in line with her obligations as the accountable officer for Arts Queensland is assessing the operations and performance of Arts Queensland and, in particular, its resource usage. There are no additional costs. Outcomes will depend on the Director-General's assessment of the operations and performance of Arts Queensland.

1038. Arts Queensland, Review

Mrs GAMIN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (17/8/99)—

How many staff positions have been lost owing to the review undertaken in Arts Queensland, particularly in view of the fact that the Premier said all public service positions would be secure under his Government?

Mr FOLEY (16/9/99): The only review of the Arts portfolio was undertaken for the Queensland Treasury in January 1997 and apparently resulted in the loss of around 50 positions. There has been criticism of the extent of use of consultants by Arts Queensland. The Director-General of my Department is considering how Arts Queensland can maximise the use of its resources to best serve the Government of the day and the industry. Two substantive positions and one temporary position which duplicate services available to Arts Queensland from the Department have been declared surplus to requirements. The incumbents of the substantive positions will be subject to the Office of Public Service Directive on Deployment and Redeployment. The incumbent of the temporary position has resigned.

1039. Arts Queensland, Review

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (17/8/99)—

What comparative cost analyses have been undertaken by the department and what cost savings are guaranteed as a result of the review in Arts Queensland?

Mr FOLEY (16/9/99): I refer to my answer to Question on Notice No. 1038.

1040. Electricity Supply, Security Deposits

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (18/8/99)—

With reference to areas covered by Ergon Energy—

- (1) Is he aware that tenants of rented properties are required to pay a bond for electricity connection?
- (2) Is he aware that home owners are now not required to pay a bond for electricity connection?
- (3) Does he agree that this bond policy discriminates against tenants of rental properties?
- (4) As home owners are no longer required to pay a bond, will home owners who have previously paid the bond be reimbursed; if so, when?

Mr McGRADY (17/9/99):

(1) Ergon Energy requires tenants of rented properties to pay a security deposit to secure the supply of electricity to the premises. The standard security deposit for domestic, rented premises across the Ergon Energy region is \$80, however, this amount may be increased if the customer has a poor payment history. Ergon Energy pays interest of 4% per annum on security deposits held.

(2) In the case of domestic owner-occupied premises, since February 1999, Ergon Energy has not required owner-occupiers to lodge a security deposit prior to the connection of electricity unless the customer has a poor payment history.

(3) The Electricity Regulation 1994 makes it clear that an electricity entity is entitled to require a reasonable security deposit from a customer before arranging to supply electricity to that customer. Further, the Regulation states that requiring one customer to pay a different security deposit to another customer is not, of itself, unfair or unreasonable. Ergon Energy deems that tenants of rental properties are a greater risk than those residing in owner-occupier premises due to the impermanent nature associated with rental properties. The aim of the policy is to protect Ergon Energy against the loss of revenue where a risk exists.

(4) Ergon Energy is currently undertaking a review of all security deposits paid by owner-occupier domestic customers under the various policies of the 6 former suppliers, now comprising Ergon Energy's retail area. It is the intention of Ergon Energy to refund a security deposit held, provided the customer has a satisfactory payment history. This process is expected to commence within the near future.

Further, the Government's commitment to ensure that security deposits are refunded to all domestic customers with a good payment history, including tenants, will be encapsulated in Standard Customer Contracts which will apply to Ergon Energy. These contracts are presently under development, and are expected to be in place by the end of this year.

1041. Walloon State School; School Tuckshops

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Education (18/8/99)—

With reference to Walloon State School at Walloon having no tuckshop for the children attending—

- (1) Under the Leading Schools Program, were tuckshops part of Government policy?
- (2) What are the criteria to be met by a school to have a tuckshop?
- (3) Will he indicate what action he proposes to take to have a tuckshop situated at Walloon State School?
- (4) If such a tuckshop is proposed, when would the children be likely to expect to have such a tuckshop provided?

Mr WELLS (17/9/99):

(1) Leading Schools program was a slogan of the previous government.

(2) Where the enrolment of a school is greater than two hundred (200) students, subject to the availability of funding and the relative needs of all schools across Queensland, a tuckshop will be provided at full state cost.

Where the enrolment of a school is less than two hundred students and the Parents and Citizens Association make representation to the department for a facility costing in excess of \$40 000, they can be directed to seek subsidy for the tuckshop on a dollar for dollar basis through the Education Queensland School Improvement Assistance Scheme.

(3) The need to provide a tuckshop for Walloon State School has been recognised however it has not been possible to fund this request from the 1999-2000 Education Queensland Capital Works Program.

(4) The request for a tuckshop for Walloon State School will be considered when formulating the 2000-2001 Education Queensland Capital Works Program, which will occur early next year.

1042. Gatton Police Station

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/8/99)—

With reference to the outdated/outmoded police station at Gatton where the number of officers stationed there is adequate but the facilities they have to work with are an indictment of modern Queensland today, with a minuscule reception area to deal with increasing police problems as well as the overburdening mountain of Department of Transport work, where the office space is small, inadequate and of a fragmented design, where the lunch room is old, small and acts as the locker room as this police station is simply outdated and outmoded for such an active, essential station—

Is he aware the Gatton Police Station has 16 uniformed branch officers, four CIB officers, one full-time AO and two part-time AOs housed in a station constructed 35 years ago; if so, what action has his department commenced to rectify this problem and

when will these dedicated hard working police be rewarded with new facilities?

Mr BARTON (17/9/99): The standard of police facilities varies greatly across the state. Despite, record capital works budgets during the years of the Goss Labor Government, years of neglect and lack of funding for public infrastructure during the thirty two years of conservative Government prior to 1989, has meant that there are many police facilities that remain less than adequate. Like the Goss Labor Government, and unlike the Borbidge Sheldon Government that froze capital works spending, the Beattie Labor Government is committed to maintaining capital spending and upgrading as many police facilities as possible each year. In the last financial year alone, \$42.1 million was budgeted by the Beattie Labor Government for new or upgraded police stations and watchhouses. However, it is also important to appropriately balance police spending between bricks and mortar and greater numbers of police on the beat keeping our communities safe. This year the Queensland Police Service (QPS) reached an historic milestone, in that for the first time, there are now more than 7,000 police officers serving across the state. Contributing to this achievement was the unprecedented number of additional police that were employed; 363 officers, or 95 officers more than the employed by the Coalition in the previous year. The QPS has acknowledged the difficulties experienced by staff at the Gatton Station, and some minor works to improve conditions are currently being considered following recent discussions between local police and the Manager of the QPS Properties and Facilities Branch. However, the Southern Police Region, in which the Gatton Police Station is located, has identified other higher priorities in the region for the present. Given this, it is unlikely at this stage, that a new station will be constructed in the next few years. Improvements will be made in the interim, however, and the QPS will continue to consider the needs of the Gatton community within the context of regional and state-wide priorities.

1043. Director of Public Prosecutions; Mr K. Smith

Mr FELDMAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (18/8/99)—

With reference to a matter of judicial concern, relating to a prominent solicitor based on the Gold Coast, where it appears special favours have been extended to Kerry Smith by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Royce Miller AC, relating to the delay of pending charges "Perverting the Course of Justice" since August 1998—

When will he provide answers to this House that the assessment on the professional conduct of solicitor Smith (who has had previous drug charges dropped by the Director of Public Prosecutions Miller QC), be completed, despite the delays over charging her for these serious offences that have been experienced, even though earlier recommendations by police investigators and Crown prosecutors were that Smith should be charged forthwith?

Mr FOLEY (17/9/99): The allegation implicit in the introduction to Mr Feldman's question is scandalous and baseless. It is an abuse of the privilege of the Parliament. No favours have been extended to the solicitor Kerry Smith by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Royce Miller QC, in relation to drug charges or any other charges. The drug charges were not proceeded with because the prosecution did not enjoy any reasonable prospect of gaining a conviction on any of them.

The Director has never been consulted as to whether a charge of perverting the course of justice should be preferred against her; neither has the Southport Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Laying charges is a matter for the police. Complaints about the professional conduct of a solicitor are handled by the Queensland Law Society.

1044. Bare Boat Charter Industry

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (18/8/99)—

Is the bare boat charter industry currently unregulated; if so, will she advise what plans she has to establish a licensing system to provide consistency and protection to boat owners and also to hirers?

Ms SPENCE (17/9/99): The bare boat charter industry is not separately regulated. As is the case for a number of industries, this area of business is subject to State and Commonwealth fair trading and consumer protection legislation. The Fair Trading Act 1989 provides for an equitable, competitive, informed and safe marketplace for consumers. Key provisions are designed to protect consumers from unfair practices in the marketplace such as false or misleading representations by traders. Complaints are investigated and offenders are prosecuted. Where a complaint has no evidence of a breach of legislation and the business disputes the need to provide redress, the consumer may obtain a binding ruling by the Small Claims Tribunal.

I am confident that at this stage, additional legislation targeting bare boat charters is unnecessary. Over the last three and a half years the Office of Fair Trading has received a total of ten complaints. The majority related to partial deductions from security bonds with disputes over the condition of the vessel and damage caused during the charter. The last two complaints received related to charters taken last December and early January. Security deposits were not returned and the directors disappeared with the company owing large debts. The liquidators were attempting to sell the business as a going concern but stated that the debts were such that both secured and unsecured creditors were unlikely to see a return.

There are about 190 bare boat charter vessels operating in the Whitsunday area which could potentially involve up to 6,000 individual charter transactions in any one year. So I am sure that Members of the House would agree that 10 complaints over three and a half years does not point

to an endemic problem or a need to increase regulation.

ABS data tells us that visitors to the Whitsunday area spend about \$200 million per year and \$60 million of that amount is spent by 100,000 international visitors.

Existing fair trading legislation is more than adequate to deal with isolated cases of misbehaviour by bare boat charter operators. This area of the market appears to be functioning reasonably well and I am reluctant to intervene with additional regulation without good cause and risk stifling product innovation, the range of choices and competitive pricing benefits for consumers.

I will however, be monitoring consumer complaints about bare boat charters. If Members receive any representations in this regard, you are welcome to forward the details to me for further consideration.

1045. Dulacca Police Station

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/8/99)—

With reference to the Dulacca Police Station which has a staff of just one officer and as this necessitates that officer being regularly absent from the station to undertake road patrols on the Warrego Highway and other matters and it often occurs that residents of the district seek the services of the police officer when he is absent—

Will he ensure the Dulacca Police Station is provided with a facsimile machine so residents can make contact with the station even in the absence of the police officer (a common business practice in most unmanned offices)?

Mr BARTON (17/9/99): A facsimile machine has been ordered and will be installed in the near future.

1046. Schizophrenia Fellowship of North Queensland

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Health (18/8/99)—

With reference to mentally ill people in North Queensland who are suffering due to funding cuts by both Federal and State Governments, and the closure of the Schizophrenia Fellowship's free 1800 number despite 2,500 recorded calls on this number—

As this is a situation that cannot continue in all fairness to these people, will she address this issue and provide the necessary funding to maintain the support provided by the Schizophrenia Fellowship of North Queensland?

Mrs EDMOND (17/9/99): The Queensland Government has not cut the amount of funds provided to the Schizophrenia Fellowship of North Queensland (SFNQ). In fact the level of recurrent funding provided by Queensland Health in 1998/99 increased 17% from the previous financial year.

Also, a key election commitment of the Beattie Labor Government was to expand community-based services, particularly in the far north and regional areas. In Labor's first budget, an extra \$26 million was

allocated to fund more than 200 positions in mental health across Queensland. These positions are being filled with up to 179 already appointed.

Services ceased by SFNQ are those originally funded through non-recurrent grants from the Commonwealth and which were maintained by SFNQ using accumulated savings through fundraising.

SFNQ are now only providing services supported through Queensland Health funding. It is not the responsibility of the State Government to guarantee non-recurrent Commonwealth funding.

It should be noted that the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care already fund a telephone support line. Mental Health Information for Rural and Remote Areas is a national telephone line provided by the NSW Association for Mental Health which has been funded for two years. The number is 1300 785 005.

1047. Barambah Electorate, School Funding

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Education (18/8/99)—

With reference to the Barambah Electorate—

Will he list the full extent of funding received by each State high school and each State primary school and the purpose for which that funding was allocated, since this Government came into office?

Mr WELLS (17/9/99): The major portion of government funds spent on state schools is managed centrally. This includes the salaries of teaching staff, administrative staff, teacher aides, grounds-care and janitorial staff, cleaners and also expenditure on capital works and most maintenance. Schools do not receive these funds.

Grants are allocated direct to schools to meet day-to-day running costs. These grants meet expenditures on, for example, general equipment, consumables, computers, grounds-care equipment, professional development of staff and administrative assistance. Schools have flexibility in the application of these funds.

In addition, schools may receive grant allocations from a range of needs-based programs that take account of student and school characteristics, for example Literacy Enhancement for Special Program Schools Scheme (LESPSS), Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Program (IESIP) and the Literacy and Numeracy Program.

Attachment A indicates the government funds received by schools in the Barambah electorate in 1998-99. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1048. Magnetic Island, National Park

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/8/99)—

(1) What has been the total budget for maintenance of national park lands on Magnetic Island for each year since 1992-93 including the current financial year?

(2) How much has been allocated for signage within the national park lands on Magnetic Island for each year since 1992-93 including the current financial year?

(3) How many rangers are currently allocated to national park lands on Magnetic Island and how does this compare with each year since 1992-93?

(4) What is the total area of national park land on Magnetic Island?

Mr WELFORD (17/9/99):

(1) The budgets for maintenance of national park lands on Magnetic Island for the years since 1992-93 were:

1992-93—\$1,500

1993-94—\$7,400

1994-95—\$9,500

1995-96—\$9,000 (Estimate—budget allocated at District level)

1996-97—\$7,500

1997-98—\$7,500

1998-99—Combined with Work for the Dole Project (see below)

1999-2000—Not available—State budget not finalised

These figures are the budgeted amounts for recreational infrastructure maintenance (non-labour).

During the 1997-98 financial year a 6 month "Work for the Dole" project was undertaken by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on Magnetic Island in conjunction with the Magnetic Island Community and Commerce Association and the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business. This project supplemented maintenance activities on national park lands.

In the 1998-99 financial year the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service participated in a 9 month "Work for the Dole" project on Magnetic Island. The State contributed \$50,000 (capital works funding) to this project which resulted in significant improvements to recreational infrastructure on national park lands. This project also effectively funded routine maintenance on the national park lands in that year.

(2) It was not possible to determine a specific allocation from within previous budgets for signage on national park lands of Magnetic Island. Funds for the upgrade and maintenance of signage were provided from within the general recreational infrastructure maintenance budget eg. for the purchase of timber, paint etc. Allocations for signage are therefore a component of the maintenance figures provided to the first part of the question.

(3) There are currently four permanent full time equivalent ranger positions funded for Magnetic Island. Three of these staff are currently working on Magnetic Island, with one officer presently acting temporarily in higher duties in Townsville. The fourth permanent position for Magnetic Island National Park was created this financial year (1999-2000).

Staff numbers prior to the current financial year were:

Years—Number of staff
 1992-93—2
 1993-94 to 1997-98—3
 1999-2000—44
 1999-2001—4

Note: The fourth ranger in 1998-99 was associated with the 9 month "Work for the Dole" project on the island in that financial year.

Other casual staff have routinely been employed by the Agency for special projects on national parks on Magnetic Island since 1992-93.

(4) The current area of national park on Magnetic Island is about 2790 hectares.

1049. Public Works Department, Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/8/99)—

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 the month of July in 1999-2000?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for the month of July in 1999-2000 by (a) cost of sales and (b) operating expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 31 July 1999?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for the month of July 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (17/9/99): With reference to the Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit within the Public Works Portfolio —

- (1) The total revenue derived from sales (accrual based) in the month of July in 1999-2000 was \$ 2.846M.
- (2) The breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) in the month of July in 1999-2000: (a) by cost of sales was \$2.089M; and (b) by operating expenses was \$0.829M.
- (3) The value of the inventory on hand at 31 July 1999 was \$ 4.554M.
- (4) A loss of \$72,000 for the month of July 1999.

1050. Public Housing

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/8/99)—

With reference to public housing at 31 July 1999—

- (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) couples (without children), (b) couples (with children), (c) single (with children), (d) single (without children) and (e) others 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 six months, (b) six to 11 months, (c) one to two years, (d) two to three years, (e) three to four years and (f) more than four years in total and by area office?
- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 August 1998 and 31 July 1999 in total and by area office?
- (5) How many applicants were allocated public housing during the month of July 1999?
- (6) How many evictions of public housing tenants have occurred during the month of July 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (17/9/99):

- (1) As at 31 July 1999, there were a total of 24,432 applicants on the public housing waitlist. 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 waitlist by family type as at 31 July 1999. (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 waitlist by wait time in months, and by area office as at 31 July 1999. (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 August 1998 and 31 July 1999 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 July 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (6) During the month of July 1999, 4 public housing tenants were evicted.

1051. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/8/99)—

Why does the Government fund the training of existing workers who opt to enhance their vocational skills through an apprenticeship but refuse to fund the same workers if they opt to enhance their vocational skills through a traineeship?

Mr BRADY (17/9/99): The decision to restrict funding for traineeships to new employees was taken due to widespread rorts and abuse of the 'existing workers' policy of the previous government which extended funding for traineeships to almost anyone in the workforce. The Queensland Government has historically funded adult apprenticeships and this existing entitlement should not be prejudiced by a poor policy decision of the previous Government.

1052. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/8/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 649 concerning start-up assistance for apprentices/trainees—

- (1) By 30 June 1999, how many apprentices/trainees had taken advantage of the subsidy?
- (2) What percentage of the total number of potential recipients of the subsidy does this represent?

Mr BRADDY (17/9/99):

- (1) 55
- (2) Of the 68 applications received, 13 were determined as ineligible, therefore payment made represented 80.8% of applications made.

1053. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Existing Workers Policy

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/8/99)—

With reference to materials provided to his senior departmental officers and thence to the Coalition which indicate that his "Existing Workers" policy is impacting negatively on some important job-creating industries—

What exemptions from this policy has he and his department granted to date?

Mr BRADDY (17/9/99): There have been no exemptions under the Policy.

1054. Arts Queensland, Cultural Delivery Unit

Mrs GAMIN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (18/8/99)—

- (1) Does he intend to fill the key position left vacant following the resignation of the Executive Manager of the Cultural Delivery Unit of Arts Queensland?
- (2) Will the position be advertised; if not, has he considered the impact on the arts industry?

Mr FOLEY (17/9/99):

(1) The filling of such positions is a matter for Departments not Ministers. The position is already filled on a temporary basis.

(2) All positions are advertised other than on the rare occasion that a decision is made to transfer an officer at or below level.

1055. TAFE Constitution

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/8/99)—

With reference to the final delegated authority on page 7 of the TAFE Constitution—

Is his department or the Beattie Government planning to charge TAFE institutes a fee for having TAFE land and buildings; if not, what circumstances is the authority designed to cover?

Mr BRADDY (17/9/99): The delegated authority on Page 7 of the TAFE Constitution relates to the hiring of TAFE facilities to external persons or organisations.

1056. Public Housing

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/8/99)—

With reference to public housing at 31 July 1999—

- (1) How many dwellings by dwelling type and bedroom number were vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four 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?
- (3) What is the composition of public housing stock by number and dwelling type?

Mr SCHWARTEN (17/9/99):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of dwellings, by dwelling type and bedroom number, vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) more than 12 weeks in total and by area office as at 31 July 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) At 31 July 1999, the vacant turnaround time for maintenance of public housing premises was 11.8 calendar days. At 31 July 1999, the vacant turnaround time for allocations of public housing premises was 21.4 calendar days.

(3) See Attachment B for the composition of public housing stock by number and dwelling type at 30 June 1999 which is the latest available data. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1057. TAFE

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/8/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 870 which did not infer that he had received an unofficial copy of the "Long Report", therefore his response to part (1) of the question is totally irrelevant—

Will he answer the actual question which was asked?

Mr BRADDY (17/9/99): The answer to Question on Notice No. 870 still stands.

1058. Atherton Tableland, Roadworks

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/8/99)—

With reference to the fact that a Labor Senator has mentioned the poor conditions of our roads on the Tableland, will he provide me with a commence work date for the proposed upgrading of McHugh Road between Millaa Millaa and Ravenshoe, especially the steep section known locally as the Gentle Annie which passes Millaa Millaa Lookout, particularly as I was given the impression that funding was approved and the road had a green light for July of 1999?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/9/99): The funding approved in the 1998-99 to 2002-03 Roads Implementation Program for the East Evelyn Road, locally known as McHugh Road, is \$200, 000 in 1998-99, \$1, 387, 000 in 1999-00 and \$6, 144, 000 in 2000-01 and beyond. Preliminary works are likely to commence early in the 1999-00 financial year with the major works undertaken after the wet season of 1999-2000.

1059. Rural Industry Training

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/8/99)—

As his decision to abolish training for existing workers has been most detrimental to rural industry training, to what extent is he prepared to modify his policy to meet the legitimate needs of rural training given that Minister Palaszczuk has highlighted the need to build a training culture, and for education and training providers to fit with the lifestyle work situation and learning processes of rural industry workers?

Mr BRADY (17/9/99): Training for existing workers in the rural industry has not been abolished. Over 1.5 million student contact hours in Vocational Education and Training is being funded in 1999 (excluding the User Choice Program), much of which is available to existing workers.

1060. James Cook University; Mr D. Haigh

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Education (18/8/99)—

- (1) Given he has legislative responsibility for universities in Queensland can he determine why formal proceedings have not been initiated against James Cook University lecturer, Mr David Haigh to recover all of the public moneys he expended on his personal political campaign against the Port Hinchinbrook project as Mr Haigh was instructed on 1 April 1996 by the Dean of Law to reimburse the University for all personal expenses incurred up to that time, and not to use JCU facilities for opposing the project in future and I am told there is ample evidence available showing that Mr Haigh never complied with that instruction and that he even escalated his protest activities for a number of years after that date (The expenditure in question covers use of University vehicles, telephone, fax machine and e-mail communication systems, as well as personal legal fees of \$4,350 in connection with a meeting he attended in Cardwell in a private

capacity. A Townsville Bulletin report in 1997 headed "Gathering Ammo for Resort Showdown" also indicates that Mr Haigh used sabbatical leave for non-approved purposes, the funding of which should also have been recovered as a matter of course.)?

- (2) Will he advise the number of teaching commitments Mr Haigh cancelled to attend to his personal protest activities between 1994 and 1997 and, apart from the above aspects, whether the James Cook University contributed financially to a protest march by students, in the company of Mr Haigh, to the Port Hinchinbrook site in July 1997?
- (3) Will he advise whether the James Cook University contributed financially to Mr Haigh's travel or accommodation when he attended a Port Hinchinbrook-related Federal Court hearing in Sydney in May 1997 or whether he was being paid by the University during his absence from his teaching and research obligations?
- (4) Will he advise why disciplinary/criminal charges have not been laid against Mr Haigh for the alleged misuse of public funds, and for involving the University in his personal political campaign, and why Mr Haigh enjoyed the extended private use of a University computer at his residence after an audit of the JCU Law School early in 1998 found serious deficiencies in its administration?

Mr WELLS (17/9/99): (1-4) Pursuant to a statute passed by this Parliament, responsibility for employment and conduct of the staff of J.C.U. are matters entirely for the Council of that University.

1061. Charters Towers Hospital; Eventide Nursing Home

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (18/8/99)—

With reference to the State Government policy that residents in Government instrumentalities such as Eventide Home for the Aged be provided with "choice" in relation to medical practitioners and that the doctors from the Charters Towers Hospital no longer visit all residents in Eventide Home—

- (1) What is the present situation with the funding received from the State Government for the third doctor at the hospital?
- (2) Will she provide assurances to the community of Charters Towers that the funding for the third doctor won't be removed?
- (3) Will she provide clarification of the Queensland Health policy that the doctors at the Charters Towers Hospital no longer visit Eventide Home for the Aged but the major proportion of residents can go to the hospital for an appointment or obtain the services of a private medical practitioner?

Mrs EDMOND (17/9/99):

- (1) The funding for the third doctor at Charters Towers Hospital is ongoing. The services provided

by the third doctor to Eventide is only a small proportion of the total workload.

(2) Yes.

(3) In accordance with Residential Aged Care Services Standard 2.4 Clinical Care, all residents have a choice of doctor. It is the Queensland Health preferred option that all residents at the Eventide Nursing Home have a relationship with a private general practitioner, the same as if they lived in the community. The third hospital medical officer will continue to provide services for existing residents who do not have a relationship with a general practitioner. Charters Towers Hospital will still provide emergency coverage where necessary.

1062. Justice and Attorney-General Portfolio, SES Public Servants

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (18/8/99)—

- (1) How many Senior Executive Service public servants were employed in his portfolio/s, and at what SES levels at 17 August 1999?
- (2) How many Senior Executive Service positions have been upgraded within his portfolio/s, (providing the original classification and the new classification) from 26 June 1998 up to and including 17 August 1999?
- (3) With reference to his portfolio/s at 30 June 1999 and up to and including 17 August 1999 by program and sub-program what was (a) the total number of positions in number and by FTE, (b) the breakdown of staffing by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE and (c) the breakdown of staffing vacancies by public service classifications in total positions and by FTE?

Mr FOLEY (17/9/99): I refer to Premier's response to the Question on Notice 1024 which provides such information on a whole of Government basis.

1063. Fire and Rescue Authority, Staffing

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Emergency Services (18/8/99)—

With reference to concerns which have been expressed about proposals to reduce fire fighting staff levels throughout Queensland and as Gladstone and Calliope areas are high risk areas given the urban/industrial mix and staffing levels need to increase, not decrease—

Will she give an assurance that staffing levels will not decrease and that consideration will be given to increasing staffing levels in the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service?

Mrs ROSE (20/9/99): The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) has a commitment to the delivery of quality fire and rescue services to achieve zero preventable fire deaths, injuries, property and environmental damage.

The 1999-2000 budget contains funding for additional positions in the QFRA. This will reinforce the staffing improvement achieved in 1998-99, of an additional 39 full-time firefighters and 68 auxiliaries.

1064. Treasury Department, Staffing

Dr WATSON asked the acting Treasurer (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Under-Treasurer or the Offices of the Under-Treasurer at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 BEATTIE (17/9/99):

(a) There are no officers employed as liaison between the Minister's Office and the Department.

(b) There are currently two Departmental employees on secondment to the Office of the Treasurer.

The existing Office of the Under Treasurer was formed as part of the recent Treasury Office Restructure. It represents a combination of and ultimately a reduction in the number of staff from the previous Cabinet and Policy Branch and the Office of the Under Treasurer. As a result of the restructure, classification levels, distribution of staff, position descriptions etc throughout Treasury Office have been under review. Positions are being progressively advertised and filled in the normal way.

1065. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development Department, Staffing

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of

the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will she please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 SPENCE (17/9/99):

(a) Departmental Liaison Officers

(i) Two Departmental Liaison Officers are employed in this portfolio, one attached to the Department of Equity of Fair Trading (DEFT) and one attached to the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development (DATSIPD). The two Departmental Liaison Officers are assisted by a Departmental Liaison Support Officer. (ii) Both Departmental Liaison Officers are remunerated at the AO7 level with no additional benefits. The Departmental Liaison Support Officer is remunerated at the AO3 level with no additional benefits. (iii) A Job Description exists for all positions and is provided. (iv) The latest review of the Departmental Liaison Officer positions was on 22 January 1999. The Departmental Liaison Support Officer position was last reviewed on 23 July 1999. All were approved by the Director-General. (v) The criteria used are specified in the Job Description. (vi) The DATSIPD Departmental Liaison Officer reports to the Executive Director of DATSIPD. The DEFT Departmental Liaison Officer reports to the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs within DEFT. The Departmental Liaison Support Officer reports to the Director-General. (vii) It is the Department's intention to rotate staff through the Departmental Liaison Officer positions with no individual remaining in the position for more than 12 months. The positions will be advertised by internal Expression of Interest. (viii) The DATSIPD Departmental Liaison Officer was advertised by an Expression of Interest distributed on the Department's intranet site on 30 July 1999. As it was considered that there was an insufficient pool of applicants to select from, another Expression of Interest to staff in both Departments within the portfolio was circulated on the intranet site on 2 September 1999. The position closes on 17 September 1999. The DEFT Departmental Liaison

Officer period of relieving has now finished and the position occupant will shortly be returning to his substantive position. The vacancy will be advertised by Expression of Interest to both Departments within the portfolio. The Departmental Liaison Support Officer was advertised in the Queensland Government Gazette on 20 August 1999, 27 August 1999 and 3 September 1999. (ix) It is the Department's intention to rotate staff through the Departmental Liaison Officer positions with no individual remaining in the position for more than 12 months. The Departmental Liaison Support Officer position is expected to be filled by mid October 1999. (x) The Departmental Liaison Officer positions and backfilling are funded from the relevant Departmental budget allocation. The Departmental Liaison Support Officer is funded from the Office of the Director-General.

(b) Departmental staff employed to work in the Minister's Office

No Departmental staff have been employed to work in or relieve in positions attached to the Minister's Office.

(c) Staff employed in the Office of the Director-General

Nine people were employed in the Office of the Director-General (including the Director-General) as of 18 August 1999. Details of the employees and positions attached to the Office of the Director-General are as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(iii) All job descriptions are provided, with the exception of the Director-General. (v) The criteria used for appointment are contained in the Job Descriptions. Details of the appointment of the Director-General are contained in a negotiated contract. (vi) All positions report directly the Director-General except for those marked with one or two asterisks. Those marked with one asterisk report to the Director, Office of the Director-General and those marked with two asterisks report to the Office Manager. (vii) The above vacancies were advertised and filled by a full merit process according to the Office of the Public Service Commissioner Directive on Recruitment and Selection, with the exception of the Communications Officer—Graphic Design position (filled in accordance with the Office of Public Service Commissioner Directive on Redeployment) and the Director-General position. (ix) The Departmental Liaison Support Officer is expected to be filled by mid October 1999. The Internal Auditor position is expected to be filled by mid November 1999. (x) The above positions are funded from the Department of Equity and Fair Trading budget with a cost transfer of a share of the costs to the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development. Replacements for positions previously held by occupants are funded from the individual Department's budget allocation. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1066. Transport and Main Roads Departments, Staffing

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 BREDHAUER (17/9/99):

(a)

(1) 6 (Queensland Transport 4; Main Roads 2)

(2-5) Appointment and employment conditions are in accordance with the relevant award provisions and public service guidelines.

(6) Queensland Transport staff report to Manager (Cabinet and Ministerial Services); Main Roads staff report to Principal Manager (Executive Cabinet Services).

(7-9) Appointment and employment conditions are in accordance with the relevant award provisions and public service guidelines.

(10) Funding for these positions including any consequential relief arrangements has been provided for in departmental budgets.

(b)

(1) 1 (Queensland Transport 1; Main Roads 0).

(2-5) Appointment and employment conditions are in accordance with the relevant award provisions and public service guidelines.

(6) The officer reports to the Manager (Cabinet and Ministerial Services).

(7-9) Appointment and employment conditions are in accordance with the relevant award provisions and public service guidelines.

(10) Funding for these positions including any consequential relief arrangements has been provided for in departmental budgets.

(c)

(1) 9 (Queensland Transport 4; Main Roads 5)

(2-5) Appointment and employment conditions are in accordance with the relevant award provisions and public sector guidelines.

(6) These officers report to their respective Director-General.

(7-9) Appointment and employment conditions are in accordance with the relevant award provisions and public service guidelines.

(10) Funding for these positions including any consequential relief arrangements has been provided for in departmental budgets.

1067. Police Service and Corrective Services Commission, Staffing

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 BARTON (17/9/99): In answering the question, I refer the Honourable Member to Sessional Order number 68(g) which states that questions "shall not be unduly lengthy". The above question asked by the Honourable Member clearly breaches the spirit of Sessional Order 68(g). I have, however, attempted to provide the majority of the information the member is seeking.

I currently have four departmental staff employed in my Ministerial office in a liaison and administrative capacity, they are rotated periodically and are individually appointed by, and report to, the Director General of the Department of Corrective Services and the Police Commissioner.

The four departmental staff consist of one liaison officer (A07) from the Department of Corrective

Services, and a liaison officer (Inspector) and two administration staff (A02 or A03) from the Queensland Police Service.

The primary functions of the liaison officers are to provide a conduit between the departments and the Minister, by obtaining written and verbal briefings on matters of concern, and to provide advice on departmental policies and procedures.

A significant proportion of the liaison officers' time is also spent assisting members of the public with highly detailed police or corrective services inquiries.

One of the administrative staff members is specifically attached to the police liaison officer, and provides administrative assistance to that officer. The second departmental administrative staff member assists in the coordination and movement of the large numbers of briefing notes and correspondence between the office of the commissioner, and the office of the Minister.

The appointments are temporary in nature, and are commonly not advertised. The Police Commissioner and the Director General of the Department of Corrective Services directly appoint officers to the positions. This is an established protocol used by Governments of all political persuasions in Queensland for many years. Appointments of departmental staff to my office have been for periods of approximately one year.

All departmental staff in my office are full-time employees, however, the Beattie Labor Government's commitment to open and accountable Government has seen departmental staff regularly rotated. In addition, to being proper practice, the rotation provides a measure of protection for liaison officers in their future public service careers.

At the current time, two of the departmental staff that were appointed to my office at the commencement of the Beattie Labor Government, remain. The other two officers have been recently rotated, and replaced by officers recommended by the Police Commissioner and the Director General of the Department of Corrective Services. It is anticipated that the remaining two original appointments will be replaced in the near future.

The staffing establishment figure for my office compares favourably with that of the previous Government in which the Honourable Member was a Minister. The total staff for the Office of the current Minister for Police and Corrective Services numbers sixteen, as against a total of nineteen staff for the office of the former Minister, the Honourable Russell Cooper MLA.

A discrepancy in the number of consultants between the two offices should also be noted. Both the former Minister, and I have utilised the services of the consultant, Ms Sue Johnson to progress a review of Queensland's prostitution laws. However, unlike the former Minister, my term as Minister has not been characterised by the employment of an additional range of highly paid consultants, such as Mr Bob Bottom (special adviser on organised crime), Mr Karl Mengler (Drugs in prisons inquiry), and Ms Kate Parker (racing industry consultant). I have not

sought at any time to employ people of the calibre of discredited Carruthers Inquiry figure Matthew Heery. Nor have I engaged in the type of suspect arrangement such as the former Minister had with Crime Prevention Coordinator, Mr Tony Hill. Mr Hill was paid by the Queensland Police Service, but reported directly to the Minister, the Honourable Russell Cooper MLA; a clear breach of accepted public sector practice.

1068. Emergency Services Department, Staffing

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will she please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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?

Mrs ROSE (20/9/99):

(a)

(i) One

(ii) AO8 with home garaging of a Queensland Government Vehicle.

(iii) The Departmental Liaison Officer acts as a link between the Department and the Minister's Office. This provides strategic support, advice and information to the Minister's Office on Departmental policy, guidelines and procedures.

(iv) Position description prepared in July 1998, approved in August 1998 by the Executive Director, Strategic and Executive Services Division.

(v) Selection Criteria were—

SC1 Demonstrated knowledge of the structure, roles, policies and legislative requirements of the Department of Emergency Services including the statutory authorities and volunteer emergency service providers.

SC2 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 stakeholders.

SC3 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.

SC4 Demonstrated ability in high level policy formulation, analysis, the generation of alternative courses of action, recommendations and review procedures with specific relevance to the effective operations of a complex organisation and to ensure management of the Department's activities in addressing, and response to, a range of sensitive issues.

SC5 Demonstrated understanding, or the ability to rapidly acquire an understanding of the Government's policy direction and the implications of the Department's activities.

SC6 Demonstrated high level of written communication skills and capacity to prepare complex reports, submissions, ministerial and other correspondence within limited time frames.

(vi) Through the Executive Director, Strategic and Executive Services Division to the Director-General.

(vii) Yes

(viii) This position was advertised in the Government Gazette in August/September 1998.

(ix) The position was filled in an acting capacity from July 1998 to December 1998. An officer was permanently appointed to the position on 16 December 1998.

(x) The Department funds the salary of the officer and any replacements.

(b)

(i) One

(ii) AO4

(iii) The Administration Officer provides a link between the Department and the Minister's Office. This provides administrative support to the Minister's Office on Departmental administration and correspondence procedures, operations and guidelines.

(iv) The job description is based on similar positions elsewhere.

(v) The appointment occurred in the same manner as used by previous governments.

(vi) The position reports to the Executive Director, Strategic and Executive Services Division.

(vii) The original appointment was made consistent with public service guidelines.

(viii) See (v)

(ix) An officer has been temporarily seconded to the position.

(x) The Department funds the salary of the officer and any replacements.

(c) Information relating to the staffing levels in the Office of the Director-General is included in the following table and attachments: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1069. Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning Department, Staffing

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 MACKENROTH (17/9/99): In relation to the three categories of staff nominated in the question, I can advise as follows:

(a) Departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison-like officers between the Department and the Office of the Minister at 18 August 1999

(i) One.

(ii) AO7

(iii) Liaison Officer.

(iv) The position description was approved by the Director-General on 21 July 1998 and reviewed in February 1999 prior to advertisement.

Superior knowledge of the operations of the media and demonstrated ability as a journalist

Superior knowledge of the machinery and procedures of Government.

Demonstrated experience in preparing and coordinating media releases, forwards and other material for senior management

Demonstrated high level communication and liaison skills and the ability to exercise sound judgment in dealing with complex and sensitive communication issues.

Demonstrated ability to work independently and meet deadlines in a pressured environment.

Sound knowledge of the Department's operations, or the ability to acquire a sound knowledge within a short time.

(v) Manager, Corporate Communication Unit, Executive Services in the Department

(vi) Yes.

(vii) The position was advertised in the Government Gazette and the Courier Mail, with applications closing on 8 March 1999.

(viii) Not applicable.

(ix) This position is part of the permanent establishment of the Corporate Communication Unit.

(b) Departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office at 18 August 1999

There are no Departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office.

(c) Staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999

(i) Two, not including the Director-General.

(ii) AO5 and AO3.

(iii) Executive Officer and Executive Support Officer.

(iv) The position description for the AO5 Executive Officer (which had been developed early in 1995 prior to its advertisement) was last reviewed on 30 April 1996, with the revised position description being approved by the Director-General at that time. The position description for the Executive Support Officer was approved by the Acting Manager, Corporate Planning and Human Resources in June 1999.

(v) Executive Officer (AO5)

Demonstrated high levels of competency in communicating face to face, by telephone and in writing, both to individuals and groups

Demonstrated ability to consult and negotiate with senior executives

Liaison skills of a high order as well as the capacity to develop a network of contacts throughout the Department, other Departments and the community.

Demonstrated ability to prioritise, schedule and delegate work to ensure deadlines and commitments are met.

Proven ability to effectively deal with matters of a sensitive or confidential nature

Demonstrated ability to function effectively as a member of a multi-disciplinary team.

Executive Support Officer (AO3)

Demonstrated ability in providing administrative, secretarial and receptionist services to senior executives

Thorough knowledge (or ability to rapidly acquire same) of Microsoft word processing softwares, spreadsheeting softwares, graphics softwares and operation of micro computer and printer equipment

Professional integrity with respect to such matters as client confidentiality and Departmental interests

Proven ability to work effectively in a flexible team environment which is subject to short deadlines.

Well developed skill in face to face and telephone communication with people from various professions and backgrounds.

Thorough knowledge (or ability to rapidly acquire same) of a substantial records/document management database.

(vi) The Executive Officer reports to the Director-General. The Executive Support Officer reports to the Executive Officer.

(vii) Yes.

(viii) The Executive Officer position was advertised in the Government Gazette, with applications closing on 12 June 1995. The person appointed to the position following this selection process has held the position since that time. The Executive Support Officer position was advertised in the Government Gazette, with applications closing on 28 June 1999.

(ix) Not applicable.

(x) These positions are part of the permanent establishment of the Office of the Director-General.

1070. Education Department, Staffing

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 (17/9/99):

(a) & (b) I refer the Honourable Member to the answer to Question on Notice 531.

(c)

(i) The Department informs me that the total number of staff employed in the office of the Director-General as at 18 August 1999 was (5), consisting of the Director-General (CEO3), Acting Principal Policy Officer (SO2), Executive Secretary (AO5) and two Administrative Officers (AO2).

(ii) I am informed by the Department that the remuneration levels conform with the Senior Executive Service, Senior Officer arrangements and the Public Service Award—State (Administrative Stream).

(iii) The Honourable Member can obtain position descriptions through the Department, (except the Director-General, which is not held by Education Queensland).

(iv) The Department informs me that all positions were approved in accordance with existing guidelines.

(v) See (c) (iv)

(vi) See (c) (iii)

(vii) The Department informs me that the position of Executive Secretary (AO5) and of Principal Policy Officer (SO2) were advertised in accordance with established departmental procedures.

(viii) See (c) (vii)

(x) The Department informs me that all positions are funded in accordance with existing departmental guidelines.

1071. Premier's Department, Staffing

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers

report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 BEATTIE (17/9/99): There are no departmental staff employed solely as liaison or liaison like officers between the Department and the Office of the Premier. However, there are some liaison aspects to the position of the Policy and Liaison Officer, who is employed in the Office of the Director-General.

1072. Primary Industries Department, Staffing

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 PALASZCZUK (16/9/99):

(a) Departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister as at 18 August 1999.

(i) 1 staff member

(ii) The staff member is remunerated at AO8 level, Public Service Award. There are no other remunerative benefits.

(iii) The Position Description for the Ministerial Liaison Officer AO8 is attached. (Tables and

- attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (iv) The position description was prepared in October 1997 by the Ministerial and Executive Services Unit and approved by the Office of the Director-General.
- (v) The selection criteria in the attached position description were used for the appointment.
- (vi) The officer reports to the Senior Ministerial Policy Adviser in the Office of the Minister for the work program and to the Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services Unit, DPI for administrative matters.
- (vii) The position was not advertised. The officer was seconded to the position for a period not exceeding 12 months in accordance with the Office of the Public Service Directive 7/98—Exceptions to appointment on merit.
- (viii) Not applicable.
- (ix) The position is a temporary role and there will not be a permanent appointment of a full-time officer.
- (x) This is an existing position and is funded by the Office of the Director-General. No replacement has been made to this secondee's previous position.
- (b) Departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's office as at 18 August 1999.
- (i) 2 staff members
- (ii) The staff members were seconded at their existing level of salary, one at the AO8 level (temporary position) and the other at PO5 level, Public Service Award. There are no other remunerative benefits.
- (iii) The job description is outlined on the attached document. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (iv) The job description was prepared in September 1998 by the Office of the Minister and approved by the Office of the Director-General.
- (v) Refer to the attached expressions of interest document for the requirements of the position. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (vi) The officers report to the Senior Ministerial Policy Adviser in the Office of the Minister for their work program and to the Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services Unit, DPI for administrative matters.
- (vii) One position was advertised for expression of interest on 21 June 1999 for a period of 6 months. The other position was filled by secondment of an officer for a period not exceeding 12 months in accordance with the Office of the Public Service Directive 7/98 – Exceptions to appointment on merit.
- (viii) One position was advertised through the Department by expression of interest by Email on 21 June 1999 for a period of 6 months.
- (ix) The positions are temporary roles and there will not be permanent appointment of full-time officers.
- (x) These positions are funded by the Office of the Director-General. No replacements have been made to their previous positions.
- (c) Staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999.
- (i) The following units are attached to the Office of the Director-General:
- Internal Audit—6 permanent staff plus 1 part time
1 x SO2, 2 x AO7, 3 x AO5 and 0.8 x AO2 (part time)
- Operational Review—3 permanent staff plus 1 part time
1 x SO2, 1 x AO7, 1 x AO6 and 0.4 x AO2 (part time)
- Ministerial and Executive Services Unit—5 permanent staff
1 x AO8, 2 x AO6 and 2 x AO3
- Group/Corporate Support—4 permanent staff
2 x AO4, 1 x AO3 and 1 x 2
- These units provide operational services for the Department.
- The detailed information sought by the Honourable Member for the 18 permanent and 2 part time existing Departmental staff employed in the office of the Director-General would require a vast amount of time and research by my department for its compilation.
- If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contacts the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.
- 1073. Health Department, Staffing**
- Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (18/8/99)—
- With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will She please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not;

why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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?

Mrs EDMOND (17/9/99): The arrangements for departmental staff assisting with public complaints and reception duties for the office of the Minister for Health reflect the arrangements under the former Minister for Health at June 1998. Another officer is responsible for liaison between the office of the Minister and the department.

1074. Public Works and Housing Departments, Staffing

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 (17/9/99):

Department of Public Works

(a)(i) 3: a Departmental Liaison Officer; a Principal Communication Liaison Officer and an Administrative Officer. (ii) Departmental Liaison Officer AO8; Principal Communication Liaison Officer AO6; Administrative Officer AO2. (iii) The position descriptions of the Departmental Liaison Officer and Principal Communication Liaison Officer have not changed since my answer to your Question on Notice No 517 of 25 August 1998. The position description of the Administrative Officer is: to provide secretarial and administrative support services to the Ministerial Liaison Unit enabling the

effective and efficient functioning of the unit. (iv) Refer to my answer to your Question on Notice No 517 of 25 August 1998. (v) Refer to (iv) above. (vi) These three officers report to the Director-General, Department of Public Works. (vii) The position of Departmental Liaison Officer is currently filled in a temporary capacity. The position of Principal Communications Liaison Officer is currently filled in a temporary capacity by the secondment of an officer for a period of three months. These positions have been filled in accordance with Office of the Public Service Commissioner Directive 10/98 which allows for the filling of temporary vacancies for a period up to 12 months without the requirement of advertising. The Administrative Officer is filled by a permanent officer who was recruited in accordance with the Office of the Public Service Directive 5/97. (viii) Not applicable. (ix) The continued requirement for the position of Principal Communication Liaison Officer will be examined at the end of the current three months secondment. The position of Departmental Liaison Officer will continue to be filled on a temporary basis for the next twelve months. (x) The funding for these positions forms part of the budget of the Office of the Director-General. Replacement funding was not an issue as these officers were not employed within the department before their appointment.

(b) (i) Nil.

(c) (i) 6: Two Policy Officers, Executive Officer, Senior Executive Coordinator and two Administrative Officers. (ii) Policy Officers AO7; Executive Officer AO5; Senior Executive Coordinator AO5; Executive Assistant AO3; Administrative Officer AO2. (iii) The position description for the positions of Policy Officer is: To provide support to the Director-General on any referred policy or procedural matters as a matter of priority, and provide relevant advice and/or correspondence in a timely, efficient and accurate manner; Ensure high quality Cabinet submissions are submitted to the Director, Executive Services in a timely and efficient manner, that address relevant whole-of-Department, central agency and/or whole-of-Government policy concerns, and provide relevant policy input during the development of the submissions; Maintain awareness of the status and forward commitments for Cabinet submissions for the Department; Obtain relevant advice and maintain liaison with key areas of the Department to ensure timely resolution of policy and procedural matters referred for action; Undertake special projects and provide strategic advice to the Director-General. The position description for the position of Executive Officer is: Undertake the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary to the Corporate Governance Board and the Executive Management Committee; Undertake research activities on a range of issues including sensitive and confidential matters as directed by the Director-General; Manage the daily flow of incoming correspondence and other documentation to and from the Director-General; Review and evaluate Cabinet Submissions, Ministerial Submissions; Executive Council Minutes/Schedules; Consultancy approvals; Submissions to Director-General; Regional Cabinet Material; Briefing Notes to ensure

they are in order for the Director-General; Maintain liaison with Minister's office and provide timely responses to requests for information from that office, through research and consultation, with Senior Executives and other operational staff; In conjunction with the Senior Executive Coordinator, request, monitor and/or prepare briefing notes for Director-General's meetings and speech notes as required; Maintain close and confidential liaison with Legal and Contractual Services, with respect to the administrative procedures for Criminal Justice Commission inquiries. The position description for the position of Senior Executive Coordinator is: Manage the administrative functions of the Office of the Director-General; Manage the expenditure processes for the Director-General's Office including expenditure approvals within delegation limits, budget management, American Express accounts, fuel docket and prepare related reports as necessary; Provide executive support to the Director-General including, managing and coordinating all diary appointments for the Director-General, preparation of replies to correspondence for the Director-General's signature or on behalf of the Director-General, organise meetings, conferences and other events on behalf of the Director-General, preparation of meeting minutes as required, Intercept all calls to the Director-General and ensure they are actioned appropriately, coordinate travel arrangements for the Director-General; Maintain high level liaison with the Minister's Office, other Departments, senior departmental officers and external clients; Supervise and manage the performance of subordinate staff within the Director-General's Office; Provide research support and briefing notes as required by the Director-General. The position description for the position of Executive Assistant is: Provide secretarial and administrative support to the Office of the Director-General, enabling the effective and efficient functioning of the work area; Intercept and screen telephone calls to the Director-General and tactfully redirect calls to appropriate officers as required; Record and track general and ministerial correspondence for the Office of the Director-General, including the recording of action items, sorting and distribution to appropriate officers and checking bring-ups and follow up action as required; Ensure the Office of the Director-General is adequately stocked with stationery and office requisites in accordance with purchasing policy and that payments for accounts are processed in a timely manner; Contribute to the integrity of the Office of the Director-General by maintaining processes and practices that ensure the confidentiality of all documentation handled on behalf of the Director-General; Maintain a secure filing system for the Office of the Director-General and update office manuals when required; Distribute agenda papers prior to the Corporate Governance and Executive meetings; Assist in the organisation of official functions through the ordering and preparation of refreshments and assist with official visitors as required; Ensure all office equipment is serviced and maintained in a satisfactory manner. The position description for the Administrative Officer is: to provide secretarial and administrative support

services to the Office of the Director-General, (iv) The position descriptions for these positions were approved on 1 April 1999 by the Director-General following preparation by Planning and Human Resources, Department of Public Works. (v) The selection criteria for the Policy Officers are: Demonstrated understanding of strategic planning, policy development, program management and organisational change principles; Demonstrated ability to analyse issues, write concise professional standard reports and provide independent advice to senior officers on diverse issues; Demonstrated ability to plan projects and manage their progress to achieve timely outcomes and client satisfaction; Demonstrated ability to effectively communicate, consult and negotiate with internal and external clients; Knowledge of developments and trends in public sector administration; Demonstrated knowledge of contemporary management practices, including performance management, change management, quality management, employment equity and workplace health and safety. The selection criteria for the Executive Officer are: Demonstrated ability to analyse issues, write concise professional standard reports and provide independent advice to senior officers on diverse issues; Demonstrated ability to plan projects and manage their progress to achieve timely outcomes and client satisfaction; Knowledge of developments and trends in public sector administration; Demonstrated ability to complete tasks in a professional manner within pre-determined deadlines; Demonstrated ability to effectively communicate, consult and negotiate with internal and external clients. The selection criteria for the Senior Executive Coordinator are: Proven ability to effectively communicate and liaise with staff at all levels, particularly senior management, and with external clients both within Government and the private sector; Demonstrated ability to provide secretarial and administrative support to executive management, including maintaining confidentiality of information; Demonstrated ability to effectively implement and manage a range of administrative procedures relevant to the office, including expenditure management, filing systems, personnel management and information systems; Demonstrated ability to undertake research and to prepare related reports; Written ability of a high level including the ability to prepare correspondence and briefing papers for senior management; Knowledge or the ability to rapidly acquire a knowledge of the functions of the Department and its related administrative procedures. The selection criteria for the Executive Assistant are: Capacity to facilitate effective and timely processing and recording of high volumes of correspondence, including Ministerial and Executive correspondence; Highly developed skills in face-to-face and telephone communication; Demonstrated ability to establish good working relationships and to function effectively in a team environment; High level of skill in the use and operation of various computer software packages particularly Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and correspondence tracking systems; Demonstrated ability to work under pressure in a high volume area with minimal supervision to achieve

deadlines and commitments. (vi) These officers report to the Director-General, Department of Public Works. (vii) The transfer at level of permanent officers filled one Policy Officer and the positions of Executive Officer and Senior Executive Coordinator. The positions of Policy Officer and Executive Assistant were filled on merit following advertisement in the Government Gazette. The position of Administrative Assistant is filled by the temporary appointment of an officer for six months. (viii) The other position of Policy Officer was advertised in the Government Gazette on 4 April 1997 and the position of Executive Assistant was advertised in the Government Gazette on 24 April 1999. (ix) The continued requirement for the position of Administrative Assistant will be examined at the end of the current engagement. (x) The funding of these positions forms part of the budget of the Office of the Director-General.

Department of Housing

(a) Departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister. (i) A Departmental Liaison Officer (ii) AO7.1 (\$2240.10 per fortnight). (iii) The position description of the Departmental Liaison Officer is: to act as a liaison between the Office of the Minister for Public Works and Housing and the Department of Housing. The Departmental Liaison Officer is responsible for developing strategies to pro-actively address sensitive issues that may impact on some sectors of the community so that complaints and or disruption is minimised. The position will coordinate the investigation and resolution of complaints from Members of Parliament and their staff and members of the public to the Minister's office and ensure that a comprehensive and timely response is provided. The position has a major impact on the public perception of both the Minister and the whole Department of Housing. The position provides strategic support and advice to Ministerial staff on matters relating to the Department of Housing and reviews departmental submissions to ensure that they comply with departmental policy, guidelines and procedures and provide an appropriate level of information and detail about activities of the department. (iv) The position descriptions were prepared in April 1999 by Mr Norm Armstrong A/Manager Personnel Services and approved in April 1999 by the A/General Manager Corporate and Executive Services, Mr Colin Black. (v) The selection criteria for this position are: 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. 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. A thorough knowledge of contemporary human resource management principles and practices with particular reference to Workplace Health and Safety, Equal Employment Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination. (vi) This officer reports to the General Manager, Corporate and Executive Services, Department of Housing. (vii) The position of Departmental Liaison Officer is currently filled in a temporary capacity. (viii) The position was advertised in the Government Gazette on 13 August 1999. (ix) Permanent filling of this position should occur in September 1999. (x) The funding for this position forms part of the budget of Corporate and Executive Services, Department of Housing.

(b) Departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office (i) One: Administrative Officer (ii) Administrative Officer AO2.1 (\$943.30 per fortnight) (iii) The position description of this position is: to assist in the provision of timely, accurate preparation and processing of correspondence, briefing notes, submissions and administrative services for the Minister, Director-General, Premier and Governor. (iv) The position description was prepared in April 1997 and approved by the Director, Executive Services Unit, Department of Public Works and Housing. (v) The selection criteria for the Administrative Officer are: Demonstrated expertise in providing high level administrative support to senior management. Capacity to facilitate effective and timely processing and recording of high volumes of correspondence, including Ministerial and Executive correspondence. Well developed skills in face-to-face and telephone communications. Ability to establish good working relationships and to function effectively in a team environment. Ability to work under pressure in a high volume area with minimal supervision to achieve deadlines and commitments. Expertise in the use and operation of various computer software packages particularly Microsoft Word and correspondence tracking systems. (vi) The officer reports to the Departmental Liaison Officer, Department of Housing (vii) The position of Administrative Officer is currently filled in a temporary capacity in accordance with Office of the Public Service Commissioner Directive 10/98 which allows for the filling of temporary vacancies for up to 12 months without the requirement of advertising. (viii) Not applicable (ix) The position of Administrative Officer will continue to be filled on a temporary basis until early 2000. (x) The funding for this position forms part of the budget of the Corporate and Executive Services, Department of Housing.

(c) Staff employed in the Office of the Director-General, Department of Housing (i) Two: Executive Officer and Executive Assistant (ii) Executive Officer AO5.2 (\$1795.40 per fortnight), Executive Assistant AO3.2 (\$1322.30 per fortnight) (iii) The position description of the Executive Officer is: to provide high level confidential executive administrative support to the Director-General on administrative matters. To manage and develop the administrative functions of the Office of the Director-General, including expenditure management. The position description of the Executive Assistant is: to assist in providing high level confidential executive secretarial and administrative support to the Director-General on

administrative matters. (iv) The position descriptions for these positions were approved by the Director-General, Department of Housing on 20 May 1999. (v) The selection criteria for the Executive Officer were: proven ability to effectively communicate and liaise courteously and professionally with staff at all levels, particularly senior management of the department and the Minister, Ministerial staff and senior members of the Government and the Opposition, and with external clients both within government and the private sector in accordance with established official protocols. Knowledge or the ability to rapidly acquire a knowledge of the programs, initiatives and functions of the department and the related organisational structures and administrative procedures. A high level of written and communication skills and management skills to ensure the work of the Director-General is appropriately presented and dealt with in accordance with executive management protocols and proven ability to effectively deal with matters of a sensitive or confidential nature and to maintain strict confidentiality by all staff of the office of the Director-General. Demonstrated ability to effectively implement and manage a range of administrative procedures relevant to the Director-General's office, including expenditure management, filing systems, document tracking and retrieval, personnel management and information systems to ensure the most efficient use of the Director-General's time and that deadlines and commitments are met. Demonstrated skills in the management of staff in accordance with human resource management principles and practices, including those related to workplace health and safety, equal opportunity in public employment and anti-discrimination. The selection criteria for the Executive Assistant is: Demonstrated ability in successfully assisting senior executives to be effective. Knowledge or the ability to rapidly acquire a knowledge of the programs, initiatives and functions of the department and the related organisational structures and administrative procedures. Proven ability to handle matters of a sensitive or confidential nature including maintaining strict confidentiality by all staff of the Office of the Director-General with high levels of communication and interpersonal skills. Demonstrated high level of speed and accuracy in word processing and other software programs and be able to prioritise work to meet commitments and competing deadlines. (vi) Both positions report to the Director-General, Department of Housing. (vii) Both positions were advertised in the Government Gazette on 18 June 1999. (ix) Both positions were permanently filled on merit selection as required under Office of the Public Service Commissioner Directives with appointments being made on 4 August 1999 (x) The funding of these positions forms part of the budget of the Office of the Director-General, Department of Housing.

1075. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Staffing

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will she please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 (17/9/99):

(a)

i. One officer in a part-time capacity.

ii. AO6 (No other remunerative benefits are payable)

iii. The purpose of the position of Departmental Liaison Officer, Office of the Director General, is to act as a liaison between the Office of the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services ensuring inquiries are responded to in a timely manner. The position provides information to and co-ordinates the resolution of complaints from Members of Parliament and their staff, and members of the public to the Minister's Office.

iv. Position Title, Departmental Liaison Officer; Approved, 19/08/98; Authorised by Manager (Cabinet, Policy & Co-ordination Unit)

v. Position Title, Departmental Liaison Officer; Criteria used for appointment, Internal expressions of interest sought for temporary appointment

vi. Position Title, Departmental Liaison Officer; Reports to Acting Deputy Director-General

vii. Yes.

viii. Internal expressions of interest were sought from the Department on 19 March 1999.

ix. This position will only be filled in a temporary capacity.

x. All officers working for the Office of the Director-General are paid for from the salary budget of the Office of the Director-General.

(b) There are no permanent staff from the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office.

(c)

i.20

ii.

Position title—Remuneration: Other remunerative benefits

Deputy Director-General—SES4; As per Directive 1/99 with no Public Service Commissioner approved benefits.

Manager & Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer—AO8; Nil

Senior Cabinet & Policy Officer—AO7; Nil

Executive Officer—AO6; Nil

Senior Correspondence & Policy Officer—AO6; Nil

Departmental Liaison Officer—AO6; Nil

Senior Executive Services Officer—AO6; Nil

Cabinet & Policy Correspondence Officer (x 2)—AO5; Nil

Research & Policy Support Officer—AO4; Nil

Executive Assistant—AO4; Nil

Resource Officer—AO4; Nil

Executive Support Officer—AO3; Nil

Administration Officer—AO3; Nil

Administrative Officer (x 3)—AO2; Nil

Trainee Administrative Officer—AT75; Nil

Principal Legal Officer—PO6; Nil

Senior Legal Officer—PO5; Nil

iii.

Position Title—Purpose of Position

Deputy Director-General—To provide strategic direction, oversight and co-ordination of the service delivery networks of the Department.

Manager & Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer—To ensure the effective co-ordination and comprehensive and timely responses through the Office of the Director-General to the Minister on a range of sensitive departmental activities, and processes relating to Cabinet, Executive Council and Parliamentary functions and business.

Senior Cabinet & Policy Officer—Contribute to the provision of strategic advice and support to the Manager, Cabinet, Policy and Co-ordination Unit, the Minister and the Director-General on Cabinet, legislation and liaison on operational matters.

Executive Officer—To provide high level support for the Director-General.

Senior Correspondence & Policy Officer—To co-ordinate the provision of high quality and timely responses to ministerial correspondence and ensure efficient tracking of correspondence.

Departmental Liaison Officer—To act as a liaison between the Office of the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services ensuring inquiries are responded to in a timely manner.

Senior Executive Services Officer—To manage the provision of integrated human resource, financial and

administrative support services to the Cabinet, Policy and Co-ordination Unit, and to the Office of the Director-General.

Cabinet & Policy Correspondence Officer (x 2)—To assist in the provision of appropriate advice in relation to Cabinet, liaison, policy, correspondence and research activities across all Program and Regional areas of the Department.

Research & Policy Support Officer—To provide administrative, research and policy support to the Deputy Director-General, and co-ordinate activities between the Office of the Director-General, regions and programs, as directed.

Executive Assistant—To provide administrative support to the Director-General.

Resource Officer—To provide high level administrative system support services for the Executive Services and Strategic Planning sub-program.

Executive Support Officer—To provide administrative support to the Manager and CLLO, and staff of the Legal Services Unit.

Administration Officer—To provide support to the Senior Executive Services Officer to ensure the efficient and effective operation of financial and administrative processes for the Office of the Director-General.

Administrative Officer (x 3)—To provide administrative support services to officers of the Cabinet, Policy and Coordination Unit and Office of the Director-General.

Trainee Administrative Officer—N/A

Principal Legal Officer—Provision of timely legal advice and consultancy services.

Senior Legal Officer—Provision of legal advice and consultancy services.

iv.

Position Title—Approved; Authorised by

Deputy Director-General—24/05/99; Director-General

Manager & Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer—31/08/98; Acting Deputy Director-General

Senior Cabinet & Policy Officer—31/08/98; Acting Deputy Director-General

Executive Officer—12/05/94; Director-General

Senior Correspondence & Policy Officer—31/08/98; Acting Deputy Director-General

Departmental Liaison Officer—19/08/98; Manager (Cabinet, Policy & Co-ordination Unit)

Senior Executive Services Officer—22/10/98; Manager (Cabinet, Policy & Co-ordination Unit)

Cabinet & Policy Correspondence Officer (x 2)—31/08/98; Acting Deputy Director-General

Research & Policy Support Officer—11/11/98; Acting Deputy Director-General

Executive Assistant—19/03/97; Director (Exec Services & Strategic Planning)

Resource Officer—19/03/97; Director (Exec Services & Strategic Planning)

Executive Support Officer—N/A; Awaiting authorisation
 Administration Officer—18/02/98; Director-General
 Administrative Officer (x 3)—14/01/98; Director (Human Resource, Finance & Property Services)
 Trainee Administrative Officer—N/A; (Criteria adapted from Administrative Officer position)
 Principal Legal Officer—10/98; Acting Deputy Director-General)
 Senior Legal Officer—09/11/98; Acting Deputy Director-General

v.

Position Title—Criteria used for appointment
 Deputy Director-General—Officer acting in vacant position. Position recently advertised.
 Manager & Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer—Interview with appointment based on merit.
 Senior Cabinet & Policy Officer—Interview with appointment based on merit.
 Executive Officer—Officer acting in vacant position
 Senior Correspondence & Policy Officer—Interview with appointment based on merit.
 Departmental Liaison Officer—Officer acting in vacant position
 Senior Executive Services Officer—Officer acting in vacant position
 Cabinet & Policy Correspondence Officer (x 2)—Interview with appointment based on merit.
 Research & Policy Support Officer—Interview with appointment based on merit.
 Executive Assistant—Officer acting in vacant position
 Resource Officer—Officer acting in vacant position
 Executive Support Officer—Officer acting in vacant position
 Administration Officer—Interview with appointment based on merit.
 Administrative Officer (x 3)—Base grade recruitment process
 Trainee Administrative Officer—Trainee selection process
 Principal Legal Officer—Interview with appointment based on merit.
 Senior Legal Officer—Interview with appointment based on merit.

vi.

Position Title—Reports to
 Deputy Director-General—Director-General
 Manager & Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer—Director-General
 Senior Cabinet & Policy Officer—Manager & Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer
 Executive Officer—Director-General
 Senior Correspondence & Policy Officer—Manager & Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer

Departmental Liaison Officer—Acting Deputy Director-General
 Senior Executive Services Officer—Manager & Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer
 Cabinet & Policy Correspondence Officer (x 2)—Manager & Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer
 Research & Policy Support Officer—Acting Deputy Director-General
 Executive Assistant—Executive Officer
 Resource Officer—Senior Executive Services Officer
 Executive Support Officer—Manager & Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer
 Administration Officer—Senior Executive Services Officer
 Administrative Officer (x 3)—Senior Executive Services Officer
 Trainee Administrative Officer—Senior Executive Services Officer

Principal Legal Officer—Director-General
 Senior Legal Officer—Principal Legal Officer

vii. All permanently filled positions were advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures.

viii.

Position Title—Place of Publication (where applicable); Date advertised
 Deputy Director-General—N/A (Officer acting in vacant position); N/A
 Manager & Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer—Government Gazette; 11/09/98
 Senior Cabinet & Policy Officer—Government Gazette; 11/09/98
 Executive Officer—N/A (Officer acting in vacant position); N/A
 Senior Correspondence & Policy Officer—Government Gazette; 11/09/98
 Departmental Liaison Officer—N/A (Officer acting in vacant position); N/A
 Senior Executive Services Officer—N/A (Officer acting in vacant position); N/A
 Cabinet & Policy Correspondence Officer (x 2)—Government Gazette; 11/9/98
 Research & Policy Support Officer—Government Gazette; 20/11/98
 Executive Assistant—N/A (Officer acting in vacant position); N/A
 Resource Officer—N/A (Officer acting in vacant position); N/A
 Executive Support Officer—N/A (Officer acting in vacant position); N/A
 Administration Officer—Government Gazette; 20/02/98
 Administrative Officer (x 3)—N/A (Base grade recruitment process); N/A

Trainee Administrative Officer—N/A (Trainee selection process); N/A

Principal Legal Officer—Government Gazette; 13/11/98

Senior Legal Officer—Government Gazette; 08/01/99

ix. A selection process is currently being conducted for the position of Deputy Director-General and it is anticipated that an appointment will be finalised in the near future. Procedures to appoint officers to the other vacant positions have been put on hold due to the Organisational Development process currently under way.

x. All officers working for the Office of the Director-General are paid for from the salary budget of the Office of the Director-General.

1076. State Development Department, Staffing

Mr **SLACK** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 **ELDER** (20/9/99):

(a) There are two public servants employed in the Office of the Director General whose role includes a liaison type component. Further details are provided in Attachment 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(b) Nil.

(c) There are 11 public servants employed in the Office of the Director General. Further details are provided in Attachment 2. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1077. Natural Resources Department, Staffing

Mr **LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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** (17/9/99):

Departmental Staff Employed As Liaison Officers

a(i) My Department of Natural Resources (DNR) employs three officers (members of the Executive Liaison Team, Executive Services and Administrative Review) who have a dedicated liaison role between the Department and my Ministerial Office.

a(ii) The remuneration levels of the dedicated DNR liaison officers are as follows:

Administrative Officer (Liaison) AO1/AO2, (\$654.70-\$1190.40 per fortnight);

Administration Officer (Liaison) AO3, (\$1273.30-\$1420.00 per fortnight); and

Administrative Officer (Reception) AO1/AO2 (\$654.70-\$1190.40 per fortnight).

a(iii) Current job descriptions for officers listed in a(ii) are attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

a(iv) 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, DNR. The Administrative Officer (Reception) AO1/AO2 was an existing position, and its job description was also updated and approved on that date by the Director, Executive and Legal Services, DNR.

a(v) The selection criteria are outlined in the respective job descriptions.

a(vi) Officers listed in a(ii) are managed by the Manager (Executive Correspondence and Projects), Executive Services and Administrative Review, DNR but report operationally on a day to day basis to the Senior Policy Adviser (Natural Resources), Minister's Office.

a(vii) Expressions of Interest were sought for the positions of temporary Administration Officer (Liaison), and Administrative Officer (Reception) in accordance with Office of the Public Service Directive 8/98. The vacancy for the position of Administrative Officer (Liaison) was not advertised (as is permitted by Office of the Public Service Directive 8/98) as this vacancy is of a temporary nature due to the incumbent relieving in the position of Administration Officer (Liaison).

a(viii) Expressions of Interest via DNR electronic mail were called for the temporary position of Administration Officer (Liaison) on 18 November 1998 and for the position of Administrative Officer (Reception) on 7 August 1998.

a(ix) The position of Administrative Officer (Reception) was filled permanently on 14 September 1998. The positions of Administration Officer (Liaison) and Administrative Officer (Liaison) are currently filled on a temporary basis. It is expected that these positions will be reviewed shortly.

a(x) The officers listed in a(ii) are funded from the existing departmental allocation.

Departmental Staff Working or Relieving in the Minister's Office

b(i) One staff member is currently on secondment from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to my Ministerial Office while another two officers are on short term assignments (9 August 1999 to 3 September 1999), effectively relieving in Ministerial Office positions in which there are vacancies, temporary or otherwise. Of these, one is backfilling a Ministerial officer who recently resigned, and the other is relieving a Ministerial officer who is on recreation leave.

b(ii) The remuneration level of the DNR officer whilst on secondment to the my Ministerial Office is as follows:

Senior Policy Adviser (Natural Resources), SO1, Level 1 or \$2985.40 per fortnight;

The remuneration level of the DNR officers whilst relieving in my Ministerial Office is as follows:

Personal Secretary, (currently being relieved by the Administration Officer (Liaison) for the period 9 August 1999 to 3 September 1999), AO5(1) or \$1744.70 per fortnight; and

Correspondence Coordinator, (currently being relieved by the Administrative Officer (Reception) for the period 9 August 1999 to 3 September 1999), AO3(1) or \$1273.30 per fortnight.

b(iii) Current job descriptions for officers listed in b(ii) are attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

b(iv) The job descriptions for the positions listed in b(ii) were approved by the Department of Premier and Cabinet under the previous administration.

b(v) The selection criteria are outlined in the respective job descriptions.

b(vi) The Senior Policy Adviser (Natural Resources) reports directly to me. The Personal Secretary and Correspondence Coordinator report to the Senior Policy Adviser (Natural Resources).

b(vii) The positions listed in b(ii) were not advertised as is permitted by Office of the Public Service Directive 8/98.

b(viii) The positions listed in b(ii) were not advertised, see b(vii).

b(ix) The appointment of the Senior Policy Adviser (Natural Resources) to my Office is by way of secondment. The incumbent to the position of Personal Secretary returns from recreation leave on 6 September 1999. The position of Correspondence Coordinator will be reviewed shortly.

b(x) The positions listed in b(ii) are funded from Ministerial Office funds. The DNR positions vacated by the secondees have budget provision which allows backfilling.

Departmental Staff in the Director-General's Office

c(i) My Department of Natural Resources (DNR) employs one officer (Senior Executive Coordinator) in the Office of the Director-General (excluding the Director-General himself).

c(ii) The remuneration level of the Senior Executive Coordinator is AO5, (\$1744.70-\$1896.20 per fortnight).

c(iii) Current job description for the Senior Executive Coordinator is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

c(iv) The job description for the Senior Executive Coordinator was prepared on 28 May 1999 and approved by the Director-General, DNR.

c(v) The selection criteria are outlined in the job description.

c(vi) The Senior Executive Coordinator reports directly to the Director-General.

c(vii) Yes.

c(viii) The vacancy for the Senior Executive Coordinator was advertised in the Government Gazette on 18 June 1999.

c(ix) The position of Senior Executive Coordinator has been filled on a permanent basis

c(x) The position of Senior Executive Coordinator is funded from the existing departmental allocation.

With reference to my Environmental Protection Agency

(a)(i) The executive Manager, Ministerial Liaison Unit, has a liaison function between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Office of the Minister.

(ii) The remuneration level is AO7

(iii) The Position Description for this job is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(iv) This Position Description was prepared in July 1998 and approved by the Director, Business Support Services of the then Department of Environment and Heritage.

(v) The selection Criteria for the appointment are listed on the Position Description attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(vi) This officer reports to the Director, Corporate Development.

(vii) This position was advertised in accordance with the established Public Service Recruitment and Selection Procedures.

(viii) This position was advertised in the Government Gazette and the internal gazette on 9 April 1999 and in the Courier Mail on 10 April 1999.

(ix) The position has been filled permanently since 10 June 1999.

(x) Not applicable.

(b)(i) One staff member is currently on secondment from the EPA to my Ministerial Office.

(ii) The remuneration level of the EPA officer whilst on secondment to my Ministerial Office is AO8-SO1. The officer is provided with a car, reimbursement of full rental costs of a telephone installed in their residence and also a percentage of calls agreed between the officer and myself.

(iii) The Position Description for this job is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(iv) The Position Description was approved by the Department of Premier and Cabinet under the previous administration.

(v) The Selection Criteria for the appointment are listed on the Position Description attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(vi) The Senior Policy Adviser (EPA) reports directly to me.

(vii) The position was not advertised, as permitted by the Office of the Public Service Directive 8/98.

(viii) The position was not advertised.

(ix) The appointment of the Senior Policy Adviser (EPA) is by way of secondment.

(x) The position is funded from Ministerial Office funds. The EPA position vacated by the secondee has not been filled.

(c)(i) The Executive Assistant to the Director-General is the only officer employed in the Office of the Director-General.

(ii) The remuneration level is AO4.

(iii) The Position Description for the job is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(iv) This Position Description was prepared in December 1999 and approved by the Director-General of the EPA.

(v) The Selection Criteria for the appointment are listed on the Position Description attached. (Tables

and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(vi) This officer reports to the Director-General.

(vii) This position was advertised in accordance with the established Public Service Recruitment and Selection Procedures.

(viii) The position was advertised in the Government Gazette and the internal gazette on 18 December 1998 and in the Courier Mail on 19 December 1998.

(ix) The position has been filled permanently since 28 January 1999.

(x) Not applicable.

1078. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Staffing

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not; why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 BRADY (17/9/99):

(a) Departmental liaison staff employed in the Office of the Minister. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(b) Departmental staff employed in the Office of the Minister. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(c) Staff employed in the Office of the Director-General. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1079. Meat Industry

Mr COOPER asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (19/8/99)—

With reference to the \$20m Meat Processing Development Initiative and the State Government's Major Project Incentive Scheme, administered by his department—

Will he provide a complete breakdown of all those meat processors who have received assistance through either or both of these schemes, including the value and type of assistance granted?

Mr ELDER (20/9/99): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Cooper, I can advise as follows:

Since 1991, under the Major Projects Incentives Scheme and the Queensland Investment Incentives Scheme, six companies in the meat industry have been supported with financial assistance. No company in the industry has received assistance under either of the schemes from the current Labour Government. Details of assistance packages and companies under these schemes are commercial in confidence.

With reference to the Queensland Meat Processing Development Initiative Assistance Program, the only meat processor which has received funding to date, is Darling Downs Bacon Cooperative Association Limited.

On agreement with Darling Downs Bacon, the Government announced that a \$1.8 million support package would be provided to that firm in support of its \$37 million upgrade to export accreditation level, of its existing pig processing facilities at Willowburn in Toowoomba. To formalise the funding, a performance based financial assistance agreement has been entered into between Darling Downs Bacon and the State.

Other projects which have been offered QMPDI financial assistance include—

The establishment of what will be Queensland's only fellmongering plant at Wallangarra sheep abattoir by Southern Queensland Exporters Pty Ltd; and

The construction of a by-products rendering plant at Charleville goat and sheep abattoir by Western Exporters Pty Ltd.

The Meat Processing Industry Task Force is currently progressing the preparation of performance based financial assistance agreements with these two proponents.

At this stage, the Task Force is assessing a number of applications received from applicants ranging from small rural businesses to significant regional and urban meat processors in the industry.

To preserve the commerciality of these proposed meat processing projects, the Government is not obliged to make public the names of the applicants or the purposes for which applications are made.

Additional funding will become available to the industry following the completion of the application assessment phase currently being carried out by the Task Force.

1080. Class Sizes

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Education (19/8/99)—

With reference to Queensland Teachers' Union (QTU) Special Education Policy Section 1.1.1—

- (1) What are the recommended class sizes under Education Queensland policy?
- (2) In his view, are the recommended class sizes appropriate to providing all students with an acceptable level of education?
- (3) Does the Education Queensland policy provide for reduced class sizes when an 'ascertained student' (student with serious, diagnosed learning difficulties) is included in a class?
- (4) In his view, should class sizes be reduced and by how many students when an ascertained student or a student with impairment is included in the class?
- (5) Are there any plans currently in place to amend the Education Queensland policy in regard to class sizes?
- (6) If there are current plans to amend the policy, what amendments are proposed?
- (7) If there are no current plans in place, would he consider putting plans in place to amend the policy to set maximum class sizes and reduce class sizes in accordance with Section 1.1.1 of the QTU Special Education Policy?

Mr WELLS (20/9/99):

(1) Education Queensland policy is for a maximum class size of 25 students for years 1-3 and years 11-12; a maximum class size of 30 students for years 4-10; and a maximum class size of 25 students for composite classes.

(2) Yes.

(3) In some instances it does. Reduction of class size is not the only strategy for addressing the needs of students who have been ascertained. Additional resources above those allocated for maximum class size, are provided to each district that has students who have been ascertained and are included within a class. The district then distributes these additional resources to the school or schools within the district. Some of these resources are provided direct to individual schools and other resources are shared between schools.

The resources provided to schools are utilised in a manner that is judged by the educators on site, will make the greatest educational impact on the student with an ascertainment. In some cases there may be reduced class size but there are also other appropriate strategies that may be used to achieve quality educational outcomes for students who have been ascertained. For example, some students may benefit from the provision of additional teacher aide time that may be used to assist in the implementation of the students' educational programs.

(4) See 3 above.

(5) No.

(6) Not applicable.

(7) It is considered that current QTU Special Education Policy is consistent with Education Queensland Policy. That is, additional staff are supplied to meet the educational needs of students with an ascertainment. This provision of additional staff is not tied to a specific student but provided to be utilised in the manner deemed by the educators on site, and within the district, to make the greatest educational impact on the student with the ascertainment.

1081. Local Area Multicultural Partnership Program

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (19/8/99)—

With reference to his new direction statement for multicultural Queensland and the establishment of local area multicultural partnership programs (LAMP)—

- (1) Will he advise in which local Government areas these programs have been put in place?
- (2) How many have been put in place or are not contemplated to be put in place?
- (3) What are the names of the LAMP workers employed to date and in which local areas are they working?
- (4) What are the salary rates applicable to these LAMP workers?
- (5) What are the criteria, duties and responsibilities under which these workers will be assessed as to their value and achievement?

Mr BEATTIE (20/9/99):

(1) The LAMP program has been established in the Brisbane, Caboolture, Cairns, Ipswich, Hervey Bay and Mackay Local Government areas. In addition, a Coordinator's position has been established in the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

(2) The Coordinator's position in LGAQ has been filled and five of the positions within the Local Governments have been filled. The Cairns City Council is currently recruiting to fill its position. A second round of partnerships is currently being established, in which up to eight other Local Governments will join the LAMP program.

(3) The workers appointed under the LAMP program have been selected on merit through recruitment processes managed by each of the Local Governments.

(4) The LAMP program workers are paid according to the Local Government Award. This is usually level five of the Local Government Award, with the total grant to cover salary and on-costs being \$52,000 per annum on average for each participating Local Government.

(5) Participating Local Governments are responsible for the day-to-day supervision of workers and project management. The Local Governments are required to submit six-monthly reports to Multicultural Affairs Queensland, in order to monitor the achievement of milestones under the LAMP program. The LAMP program workers' duties include: undertaking needs analysis research; establishing

and servicing a local area reference group to represent a diverse range of local interests including business, tourism, law and order, education and multicultural groups; developing and facilitating the implementation of a plan to address the promotion of positive community relations; developing and facilitating the implementation of a plan to address access issues for members of diverse ethnic communities to the services provided by all three levels of Government in the local area; and linking community development needs of diverse communities to established community development processes.

1082. Flagstone/Jimboomba, High School

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Education (19/8/99)—

With reference to the proposed high school for Flagstone/Jimboomba area—

- (1) Is it correct that the Education Department's preferred site from the beginning was the Flagstone site?
- (2) If built at Flagstone, would this school compliment the already rapidly growing primary school and allow the construction of shared sporting and cultural facilities?
- (3) What were the findings of the independent consultant who looked at the issues of the Flagstone or the Jimboomba sites?
- (4) Have detailed public consultations occurred?
- (5) Is it correct that the demographic growth projections for these areas do favour the Flagstone site?
- (6) Has there been any local council and/or other parliamentary representative interference into this decision making process?

Mr WELLS (20/9/99): I recognise that the question put to me by the Honourable Member for Lockyer, on a proposed high school for the northern Beaudesert area will be of interest to the member as his electorate does extend into the northern Beaudesert shire.

1. Officers of education Queensland have provided details as to the advantages and disadvantages of two possible sites for the proposed high school for northern Beaudesert. As the member for Lockyer may already realise, the siting of a school needs to be decided upon objective analysis and the expressed needs of the community and I can assure him that this will occur.

2. Although there are problems with the site at Flagstone, there would appear to be a possibility for shared sporting facilities. I am unaware of any potential for shared cultural facilities. Similar possibilities exist for the Jimboomba site.

3. An independent consultant's report was not conclusive and did not identify one site clearly over the other in the planning timeframes considered.

4. There has been considerable consultation with interested parties and many opportunities for public comment on this matter.

5. The only clear and consistent conclusion of all the demographic growth projections for northern Beaudesert is that the sub region is growing rapidly.

6. While the Beaudesert shire council and the local Members of Parliament have been consulted as is appropriate, there has been no interference whatsoever in the decision-making process.

1083. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Maryborough Office

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (19/8/99)—

With reference to an investigation (confirmed by a letter dated 29 June 1999 to the Member for Hervey Bay Mr Dalglish) ordered by her into the work practices of her officers at the Maryborough office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DYF and CC) (19/8/99)—

- (1) Is she aware that it has now been confirmed that those officers have provided written statements to WorkCover supporting a claim for compensation by a worker within a community service organisation and that the community service organisation endured a verbal attack of serious and unsupported allegations which were put to them by these officers?
- (2) Is she aware that it has now been confirmed in writing that those officers from the Maryborough office of DYF and CC were involved in undermining that organisation and that they were further involved in coercing a staff member of that community service organisation to hand over confidential information to them?
- (3) Is she aware that the community service organisation involved has documented proof from WorkCover that officers of DYF and CC carried out these acts and that the staff member of the community service organisation has confirmed in writing that the acts were carried out in concert with those officers?
- (4) Is she aware that the official investigation into allegations made against those departmental officers some time ago has not yet commenced despite repeated calls from the community service organisation for a commencement date?
- (5) Is it the usual practice for official investigations to be stalled pending the outcome of a WorkCover claim, where departmental officers have submitted written statements supporting a claimant without having first placed any written allegations to the community service organisation?

Ms BLIGH (16/9/99): As I have indicated in my earlier answers to questions on notice about this topic, and in correspondence to the Member for Hervey Bay, I have commissioned an investigation by an independent consultant concerning this service.

The Terms of Reference for the Review includes provision for the consultant to work with a Review

Committee comprising two Management Committee and two departmental representatives. There is a commitment to an open, impartial process, and the Review Framework will be presented for confirmation at the first meeting of this Review Committee.

WorkCover processes are industrial matters and are totally independent. These have no bearing on the timing or outcome of the independent Review.

I am committed to ensuring that funding provided by my Department to community organisations is used to the best possible advantage of clients. In this particular case, I have determined the most fair and impartial way to ensure the interests of both clients and the organisation are met is by Independent Review.

It is not appropriate for me to comment further in relation to this matter until the finalisation of that Review.

1084. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Maryborough Office

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (19/8/99)—

With reference to an investigation (confirmed by a letter dated 29 June 1999 to the Member for Hervey Bay, Mr Dalglish) ordered by her into the work practices of her officers at the Maryborough office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DYF and CC) (19/8/99)—

- (1) Is she aware that in recent written responses to questions on notice on this affair, she detailed that it is the usual practice/guidelines that in the first instance, concerns with an organisation would be handled face to face, that records would be kept in files by the relevant departmental officers, and if the concerns were not resolved, then the concerns would be placed in writing to the organisation for them to deal with?
- (2) Is she aware that there has been no letter to the organisation outlining these concerns, either prior to or since the statements of departmental officers were supplied to WorkCover?
- (3) Is she aware that a claim of the denial of "natural justice" was placed in a detailed file to her, by the community service organisation some months ago on this affair and why is there a continuation of a denial of "natural justice" to this organisation and breaches of the recent written guidelines as set out by her in writing in regard to concerns officers of DYF and CC may have with an organisation?
- (4) Will she suspend from duty the officers of DYF and CC pending the outcome of the intended official investigation previously ordered by her?
- (5) Does she condone these activities of undermining and is it the usual practice for these activities to take place?
- (6) When will this community service organisation be given access to "natural justice"?

- (7) Have the officers of the Maryborough office of the DYF and CC been involved in discussions with officers of the Rockhampton central district office, in relation to the intended investigation and have they been involved in discussions concerning the selection/briefing or process of employing or contracting of an independent consultant who will handle this affair?
- (8) Will the community service organisation affected in this affair be consulted in regard to the terms of reference for this investigation prior to the independent consultant being contracted/employed?

Ms BLIGH (16/9/99): I refer to my answer to Question on Notice 1083.

1085. Dalby Crisis Centre

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (19/8/99)—

With reference to the Dalby Crisis Centre which is a community organisation that provides a 24 hr on-call service to families in crisis and has a sole staff member who provides invaluable assistance to local police, solicitors and families and who, in the last week, worked 85 hours as a second qualified person is available but, in spite of applications for funding, not enough funding is provided to use her services and given the enormous unmet need for family counselling in the Dalby district and the unacceptable workload of the sole staff member—

Will she provide additional funding immediately to the Dalby Crisis Centre to better meet the needs of this community?

Ms BLIGH (17/9/99): The Dalby Crisis Support Association Inc. is recurrently funded by my Department under the Family Support Worker Program which was an initiative of the previous Coalition Government. The information paper about this program indicated that, because it operates as only a one-worker model, Family Support Worker funding would be "located in an existing community organisation which will provide accommodation and administrative assistance for the operation of the service". However, Dalby Crisis Support Association was established as a one-worker service in an organisation without other infrastructure. Though not funded for this purpose, the organisation has established a 24-hour crisis focus providing support to families where domestic violence is present and where there is need for legal intervention. Staff of my Department have endeavoured to achieve a refocusing of the services provided, in order to ensure workloads are manageable.

Staff of my Department will continue to assist Dalby Crisis Support to monitor demand and explore strategies to address issues about workload management and capacity to respond, including linking with other agencies operating in the Dalby area.

1086. Public Housing

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/8/99)—

With reference to public housing—

- (1) At 31 July 1999, 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) four to less than eight weeks, (b) eight to less than 12 weeks and (c) 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 July 1999, how many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?

Mr SCHWARTEN (20/9/99):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of accounts in arrears in total and percentage terms by area office. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) See Attachment A for the number and percentage of public housing rental accounts in arrears for (a) four to less than eight weeks, (b) eight to less than 12 weeks and (c) 12 weeks and greater in total and by area office, and the monetary value of these categories as at 31 July 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) At 31 July 1999, of the total 48,607 public housing tenants, 3,025 or 6.2 percent, were paying full market rent.

1087. TAFE; Apprentices and Trainees

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/8/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 789—

- (1) Is the Government sending only about 1 in 4 of its trainees to TAFE for their off-job training?
- (2) Why are only about half of the trainees being trained within Local Government going to TAFE for their off-job training?

Mr BRADY (20/9/99): (1) & (2) Under User Choice arrangements, which were established by the previous government, it is a matter for the employer and/or trainee to decide where the trainee attends college.

1088. Court of Appeal

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (19/8/99)—

- (1) How many appeals against sentences, on the grounds of their inadequacy, have been lodged with the Court of Appeals since 16 May 1999?
- (2) Of these, on how many occasions did he receive advice from the DPP's office, or any other Crown Prosecutor, on possible appeals against sentences at least seven days before the appeal period expired?

Mr FOLEY (20/9/99):

(1) Between 16 May, 1999 and the date of the question, there were twenty-five appeals instituted in the Court of Appeal on the basis that the sentences imposed were inadequate.

(2) In *R v Taylor & Napatali*; ex parte Attorney-General of Queensland CA. Nos. 157 and 158 of 1999; judgment delivered 20 August, 1999 the Court of Appeal confirmed the calculation of the time for appealing adopted in that case.

Using such method of calculation, all twenty-five advices were received by my Office at least 7 days before the appeal period expired.

1089. Taxi Licences

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/8/99)—

- (1) Does he support the introduction of part-time taxi licences in Brisbane; if so, what protections will he put in place to ensure the protection of the investment of existing licence holders?
- (2) Does he believe that the issue of such licences will have an adverse impact on the financial situation of existing drivers?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/9/99):

- (1) Part-time licences are not being considered for Brisbane.
- (2) Not applicable.

1090. Burnett Heads Boat Harbour

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/8/99)—

With reference to the Burnett Heads Boat Harbour and the prolonged difficulties being experienced in locating the spoil—

- (1) Will he assure the people of Burnett Heads that the full amount of \$500,000 allocated in the 1998-99 budget is still available for the actual dredging work and has not been diminished by these hold-ups?
- (2) Will he outline the progress to date over the placement of the spoil, when this issue is likely to be resolved and when work will proceed?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/9/99):

- (1) All necessary funds for the dredging of the Burnett Heads Boat Harbour are available in the 1999-2000 budget.
- (2) It is expected that approval for the dredge material disposal will be available shortly. Work will proceed immediately thereafter.

1091. Tourism, Sport and Racing Department, Staffing

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (19/8/99)—

With reference to the following categories (a) departmental staff employed as liaison or liaison like officers between the department and the Office of

the Minister, (b) departmental staff employed to work in or relieve in the Minister's Office and (c) staff employed in the Office of the Director-General or the Offices of the Directors-General at 18 August 1999, will he please provide the following details separately (i) the number of departmental staff employed, (ii) the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers, (iii) the job description of each of these officers, (iv) when each of these job descriptions were prepared and approved and by whom, (v) the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers, (vi) to whom in the Office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report, (vii) were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not, why not, (viii) if these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication, (ix) 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 and (x) 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 (20/9/99):

(a) There are no departmental staff employed as liaison officers between the department and my Ministerial office.

(b) There are no departmental staff employed to work or relieve in my Ministerial office.

(c) (i) Four (ii) See attached table for details (iii) Positions Descriptions for each position are attached (iv) (v) (vi) Details are contained in the attached Position Descriptions (vii) Yes (viii) Vacancy Reference Number TS 117/98 Government Gazette 6 November 1998, The Australian and The Courier Mail 7 November 1998; Vacancy Reference Number TS 109/98 Government Gazette 23 October 1998; Vacancy Reference Number TS 20/99 Government Gazette 26 February 1999; Vacancy Reference Number TS 7/99 Government Gazette 22 January 1999 (ix) Not applicable (x) Not applicable. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1092. Magnetic Island, General Practitioners

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (19/8/99)—

Given that most regional areas of Queensland are struggling to attract private general practitioners, will she explain why her department has provided a market advantage to the Magnetic Island public clinic doctor which may put the existing private practice out of business after 25 years on the island?

Mrs EDMOND (20/9/99): Following the resignation of the public sector medical officer with the right of private practice on the island, advertising occurred in August 1999 to recruit another medical officer. Extensive interest was received for the recruitment package, however only one application was received. This applicant withdrew prior to interview. To attract applicants, it has been

necessary to provide benefits similar to those available to medical superintendents with the right of private practice in rural areas. Magnetic Island residents will have available to them access to medical services seven days per week. Many communities in Queensland have the benefit of a public sector medical officer, with or without the right of private practice, and full private medical practitioners.

1093. Local Government, Four-year Terms

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (19/8/99)—

With reference to his letter to all Local Governments in Queensland in relation to whether councillors should be elected to a four year term of office—

- (1) Which Local Governments responded in favour of four year terms for Local Government?
- (2) Which Local Governments responded not in favour of four year terms for Local Government?
- (3) Which Local Governments did not respond?

Mr MACKENROTH (20/9/99):

As at 15 September 1999:

- (1) 52 local governments had responded in favour of four year terms for Local Government.
- (2) 18 local governments had responded that they are not in favour of four year terms for Local Government.
- (3) 46 Local Governments have not advised their position on this matter.

In addition, nine Local Governments have advised they do not have an opinion either for or against the proposal. Several of these stated this was because their communities were equally divided on the question and as such, and no clear position could be determined on the matter.

The responses from local governments are detailed in the attached Table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1094. Viviani Report

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/8/99)—

With reference to his Question Time brief titled "Nancy Viviani Consultancy", which states in the third key point "due to the urgency associated with the review of TAFE Queensland and the opportunity to utilise the unique expertise of Professor Viviani, exception was sought from and granted by the Director-General to then requirements of the State Purchasing Policy."—

- (1) Having been advised that urgency was a factor in the process of determining the Viviani

Consultancy, why has he stated, in Part (2) of his response to Question on Notice No. 193 that "urgency was not a consideration"?

- (2) Will he now answer Part (2) of Question on Notice No. 193 as originally requested?

Mr BRADY (20/9/99):

- (1) The urgency referred to in Key Points of the Estimates Briefing Note was associated with the review of TAFE Queensland not the appointment of Viviani Consultancy.

- (2) The answer to Question on Notice 193 still stands.

1095. Corporate Administration Agency

Mr CONNOR asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (19/8/99)—

Will he provide the results of the Client Satisfaction Survey, commissioned in February 1999, and undertaken by Mr Rob Skerman into the services of the Corporate Administration Agency?

Mr FOLEY (20/9/99): Yes. A copy of the Client Satisfaction Survey report can be obtained from the Executive Director of Arts Queensland or the Director General of the Department of Justice and the Attorney General.

1096. TAFE

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/8/99)—

With reference his refusal to table TAFE monthly financial printouts for March, April and May—

- (1) Having taken a month and a day to provide this refusal, why does he now seek to impose significant further delay in meeting the original request?
- (2) Do these printouts hide embarrassing information or is his department so inefficient that it requires 65 working days to provide a routine financial management document?

Mr BRADY (20/9/99): (1) & (2) The answer to Question on Notice No. 842 still stands.

1097. TAFE Constitution

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/8/99)—

Given that the first responsibility allocated to him in the TAFE Queensland Constitution is to "provide an annual vision statement for TAFE Queensland", doesn't this requirement contradict modern management theory which indicates that employees are only likely to be committed to a vision that they, not their employer, have developed?

Mr BRADY (20/9/99): No.

1098. Police Service, Satellite Telephones

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/8/99)—

Will he advise what police stations in remote and rural areas of Queensland have satellite phone equipment and what plans are in place to provide satellite phones to police in areas with communication problems?

Mr BARTON (20/9/99): The Queensland Police Service (QPS) currently has twenty five satellite telephones utilised in a range of policing locations throughout the State. Current locations of satellite phones include—

Mt Isa; Townsville Water Police; Cairns; Cairns Drug Squad and SERT; Rockhampton; Mackay; Longreach; Roma; Charleville; Broadbeach; Maroochydore; Maryborough; Bundaberg; Communications Branch; State Traffic Support Branch; Specialist Services Branch; State Crime Operations Command

The Queensland Police Service is currently in the process of purchasing an additional sixteen satellite telephones for the Far Northern, Northern, Central, and Southern Regions.

1099. Police Service and Corrective Services Commission, Staffing

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/8/99)—

- (1) What is the net increase in sworn police and civilian staff for 1998-99?
- (2) What is the total number of sworn police and civilian staff at the end of 1998-99?

Mr BARTON (20/9/99):

(1) The net increase in sworn police in the 1998/99 financial year was 345 officers, taking the Queensland Police Service (QPS) police strength to 7178 officers, or 46 ahead of the 30 June 1999 target of 7132 officers. The net increase for civilian staff over the same period was 232.

(2) Total sworn staff as at 30 June 1999 was 7178 officers. Civilian staff as at 30 June 1999 numbered 2722.

1100. TAFE Constitution

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/8/99)—

As the first specific responsibility given to him under the TAFE Constitution is to provide an annual vision statement for TAFE Queensland and as it has taken a whole year for him to develop his first annual vision for TAFE, has he started work yet on next year's version of his vision?

Mr BRADY (20/9/99): The timing and preparation of next year's vision is a matter for my determination.

1101. Viviani Report

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/8/99)—

- (1) Given that, in response to part (1) of Question on Notice No. 832 he indicated that Professor Viviani made an "informed judgment", will he provide the documentary evidence which informed her judgment as requested in the original question?
- (2) Will he provide a copy of the "Governance Framework" developed by Professor Viviani in accordance with the requirements of the terms of reference for her consultancy?

Mr BRADY (20/9/99):

(1) The way in which Professor Viviani came to an informed judgment is a matter for her.

(2) The detailed "Governance Framework" was developed having regard to the Bannikoff and Viviani reports, detailed consultation with TAFE Directors and other stakeholders and was published in July 1999.

1102. Gold Coast Hospital

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Health (19/8/99)—

When will she and the Government honour their promise and provide the funding so critically needed by the Gold Coast Hospital and by the fast growing number of desperately sick and infirm patients in the area, bearing in mind that the hospital currently is struggling to maintain even basic services, and noting that all the recent improvements and upgrading of facilities were put in place by the previous Government?

Mrs EDMOND (20/9/99): The claim that all recent improvements and upgrading of facilities were put in place by the previous government is not accurate. For the honourable member's information, the improvements for the Gold Coast Hospital were initiated in 1994/95 as part of the Labor Government's 10 year hospital rebuilding program.

The Coalition government put a total of \$750,000 in growth money over two years to the Gold Coast Hospital. The Labor Government in the 1998/99 budget allocated growth funding of \$2.5 million, the most received by any hospital in the State. As well a further \$741,000 was allocated during the year to implement the recommendations of a task force chaired by Dr John Youngman, to look at resource needs. Additional services as a result of the task force findings include: a general surgeon; an orthopaedic surgeon; a number of additional nursing positions; a full-time paediatrician; 2 additional emergency specialists; additional renal machines; extra security staff.

As announced in the budget on September 14, in 1999/2000 an additional \$7.4 million in recurrent funding has been allocated to the Gold Coast District Health Service.

There was also \$4.6 million for public health services at the new Robina Hospital with this increasing to \$22.7 million next year.

I refer the honourable member to his comments in the Gold Coast Bulletin of November 26, 1998 saying the Coalition Government had short-changed the Gold Coast Hospital. The article also quotes the honourable members as saying the Coalition Government made a mistake in agreeing to the Robina Hospital (attached). (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1103. Bustard Head and Cape Capricorn Lighthouses

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/8/99)—

With reference to the fact that while Bustard Head Lighthouse was unmanned, the accommodation water tanks, etc were completely destroyed by vandals and to Cape Capricorn Lighthouse which, aside from necessary maintenance, is in good condition because of full-time caretakers who stay on a very minimal salary—

Why is the department determined to vacate this lighthouse and leave it vulnerable to vandalism when the caretakers are prepared to remain?

Mr WELFORD (20/9/99): Bustard Head lightstation and Cape Capricorn are two of 41 lightstation properties transferred to Queensland from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) on 1 July 1997.

The Bustard Head lightstation houses and other buildings were seriously vandalised before the property was transferred and were unfit for human habitation at the time of transfer.

Significant safety issues at the Cape Capricorn site were identified by a recent safety and compliance audit of the residential buildings and other infrastructure. The current condition of the buildings does not meet building standards with the cost of essential maintenance requirements estimated to be in the order of \$82,000. In the interest of the health and safety of the caretakers, it proposed that caretaking of the residences will discontinue for the time being.

In the interim, to lower the chance of vandalism at the Cape Capricorn site, a schedule for the increased presence of Agency staff has been prepared. This will involve regular patrols by Marine Park staff. Additionally, there will be a higher staff presence at the site as a result of project work to be carried out by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on Curtis Island National Park over the next three months.

The Government is committed to the protection of Queensland's lightstations. However, these lightstations are very remote and expensive to maintain and careful planning is required to ensure the cultural integrity of the sites. Considerable conservation planning for these 41 lightstations has taken place since coming under the control of the Queensland Government. As the planning process had advanced, the Service has been exploring innovative and affordable ways to provide for the long term protection of these very important sites.

Subject to further feasibility studies, expressions of interest in relation to the commercial or community use and maintenance of a number of lightstation sites including Cape Capricorn and Bustard Head are intended to be called later this year. The properties will be offered on an 'as is' basis and proponents will need to demonstrate that each proposal is likely to be acceptable, practicable and able to protect the conservation values of the site.

By creating opportunities for nature-based tourism ventures and regional employment, the Government will encourage use of the properties that is compatible with the sites' values, and the conservation and use of the adjoining parks. Revenue generated from the properties will be used to protect and enhance their cultural and natural values.

1104. Premier and Cabinet Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (19/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr BEATTIE (20/9/99): The Honourable Member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken over the 1998-1999 financial year in their annual reports which they are required to provide to me by 31 October 1999. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information that is to be included in these annual reports.

1105. Environment and Heritage and Natural Resources Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr WELFORD (20/9/99): The Honourable member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken over the 1998-99 financial year in their annual reports which they are required to provide to me by 31 October 1999. Accordingly, I refer the honourable member to the information that is to be included in these annual reports.

1106. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Women's Policy and Fair Trading Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (19/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by her portfolio/s will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Ms SPENCE (20/9/99): Information regarding consultancies engaged by agencies within my portfolio will be included in the 1998-99 Annual Reports provided to the Parliament by 14 November 1999. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information which is to be included in these Annual Reports.

1107. Treasury Portfolio, Consultancies

Dr WATSON asked the acting Treasurer (19/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr BEATTIE (20/9/99): The Honourable Member is advised that the offices within Treasury are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken over the 1998-99 financial year in the Department's annual report which they are required to provide to me by 28 October 1999. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information that is to be included in these annual reports.

1108. Education Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (19/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr WELLS (20/9/99): The Honourable Member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken over the 1998-

1999 financial year in their annual reports, which they are required to provide to me by 31 October 1999. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information that is to be included in these annual reports.

1109. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (19/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by her portfolio/s will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Ms BLIGH (16/9/99): On 8 July 1999, I provided an answer of approximately 3,500 words in response to Question on Notice No 724 from Ms Gamin concerning consultancies. I will not unnecessarily waste departmental resources to collate this information again. I have therefore listed below the answers to your questions in relation to only those consultancies which were not discussed in my answer to that earlier question.

(a) Environmental Consultancy—To conduct a review of the environmental factors which may impact on the development of a new site for a new detention facility at Wacol; (b) Golder Associates. Allen Boase, Principal Consultant; (c) \$146,000; (d) 30; (e) Yes; (f) No—prequalified list.

(a) Indigenous Design Consultancy—Feasibility design study undertaken to incorporate indigenous design issues for the development of the new detention facility at Wacol; (b) Merrima—Aboriginal Design Unit, NSW Dept of Public Works & Services. Dillon Kombumerri, Principal Consultant; (c) \$4,000; (d) 14; (e) To be provided; (f) No.

(a) Cost check consultancy—To undertake a review of costs associated with detention centre infrastructure development; (b) Rider Hunt. Tony Rowntree, Principal Consultant; (c) \$4,000; (d) 14; (e) Final to be provided; (f) No—prequalified list for confidentiality reasons.

(a) Professional fees for Holding Works—Professional fees associated with Project Management to facilitate the associated maintenance standards for Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre; (b) Project Services. Megan Wilson, Principal Consultant; (c) \$30,000; (d) 30; (e) Prepare contract documents for works; (f) No.

(a) Options Study for Jabiru and Brolga Units—To conduct an options study on the feasibility of utilising Jabiru and Brolga Units in the rebuild of Cleveland detention facility; (b) Project Services. Mat Tiley, Principal Consultant; (c) \$9,800; (d) 40; (e) To be provided; (f) No.

(a) Identification Survey—To conduct a site survey of the site for the new detention facility at Cleveland; (b) Brazier & Motti Licd Surveyors; (c) \$1,510; (d) 5; (e) Survey drawings of site; (f) No—prequalified list.

(a) A workshop to address—operational issues involving roles, responsibilities, workloads, protocols, operating methodology and accountabilities; and address the inter-relationships between Service Strategy teams in relation to the outcomes for the Department; (b) Alan Hough Consulting, and Erica Waters; (c) \$2,000; (d) 2; (e) Yes, written feedback from the workshop and decision; (f) No.

(a) Review of management of the Finance and Asset Management function; (b) Arthur Andersen. Jenny Parker, Principal Consultant; (c) \$9,000; (d) 5; (e) Yes; (f) No.

1110. Mines and Energy Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (19/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr McGRADY (20/9/99): The honourable member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken over the 1998-1999 financial year in their annual reports which they are required to provide to me by 31 October 1999. Accordingly, I refer the honourable member to the information that is to be included in these annual reports.

1111. Emergency Services Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (19/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by her portfolio/s will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mrs ROSE (21/9/99): The consultancies engaged and utilised by the Department of Emergency Services for the period 26 June 1998 to 18 August 1999 are presented in the attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

These consultancies have been engaged in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy and are recorded on the Consultants Register that is maintained by the department.

1112. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr BRADY (20/9/99): The Honourable Member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken over the 1998/99 financial year in their annual reports. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information that is to be included in these annual reports.

1113. Public Works and Housing Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr SCHWARTEN (20/9/99): The Honourable Member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken over the 1998-1999 financial year in their annual reports which they are required to provide to me by 31 October 1999. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information that is to be included in these annual reports.

1114. Public Hospitals, Patient Care

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Health (24/8/99)—

With reference to the continuing extensive Capital Works Program which is undoubtedly of great importance and although the public of Queensland consistently are critical of the care given to patients in our public hospitals in which patients and families of patients often complain that (a) nursing staff do not feed patients unable to feed themselves, (b) patients are not sponged daily if they are bedridden,

(c) nursing home patients are not showered daily and
(d) individual clothing of nursing home residents simply becomes part of a clothing pool—

- (1) Is it possible to have more patient care and patient comfort included in the university training courses?
- (2) Is it possible for directors of nursing to insist on an improved delivery of these traditional services of our public hospitals where patient complaints are received?

Mrs EDMOND (23/9/99):

(1) I am advised that patient care and comfort is an integral component of the under-graduate nursing curriculum in Queensland universities. The first semester particularly addresses issues of patient care and safety. However, patient care and comfort remains paramount in all units the student undertakes in subsequent semesters. In addition, the universities are alert to new techniques that enhance patient care and comfort, and incorporate these techniques into the curriculum as soon as is practical.

(2) Queensland public hospitals monitor patient complaints within their Quality Improvement programs. The appropriate personnel, including Directors of Nursing, investigate all complaints relating to patient care within their hospital. Any identified need for change in work practice is implemented so as to improve the standard of patient care within that institution.

1115. Question ruled out of order

1116. Ipswich-Boonah Road

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/8/99)—

With reference to the state of the road south of T. Morrows Road on the Ipswich to Boonah Highway and to the section of this important arterial road from the intersection of T. Morrows Road to Peak Crossing, particularly the first 1.5 km, being in such a bad state of repair that a serious accident is inevitable, particularly in wet weather when the deep ruts fill with water and where his department has sign posted this area with signs that say "Rough Surface", "Soft Edges, "Next 1.5 km" and this is in a 100 km speed zone area—

- (1) What plans has his department to repair this dangerous section of highway?
- (2) When will the work commence?
- (3) What is the estimated cost?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/9/99):

(1) A section of the Ipswich-Boonah Road has deteriorated rapidly due to the unexpected degradation of the pavement material which has been further exacerbated by prolonged rainfall during 1999. Department of Main Roads' engineers are aware of the road condition and have implemented a number of initiatives to alleviate the situation, such as:

instructing the maintenance contractor to increase surveillance patrols in the area to

ensure the road is maintained in a safe condition;

erecting advisory signs to forewarn motorists of the changed road condition; and

commencing the design of a rehabilitation project to correct the problem.

- (2) & (3) As this situation was unexpected, the funding for a rehabilitation project was not included in the 1998-1999 to 2002-2003 Roads Implementation Program. However, an allocation remedial work is now being considered.

1117. Fraser Island, Dingoes

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (24/8/99)—

With reference to the University of Queensland research project "Fraser Island Dingo Aversive Conditioning Trial using Lithium Chloride and Thiabendazole Baits"—

- (1) How many dingoes were used in the trial and how were the baited dingoes marked/identified for this trial?
- (2) Will he provide details of what steps were taken to ensure the potential effects on the dingoes were 100 per cent safe?
- (3) Did the persons conducting the trial observe the animals full time for the next 24/48 hours after having fed them the poison; if so, how was this possible throughout the night?
- (4) What steps were taken to ensure other animals, such as goannas, birds of prey and humans did not come in contact with the trialed poisons?
- (5) If the poisons were given to the trialed dingoes and it made them vomit, what precautions were extended to other animals and humans to ensure they did not come in contact with the poisoned vomit?
- (6) After the trial, how many of the trialed dingoes were inspected by a veterinarian?
- (7) How many of the dingoes poisoned during the trial have had any ongoing examinations by the veterinarian and observation and what is the ongoing maintenance for the welfare of these animals used in this trial?

Mr WELFORD (23/9/99): NOTE: Chemically laced baits were distributed for three nights only, at three different sites on Fraser Island. The remainder of the baits used over the 6 week period were control (placebo) baits with no poisonous chemical additives.

(1) Twelve dingoes were studied during the trial. Identification occurred via physical characteristics including colouration, white 'sock' pattern on feet, tail tip colour, scars, visible limps and physical build.

(2) 150 references have been reviewed citing Lithium Chloride for use in aversive

conditioning. It is the standard chemical for this process and has been successfully used to condition toads, chickens, eagles, possums, coyotes, wolves, dogs, raccoons, ferrets, rats, lambs and cattle.

During the Fraser Island trial a dosage of 0.25 of the LD50 for Lithium Chloride and 0.0083 of LD50 for Thiabendazole was used.

(3) In the period following the baiting of the dingoes, observation occurred during baiting runs in the early evening and in the morning. This allowed the behaviour patterns of the dingoes to be determined. The dingoes were not observed during the night.

(4) The baits were put out at dusk. They were buried underground but close enough to the surface to enable the dingoes to find them by scent. Uneaten baits were collected again at sunrise. This prevented non-target animals having access to the baits. There was some evidence that, apart from dingoes, the baits were eaten by ants or other insects and rodents.

(5) None. No direct evidence of dingo vomit was observed.

(6) None.

(7) No ongoing examinations have occurred. The dingoes were studied for a further six weeks following the chemical baiting with no ill-effects observed. The trial dingoes receive the same treatment as the remainder of the island's dingoes. They must obtain food from natural sources and/or scavenge around campsites and picnic areas for scraps left over from visitors.

1118. Hervey Bay, State School

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Education (24/8/99)—

With reference to the new public primary school to be built in Hervey Bay—

- (1) How much will the school cost the Government?
- (2) Who will be paying for the road upgrades required for this school?
- (3) What will be the cost to the ratepayers of Hervey Bay, for this new school?
- (4) Would he consider fully funding this project, including the road upgrades and headworks contributions just like every other business in Hervey Bay has to?
- (5) Does he intend to offload some of the costs involved in road upgrades and headworks onto the ratepayers of Hervey Bay?

Mr WELLS (23/9/99):

- (1) The Department informs me that the estimated gross project cost of Christensens Road State School is \$6,135,622.
- (2) The responsibility for provision of external infrastructure for this, as with other state projects, lies with the local government authority.
- (3) This is a matter for the local government authority.
- (4 & 5) It is not proposed to depart from long established procedures.

1119. Queensland Rail, Maintenance Program

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/8/99)—

- (1) Will he explain the reasoning behind the proposed downscaling of the maintenance program of Queensland Rail, from monthly inspections to three monthly inspections?
- (2) Is it the position of Queensland Rail that a roving gang is more expedient financially than section linesmen and section electricians?
- (3) Is the position in relation to this as stated in reports, funding shortfalls and are lives of road and rail users to be put at risk due to this proposed new and inadequate maintenance program?
- (4) Is it also true that the points machinery will only be serviced on breakdown, or once per year rather than the previously safe and expedient maintenance program of once per month?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/9/99):

(1) The maintenance programs for the operational systems area of Queensland Rail (Signalling and Telecommunications) have been reviewed in line with best practice maintenance management practices. The resulting maintenance programs have maintenance services (inspections) at one; two; three; six and twelve monthly intervals with each service having differing maintenance tasks performed. These new maintenance programs will result in the provision of a cost efficient and quality maintenance service.

(2) No.

(3) No.

1120. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (24/8/99)—

With reference to the southern Moreton Bay islands about which he previously made a statement on 23 March 1979 in a motion for adjournment debate on the land scandal—

- (1) Does he still hold that opinion of the land scandal and the rip off that is taking place?
- (2) Does he feel that the Fraud Squad should investigate?

Mr MACKENROTH (22/9/99): (1&2) Firstly, Mr Paff is wrong in saying I made a statement on 23 March 1979, in fact I made the statement he refers to on 20 March 1979.

In that statement I referred to the way in which the Bjelke-Peterson Government was mishandling the problems on Russell Island and called for the Government of the day to "get the whole Fraud Squad out and get into these crooks who are ripping of the people of Queensland."

As a former policeman, Mr Paff should have realised Fraud Squad investigations resulted in 16 men being

charged in the Brisbane Magistrates Court on 30 October 1979 with conspiracy to defraud the public in the sale of land on Russell Island.

1121. Sugar Industry Legislation

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (24/8/99)—

With reference to concerns regarding the proposed sugar industry legislation being complex, contains an excessive amount of Government prescription, does not consider all the recommendations of the SIRWP and appears to give millers and CPB's asymmetric rights, for example, the extension of the supply agreement to cover "Growing of Cane" whereby the growing of cane can be dealt with in agreements between the grower and the mill owner and a direction concerning the farming methodology to be used by the farmer could be mandated by the supply agreement and as cane is grown successfully in many different soil types and this necessitates different husbandry methods, what works well for one farmer may not work well in the hands of another producer and different seasonal conditions can compel the use of different approaches, thus, whilst agrostological methods can be recommended, a situation should not be created wherein they can be prescribed—

- (1) Is he aware that the details of the draft legislation are causing considerable concern amongst members of the canegrowers and the ACFA?
- (2) Will he agree to consider the concerns of the two producer peak bodies and consult further with them?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/9/99):

1. Yes
2. I have announced a number of amendments which address grower concerns. I have decided to make these amendments after extensive consultation, both with peak groups and with growers and millers in regional areas. In particular the matter of "Growing of Cane" has been removed from the list of matters covered by collective agreements.

1122. Melbourne-Darwin Rail Link

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/8/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of a news release by the Premier's representative in North Queensland calling for the proposed Melbourne to Darwin rail link to be opposed?
- (2) Is he also opposed to this proposed rail link that has the potential to open up rural and remote Queensland to new economic opportunity?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/9/99):

- (1) I am aware of the Premier's Parliamentary Secretary for North Queensland having raised issues in relation to the proposed Melbourne to Darwin rail link.
- (2) The Queensland Government has given in principle support for the ATEC proposal being

developed as a totally private sector funded investment.

1123. Queensland Rail, Sleeper Compartments

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/8/99)—

- (1) Why was a woman making a booking with Queensland Rail to travel on the Sunlander told she could not have her six year old son sharing the same sleeper and she would have to put her child in another sleeper with two men who were complete strangers?
- (2) As this woman was put in a predicament where she could no longer travel with Queensland Rail and had to rely on a friend to drive her to Bundaberg for her son to have an operation, does he agree that this is a responsible action by Queensland Rail or does he agree that no mother of a child should be placed in this predicament and will he tender some form of compensation to this woman for her inconveniences?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/9/99):

- (1) Queensland Rail's policy on mother/son, father/daughter occupying two berths in an economy three berth compartment was altered in July of 1998. The policy change permitted children up to and including 14 years of age to utilise two berths of an economy three berth compartment with a parent or guardian of the opposite sex. This is available on payments of additional sleeping berth fee (\$35.00) for the third berth.
- (2) If the member can provide details of the particular incident it will be investigated is appropriate rectified.

1124. Barambah Electorate, Health Services

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health (24/8/99)—

With reference to the health services in the Barambah electorate—

- (1) What services (dental, medical, psychiatric, hospital and other) have been increased since this Government came into office?
- (2) What services (as above) have been reduced?
- (3) What are the service expenditure figures for each specific hospital and service in the Barambah electorate since this Government came into office?
- (4) What capital works and their expenditure figure, have been initiated in the electorate since this Government came into office?
- (5) What are the staff numbers at 24 August and what were they on the date this Government came into office?

Mrs EDMOND (23/9/99):

- (1) The South Burnett Health Service District has increased denture care services, appointed two adult mental health workers, commenced a youth and child mental health service with the appointment of two

youth and child mental health workers and commenced an Outreach Nursing Program at Cherbourg. Kingaroy, Yarraman, Wondai, Murgon and Nanango State High Schools in the South Burnett District Health Service are part of the school nurse program which provides preventive health education.

(2) No services have been reduced.

(3) Budgets are allocated on a District wide basis.

(4) The following capital works have been undertaken in the electorate since this Government came into office: \$496,758.50 for a fire, security and safety upgrade at the Farrhome Nursing Care Unit; \$241,852.50 for a fire, security and safety upgrade at the Wienholt Nursing Care Unit; and \$1,217,761.22 for an upgrade to the entrance of the Emergency Department, Kingaroy Hospital.

(5) There were 438 staff employed as at 24 August 1999. There were 433 staff employed on 29 June 1998.

1125. Health Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for her portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will she provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will she provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will she provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mrs EDMOND (23/9/99):

(1-4) The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by the department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers' funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland.

If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide relevant information.

If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contacts the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1126. Tourism, Sport and Racing Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will he provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr GIBBS (23/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers funds that should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland.

If the Honourable Member has a more specific, I would be happy to provide the relevant information.

If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contacts the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1127. Premier's Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e)

- domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
 - (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will he provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
 - (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr BEATTIE (22/9/99): (1-4) The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my Department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers' funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland.

If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide relevant information.

If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contacts the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1128. Education Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will he provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation,

(e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?

- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr WELLS (23/9/99): As the Honourable Member would be aware, expenditure of this type is subject to audit scrutiny in the context of regular and routine compliance auditing.

If there are particular matter of concern to the Honourable Member or if he seeks assurances as to the appropriate nature of expenditure incurred, the independent Audit Committee of Education Queensland could supervise a special audit.

The Director-General has also indicated to me that he is available to provide personally the information the Honourable Member seeks.

1129. Treasury Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Dr WATSON asked the acting Treasurer (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will he provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr BEATTIE (22/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers' funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland. If the Honourable Member has a more specific question, I would be happy to provide

relevant information. If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contacts the office of the Under-Treasurer to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1130. Justice Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will he provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr FOLEY (23/9/99):

(1) The Director-General does not have a corporate credit card. Unlike her predecessor, the current Director-General has spent nothing on in-house catering, beverages or restaurant meals other than meals bought in the course of travel on official business.

(2) The Director-General did attend a lunch at the Polo Club on 11 March 1999 with Dr Marie Siganto and Dr Helen Nugent, Ms Cathy Browne-Watt & Mr Peter Young from the Nugent Inquiry to provide views on issues raised by the Inquiry. The \$130.90 cost was paid by Arts Queensland.

(3) Mr Springborg has already obtained copies of all documents in relation to the Director-General's travel under the Freedom of Information Act. Those documents disclose the information now sought and I do not consider it an appropriate use of my Department's resources for it to prepare a summary of information already in his possession.

(4) See the answer to question one.

1131. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for her portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will she provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will she provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will she provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Ms BLIGH (16/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my department. If the Honourable Member has a more specific question, I would be happy to provide relevant information. If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contacts the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1132. Natural Resources Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will he provide the

following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will he provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr WELFORD (23/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland. If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide relevant information. If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contacts the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1133. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for her portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will she provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will she provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will she provide the following details (a) date of the

expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Ms SPENCE (23/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland. If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide relevant information. If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contacts the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1134. State Development Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will he provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr ELDER (23/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers' funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland. If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide the relevant information. If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contact the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1135. Public Works and Housing Departments, Expenditure by Directors-General

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will he provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr SCHWARTEN (23/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers' funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland. If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide relevant information. If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contacts the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1136. Primary Industries Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?

- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will he provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland. If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide relevant information. If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contacts the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1137. Emergency Services Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for her portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will she provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will she provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will she provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d)

persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mrs ROSE (23/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers funds which should be used for the better delivery of emergency services to the people of Queensland. If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide relevant information. If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contact the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1138. Police Service and Corrective Services Commission, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will he provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr BARTON (23/9/99): In answering the question, I refer the honourable member to Sessional Order number 68(g) which states that questions "shall not be unduly lengthy". The question asked by the honourable member clearly breaches the spirit of Sessional Order 68(g). The information sought by the honourable member would require a vast amount of time and research by officers of the Department of Corrective Services and the Queensland Police Service. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers' funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland. If the honourable member has a more specific question in keeping with Sessional

Order 68(g) I would be happy to provide relevant information.

1139. Mines and Energy Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (24/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares and/or overseas accommodation, will he provide the following details (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?
- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards, will he provide the following details (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr McGRADY (23/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my Department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland. If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide relevant information. If the Honourable Member, however, still requires all of the information sought, I suggest the Honourable Member contacts the office of the Director-General to arrange a private inspection of the material.

1140. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (24/8/99)—

With reference to the December ANTA Newsletter "Australian Training", Vol 5, Issue 5, which indicates that nationally (a) school based new apprenticeships will increase by more than 300 per cent and reach over 4000 in 1999, (b) more than 138,000 individuals will commence new apprenticeships in 1999 and (c) there are an additional 70,000 student places

expected in vocational education and training this year—

In relation to each of the national figures indicated above, will he indicate the number to be contributed to the national total by Queensland?

Mr BRADY (23/9/99): The Department is consulting with ANTA and a considered response will be provided as soon as possible.

1141. Construction Industry, Cement Packaging Costs

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (24/8/99)—

With reference to his responses to Questions on Notice No's 32, 565 and 546 all dealing with his uncosted pre-election promise to the Builders Labourers Federation—

Why is he continuously attempting to pass the buck to the Workplace Health and Safety Board to have it determine the cost of his pre-election political promise and when will he deliver on his pre-election political promise?

Mr BRADY (23/9/99): Under legislation passed by the Coalition, the Workplace Health and Safety Board was established to give advice and make recommendations about policies, strategies, allocation of resources and legislative arrangements, for workplace health and safety. As this issue has implications across the construction industry, the Board is the appropriate body to consider this matter and consult with industry and affected stakeholders. The Board referred this matter to the Construction Sector Standing Committee for expert advice. The Committee has recently provided advice to the Board which will be considered at its next meeting on 28 September 1999. Following this meeting I will receive advice from the Board and until that time I am unable to provide further comment.

1142. WorkCover, Research Priorities

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (24/8/99)—

With reference to part (2) of Question on Notice No 866 which was significantly different to part (1) (eg. involving falling numbers rather than dramatically increasing numbers) and as it is obvious that part (2) requires a significantly different answer—

Will he provide the response requested?

Mr BRADY (23/9/99): The reference in the question to "involving falling numbers rather than dramatically increasing numbers" does not relate to my response to Question on Notice No. 866.

1143. Police Service, Leave During Olympic Games

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (24/8/99)—

- (1) Will he detail proposed leave directions given to members of the Queensland Police Service in relation to the amount of accumulated leave allowed during the Olympic Games period of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?
- (2) Will he also detail the number of Queensland officers who will be serving at the Games and the regions from which these officers will be drawn?

Mr BARTON (23/9/99):

(1) The Deputy Commissioner of Police has given a direction to sworn officers that no accumulated leave will be taken during the period 21 August 2000 to 1 October 2000 as a result of policing requirements associated with the Olympic Games and associated events to be conducted in Queensland.

(2) Specific details of Olympic events and pre-games training activities to be held in Queensland have not yet been released to the Queensland Police Service. As a result, the scope of the likely impact on police resources is yet to be fully determined.

The extent and location of pre-games training throughout Queensland will clearly have a bearing on the regions from where these officers are drawn. Although, it is likely that a heavy concentration of Olympic Games activity will occur in the South East corner of the State, a significant proportion of pre-games Olympic activity could take place elsewhere in Queensland. For example, it is anticipated that activities such as training camps, could be held in regional centres including Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, and Cairns, resulting in a need for the optimum availability of staff in many locations across the state.

1144. Regional Communities, Conference Reports

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (24/8/99)—

As he is responsible for the Regional Communities portfolio, will he supply the following reports from his department—Mackenroth QON regional com reports (a) Regional Communities Far North Queensland Conference Report, (b) Regional Communities North Queensland Conference Report, (c) Regional Communities Mackay/Whitsunday Conference Report, (d) Regional Communities Central Queensland Conference Report. (e) Regional Communities Wide Bay Conference Report, (f) Regional Communities South East Queensland North Conference Report, (g) Regional Communities South East Queensland West Conference Report and (h) Regional Communities South East Queensland South Conference Report?

Mr MACKENROTH (22/9/99): Yes, copies of all Conference Reports were provided to Mr Hobbs on Tuesday 24 August 1999.

1145. Biennial Festival

Mr STEPHAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (24/8/99)—

With reference to the Biennial Festival—

- (1) What was the budgeted projected income and expenditure and actual income and expenditure for each concert/performance and what were the ticket sales for each concert/performance and the cost per person for each ticket paying member of the audience?
- (2) What was the estimated projected attendance and actual attendance for each concert/performance and what was the number of tickets sold and number of free tickets given out for each concert/performance?
- (3) What was the income from sponsors for each concert and how much has the Queensland Government contributed to make up any shortfall of actual income and expenditure and how much of this is Arts Queensland \$500,000 indemnity?
- (4) What was the actual income and expenditure figures and the anticipated figures for the festival and what was the cost per person for each ticket paying member of the audience?
- (5) How many musicians were paid and how many contributed their services free including details of student numbers?

Mr FOLEY (23/9/99): (1-5) The majority of the performances in the Biennial were non-ticketed events, allowing increased accessibility to a broad range of Queenslanders. The Biennial's accounts will be finalised 8 weeks after the conclusion of the Festival and then audited. A complete Festival report will then be prepared.

1146. Corporate Administration Agency

Mr BAUMANN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (24/8/99)—

Will he explain why the services of the Corporate Administration Agency such as finance payrolls and human resources services are deemed to be more effectively provided by the Justice Department than by the Corporate Administration Agency when the agency was established to provide cost effective services to the Arts portfolio?

Mr FOLEY (23/9/99): Arts Queensland is being more closely aligned to its parent department so that its corporate governance is consistent with departmental requirements, the accountable officer and chief finance officer for the department are better placed to discharge their responsibilities and efficiencies can be achieved through established policies and procedures. The Corporate Administration Agency will continue to provide services to the Arts statutory bodies.

1147. Viviani Report

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (24/8/99)—

With reference to the response to part (1) of Question on Notice No 832 in which he indicated that Professor Viviani made an "informal judgment"—

As requested in the original question, will he provide the documentary evidence which informed her judgment?

Mr BRADY (23/9/99): Professor Viviani did not make an "informal judgment". As per the response to Question on Notice 1101, the way in which Professor Viviani came to an informed judgment is a matter for her.

1148. Arts Queensland, Consultancies

Mr SEENEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (24/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr FOLEY (23/9/99): I refer to my answer to question 723, asked on 8 June 1999, in relation to Arts Queensland and the Arts statutory authorities. The State Library has advised that as a result of some travel expenses associated with the film Heritage Project, its full cost was \$10,909.90 rather than the \$9,600.00 previously provided. In addition, the State Library of Queensland has identified 3 consultancies which it had considered to be outside the scope the previous question. The details of those consultancies and all others within my portfolio which were not within the scope of the previous question, or which commenced after the 8 June 1999, are listed in the attachment to his answer. The requirements of the State Purchasing Policy were in respect of all work listed in my earlier response. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1149. Health Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Health (24/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by her portfolio/s will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mrs EDMOND (23/9/99): The honourable member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken over the 1998-1999 financial year in their annual reports which they are required to provide to me by 31 October 1999. Accordingly, I refer the honourable member to

the information that is to be included in these annual reports.

1150. Primary Industries Portfolio, Consultancies

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (24/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/9/99): The Honourable Member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken over the 1998-1999 financial year in their annual reports which they are required to provide to me by 31 October 1999. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information that is to be included in these annual reports.

1151. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (24/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr BARTON (23/9/99): The Honourable Member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken over the 1998-1999 financial year in their annual reports which they are required to provide to me by 31 October 1999. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information that will be included in the annual report of the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Corrective Services and the Queensland Crime Commission.

1152. Tourism, Sport and Racing Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (24/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998

up to and including 18 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr GIBBS (23/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member is contained in the annual reports of the Departments and the respective agencies. I would be happy to provide those reports if the Honourable Member so desires.

1153. Logging on Camping Reserve 224, Tully Falls Road

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/8/99)—

- (1) Will he outline the full details and all facts relating to the proposed logging operation on camping reserve (R224) near the Vine Creek Bridge off Tully Falls Road?
- (2) Will he assure me that there are no environmental reasons for this operation to cease and that there is no danger to Eucalyptus Resinifera or *Petaurus Australis* in the area?

Mr WELFORD (24/9/99):

(1) On 12 August 1999, an officer from the Herberton Shire Council advised the Atherton Office of my Department of Natural Resources (DNR) of the presence of Red Mahogany (*Eucalyptus resinifera*) trees having been marked for harvesting on Camping Reserve 224. Harvesting was known to have been occurring on the adjacent freehold land.

An inspection was undertaken on the following day 13 August 1999 by DNR officers. The information provided, which raised concerns over the appropriateness of this harvesting, appeared valid. Red Mahogany, as feed trees for the (Northern) Yellow Bellied Glider (*Petaurus australis reginae*), better known as the Fluffy Glider, were observed to have been marked for removal.

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Forestry officers act as the selling agent for forest products on state lands, including Camping Reserves. DNR officers in Atherton contacted DPI Forestry on 13 August 1999, and were advised that DPI Forestry were not intending to approve the harvest of the trees on the Camping reserve due to it being considered to be an inappropriate use of the Camping reserve and as the trees were considered to have a range of environmental values. DPI Forestry advised that the applicant would be advised of this and that the tree marking clarified to avoid inadvertent harvest of the trees.

An officer of the Herberton Shire council was notified both orally and in writing of this advice.

(2) My Department of Natural Resources has developed Interim Protective Measures for the Fluffy Glider and is in the process of completing a Species Management Profile for this species which will ensure the appropriate management of the species is taken into account for a range of activities proposed. The Fluffy Glider (*Petaurus australis reginae*) is listed as vulnerable in the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

Red Mahogany (*Eucalyptus resinifera*) in the area of this Camping Reserve is identified as a Regional

Ecosystem 'of concern'. While the code of practice for native forest timber production does not preclude the harvest of timber from such ecosystems, it does place restrictions on clearing for roads and loading areas and generally restricts the harvest of old growth components of such ecosystems.

Consequently, the harvest of these trees on this reserve would need to have given consideration to these environmental values and would have significantly influenced the decision made by DPI Forestry in this regard.

1154. Warrego Highway, Miles-Chinchilla

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (25/8/99)—

With reference to The Chinchilla Shire Council which was assured road trains would not be permitted to use the Miles-Chinchilla section of the national highway (Warrego Highway) until the culverts were converted to under road pipes and the shoulders of the road were widened and as the culverts have been upgraded and road trains are now using the road—

Will he use his influence to have this section of the highway upgraded as promised?

Mr BREDHAUER (24/9/99): Queensland is actively seeking from the Federal Government, additional funding for widening and rehabilitation works on the Warrego Highway, and the section west of Chinchilla is of high priority should funding become available. Work on the Yarralla deviation is likely to delay the acquisition of funding for this section of road.

1155. Question Ruled Out of Order

1156. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/8/99)—

With reference to the southern Moreton Bay islands—

- (1) What Aboriginal land titles are registered or claimed?
- (2) Will he explain the land valuations whereby one valuation on 27 January was \$47,000 and six months later on 27 July was \$500, this valuation being made on the unimproved value of the land?

Mr WELFORD (24/9/99):

(1) My Department of Natural Resources has advised that no land on the southern Moreton Bay islands has been made available for claim under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, nor has any land on these islands been transferred under that Act.

The Federal Court Registry is the custodian for claims made under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) and for disseminating this publicly available information. However, my Department of Natural Resources is aware a native title claim has been

lodged over part of North Stradbroke Island, the whole of Peel Island and surrounding waters by the Quandamooka Peoples. My Department has no knowledge of any other claims lodged over these islands.

(2) My Department of Natural Resources issued valuations for these islands, which are located in Redland Shire, on 29 March 1999. My Department's search of its valuation records has identified one block on Russell Island that had been valued at \$47,000 then later reduced to \$500. This block was located in a drainage problem area classified as category one under Redland Shire Council's Strategy for Land Affected by Flooding or Tidal Inundation. Blocks with this classification are unlikely to receive building approval.

The Council's strategy only became known to my Department after the previous \$47,000 valuation was issued, however I am having this matter further investigated having regard to the extraordinary difference in value.

1157. Fraser Island, Dingoes

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/8/99)—

With reference to the University of Queensland research project "Fraser Island Dingo Aversive Conditioning Trial using Lithium Chloride and Thiabendazole Baits"—

- (1) As the University of Queensland has advised that the project was in line with the Department of Environment and Heritage Dingo Management Strategy, will he advise if this strategy exists apart from a draft Fraser Island dingo strategy which has been released for public comment and will he provide more detail on this strategy?
- (2) Was the project well justified and who was consulted for advice?
- (3) Did the University of Queensland Animal Ethics Committee realise the practice of baiting dingoes is illegal, against the position paper on dingoes by the RSPCA?
- (4) How is it possible for the University of Queensland Animal Ethics Committee to disregard totally the guidelines associated with the welfare of animals as recommended by the RSPCA or is the University of Queensland Animal Ethics Committee exempt from such guidelines and did the University of Queensland Animal Ethics Committee consult the RSPCA?
- (5) What were the qualifications of the person conducting the trial, was the trial under a veterinarian and was the veterinarian present during the trial?

Mr WELFORD (24/9/99):

(1) No formal dingo management program exists apart from the Draft Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy. This draft was released in April 1999 for public comment.

(2) Permission to undertake the aversive conditioning trial was requested by a University of Queensland student. Approval was granted on the basis that the trial was in line with recommendations in the Draft Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy and advice from Dr Laurie Corbett, an expert in this field advising QPWS. The trial was to determine the viability of incorporating such practices in the final Dingo Management Strategy. The trial involved the use of chemically-laced baits for a three day period only. The project methodology was determined by the student after consultation with QPWS officers, Dr Laurie Corbett, and Dr Greg Baxter, an academic supervisor at University of Queensland.

(3) This is a matter for the University of Queensland's Animal Ethics Committee.

(4) This is a matter for the University of Queensland's Animal Ethics Committee.

(5) The person conducting the trial was an undergraduate student from University of Queensland. No veterinarian was present during the trial. Methodologies and Ethics Approval issues were discussed with a Departmental officer who is a qualified veterinarian.

1158. Swivel-seat and Wheelchair Access Taxi Licences

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (25/8/99)—

With reference to wheelchair accessible taxis/medicabs and claims of deliberate concealment of the subsidy arrangements from operators by taxi companies and Queensland Transport and the exclusion of operators not in Yellow Cabs from an offer to buy the license they were leasing—

- (1) If there was no misdirection of benefit, what did the cab companies do to warrant the windfall of approximately \$51,000 per year?
- (2) Why did arrangements exist to move licenses to Yellow Cabs or surrender the licenses if the contract had no impact on the other companies?
- (3) If there was no concealment of arrangements from operators, will he show where operators not in Yellow Cabs were provided with the opportunity to purchase a license?
- (4) If losing out on \$17,000 per year per vehicle subsidy and not having the opportunity to purchase a license which has now become viable and increased in capital value is not a grievous disadvantage, will he outline what further injustices would have had to be endured by these people to be termed grievously disadvantaged?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99):

- (1) I am not aware of any "windfall" as alleged.
- (2-4) I refer to my answers to Question on Notice No. 319.

1159. Ipswich-Boonah and Purga School Roads

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (25/8/99)—

With reference to the intersection of Ipswich Boonah Road and Purga School Road which has been identified as a black spot with many accidents occurring as motorists attempt to turn into Purga School Road—

- (1) Has his department plans to construct turning lanes at this intersection; If so, when can the residents of the area expect this work to commence?
- (2) What is the estimated costing of this project?

Mr BREDHAUER (24/9/99):

(1) The intersection of the Ipswich-Boonah and Purga School Roads has been identified as requiring separate right-turning lanes for vehicles entering Purga School Road. Detailed plans for the proposed improvements are currently being prepared.

(2) No firm estimate of cost will be available until the completion of the detailed design phase.

1160. Hardwood Plantations

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (25/8/99)—

With reference to the proposed RFA strategy under which he is encouraging the growth of plantations of hardwood forests, which is commendable, however development within south-east Asia and consequent studies by the Asian Development Bank have shown that economically viable hardwood plantations, utilising the best of Australian technology, are possible only with substantial subsidies or other forms of Government assistance and in Laos alone, with four million inhabitants, the ADB found it necessary to grant a concessional loan of \$15m to get significant trial commercial areas established—

- (1) If he is proposing Government assistance to help encourage the necessary establishment of hardwood plantations, is he sure that such assistance will not breach the WTO guidelines?
- (2) Will such assistance necessitate a lengthy study such as the one which justified a short term, low tariff to protect our pork industry?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/9/99):

1. The Government assistance that has been offered to the private sector to encourage private sector investment in hardwood plantations is not in the form of a subsidy. The assistance has included development of information through an extensive research and development program, providing that information to landholders through a vigorous extension program, and entering into joint ventures with landholders to demonstrate the viability of hardwood plantations.

The assistance does not breach the WTO guidelines.

2. The assistance which has been offered has not necessitated a lengthy study.

1161. Cannon Hill Meatworks; South Burnett Meatworks

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Primary Industries (25/8/99)—

With reference to his announcement on 24 August that they had overcome substantial obstacles to save the 700 jobs involved in the Cannon Hill meatworks—

- (1) Does this signal that the Government is prepared to overcome the difficulties involved and preserve the jobs in the South Burnett Meatworks?
- (2) What exactly were the measures undertaken to save the Cannon Hill Meatworks?
- (3) What was the expenditure outlaid by this Government to ensure those 700 jobs were secured?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/9/99): The announcement of 24 August referred to by the Honourable member was made by my colleague, the Honourable Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development. These questions should therefore be referred to him.

1162. Macleay Island

Ms ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/8/99)—

With reference to a constituent in my electorate who has approached me regarding the issue of a study for future development on Macleay Island—

Will he advise whether or not landowners will be adversely affected by this study?

Mr MACKENROTH (20/9/99): The future management of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, which includes Macleay Island, is the subject of a joint study between the Redland Shire Council and the State Government, in response to the inappropriate subdivision of over 22,500 lots, some twenty years ago. The State Government at the time allowed the islands to be subdivided and lots sold without the provision of sewerage, water, roads or social infrastructure such as schools and health facilities, nor assessment of the environmental impact on the waters of Moreton Bay. Up to 5,000 of these blocks are subject to tidal inundation and flooding.

The Government is currently reviewing the recommendations, and has not yet made a determination. Notwithstanding, I reiterate my position of not supporting compulsory acquisitions on these islands.

1163. WorkCover, Recording of Telephone Calls

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (25/8/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 367 which asked him to table a copy of a report—

- (1) Does his failure to provide a copy of any documentation provided to him by WorkCover on 1 April indicate that WorkCover failed to meet his request for a report even though his request had been made at least a fortnight earlier (on or prior to 16 March)?
- (2) If the report to him was solely verbal, why did it take a fortnight or more to arrive?

Mr BRADY (24/9/99): (1) & (2) I am satisfied with the advice I have received from WorkCover.

1164. Viviani Report

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (25/8/99)—

- (1) Unless he, in indicating that the industrial relations function he lists in part (2) of his response to part (2) of Question on Notice No. 832 has already been secretly devolved or is one he believes should be devolved, will he modify his answer and provide the information that was actually requested?
- (2) With respect to his response to part (3) of Question on Notice No. 832 will he give an undertaking to provide the "framework" as soon as it is published and indicate which part of it was developed by Professor Viviani in accordance with the terms of reference of her consultancy?

Mr BRADY (24/9/99):

- (1) Part (2) of the answer to Question on Notice 832 still stands. The Government will not review the matter until the four years has expired.
- (2) The detailed "Governance Framework" was developed having regard to the Bannikoff and Viviani reports, detailed consultation with TAFE Directors and other stakeholders and was published in July 1999.

1165. Perpetual Country Leases

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/8/99)—

With reference to the conversion of Mining Homestead Perpetual Leases to Perpetual Country Leases (non-competitive leases) (25/8/99)—

- (1) Will he explain the use of the word "expiration" in Clause (10) of the terms and conditions on the back of Perpetual Country Leases (non-competitive lease)?
- (2) In light of this Clause, will he assure the holders of Perpetual Country Leases (non-competitive leases) that they have secure tenure over the land?

Mr WELFORD (24/9/99):

- (1) My Department of Natural Resources computerised term and perpetual lease production system provides for use of the words "expiration" or "surrender" in standard clause 10. The word "expiration" applies to term leases and has no effect if

included in a perpetual lease as a perpetual lease does not expire.

(2) I can assure the lessees of perpetual country leases that their leases are perpetual, do not expire and that inclusion of the word "expiration" in clause 10 has no effect on the security of their tenure.

1166. Gladstone Hospital

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

- (1) What were the employment levels for RNs, nurses aides and domestic staff at the Gladstone Hospital at 30 June 1998?
- (2) What were the employment levels for these three groups at 30 June 1999?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99):

- (1) As at 30 June 1998, the full time equivalent RNs employed in the Gladstone Health Service District was 104.9, ENs was 37.36 and domestic staff 33.81. There were no nurses aides employed.
- (2) As at 30 June 1999 the full-time equivalent RNs employed in the Gladstone Health Service District was 106.9, ENs was 37.16 and domestic staff 33.35. There were no nurses aides employed.

1167. Mental Health Services

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Labor Government's health strategy advisory project which was critical of the Beattie Government's lack of resolve in relation to mental health and as the Beattie Government has not quarantined mental health funds in several health districts—

What guarantees will she give the House that appropriate mental health funding will be allocated to the districts and that the funding will be quarantined to be expended on mental health services only?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99): The Beattie Labor Government has a strong commitment to improving mental health services in Queensland. A key election commitment of this Government was to expand community-based services, particularly in the far north and regional areas of Queensland. In Labor's first budget, an extra \$26 million was allocated to fund more than 200 positions in mental health across Queensland. These positions are being filled with up to 179 already appointed. For further information, I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard for answers given by the Honourable Premier and myself to Questions Without Notice and to the Government members' contributions to the Notice of Motion debates in this House.

1168. Public Hospitals, Outpatients Clinics

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's slash and burn project—

Will she identify the hospitals which will lose their outpatients clinics and when those clinics will disappear?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99): The basis of this question is wrong, as there is no "slash and burn" project. I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard for answers given by the Honourable Premier and myself to Questions Without Notice and to the Government members' contributions to the Notice of Motion debates in this House.

1169. Building and Construction Industry Training Fund

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (25/8/99)—

Will he provide to and table in the Parliament the list of trustees of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund (Qld) together with the inaugural fund training plan?

Mr BRADY (24/9/99): The current trustees are: Mr Bob Cush, Mr John Thompson and Mr John Galloway. There is currently one vacancy. The proper process for seeking the information requested in the second part of the question is pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act where appropriate.

1170. Electricity Industry; Kogan Creek Power Station

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (25/8/99)—

With reference to the significant number of proposals from the public and private sector to generate electricity in Queensland—

- (1) When does the Government anticipate, particularly in light of the above, making a decision in the context of the Kogan Creek proposal?
- (2) Does the Government consider there is a likelihood that some Queensland generators may fail in a competitive market based on the considerable variations that now exist between the competitiveness of some of our generating capacity in terms of current and projected market prices for power?
- (3) Does the Government have priorities in the context of the plethora of gas powered projects now being actively encouraged by it, in particular, what order for coming on line does it have, if any, for these projects?
- (4) How does the Government expect these gas powered power stations to be competitive in a market still dominated and likely to be dominated, nationally, for many years, by much cheaper coal fired generation?
- (5) Does the Government anticipate that carbon taxed/credits will be imposed in Queensland in a manner that will make gas fired power competitive with coal fired power?

Mr McGRADY (27/9/99): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Rowell, I can advise as follows:

(1) The time at which any decision on the Kogan Creek proposal will occur is a matter for CEPA (Kogan Creek) Holding Pty Ltd, the proponent of the venture. The Government is currently progressing a number of regulatory approvals. In addition, the Kogan Creek proponents have yet to finalise their Environmental Impact Assessment Study (EIAS). A Supplementary Report to the original EIAS has been required to address a number of issues raised during the consultation process. This report is expected to be completed in October 1999.

(2) The Government decision to enter the National Electricity Market was designed to increase the competitiveness and efficiency in the electricity industry. The ultimate aim is to bring about lower electricity prices to consumers which in turn would facilitate growth. It was recognised at the time that competition may put pressure on the financial return of generators.

(3) The Government has no planned staging for the introduction of gas fired power stations currently being assessed by Government and private sector developers.

(4) The commercial viability of the various proposed gas fired generation plants is currently being investigated to assess their long term prospects.

(5) It appears unlikely that a carbon tax will be introduced in Australia in the foreseeable future. It is more likely that an emission trading system for greenhouse gases will be established. However, the timing of such a trading system is dependent upon a number of international factors such as the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. While emissions trading will, over time, change the relative costs of coal and gas based generation, details of such a scheme have yet to be settled.

1171. No question allocated to this number.

1172. Health Department, Salary Packages

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Labor Government's Queensland Health Strategy Advisory Project which recommended that forward estimates should recognise the move to National benchmark salaries for health professionals—

When will the Beattie Government move to boost the salary packages of the health bureaucrats?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99): Queensland Health negotiated a significant improvement in salary packages for health professionals with the signing of EBIII in January 1999. EBIII is fully supplemented by Treasury, unlike EBII under the Opposition which left \$25 million that hospitals were expected to find in savings from the last enterprise agreement. For further information I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard for answers given by the Honourable Premier and myself to Questions Without Notice and

to the Government members' contributions to the Notice of Motion debates in this House.

1173. Health Districts, Performance Agreements

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

With reference to the slash and burn criteria of the Queensland Health Strategy Advisory Project under which the district managers have been required to rework the business cases of the redeveloped hospitals—

Will she advise the House on the detail of the performance agreements each district manager will be required to sign with the Director-General and who will be ultimately accountable for the district managers achieving the objectives?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99): The basis of this question is wrong, as there is no slash and burn criteria being applied. For further information, I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard for answers given by the Honourable Premier and myself to Questions Without Notice and to the Government members' contributions to the Notice of Motion debates in this House.

1174. Public Hospitals, Patient Numbers

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's radical slash and burn project under which it was indicated that the public hospitals do not want additional patients particularly when the marginal costs will exceed marginal revenue—

Will she outline to the House what strategies are planned to "avoid an unreasonable burden being placed on the public sector"?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99): The basis of the question is wrong, as there is no "slash and burn" project. For further information, I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard for answers given by the Honourable Premier and myself to Questions Without Notice and to the Government members' contributions to the Notice of Motion debates in this House.

1175. Health Department, Capital Charge

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's very own health strategy advisory project under which it was recommended that the health department be fully accountable for its balance sheet—

What and when will a capital charge be allocated on health funding to drive the "asset holdings down to the absolute minimum"?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99): The capital charge was an initiative of the Borbidge Coalition Government. This tax, known as the "Horan Health Tax", would have cut \$144m out of hospitals'

recurrent budgets in the first three years of its operation, with a further \$85m every year after that. This would have led to direct budget cuts and cuts to service delivery. In its first budget, the Beattie Labor Government met its election commitment to abolish Horan's Health Tax.

For further information, I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard for answers given by the Honourable Premier and myself to Questions Without Notice and to the Government members' contributions to the Notice of Motion debates in this House.

1176. Health Department, Corporatisation

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's health strategy advisory project under which it was recommended that the health department pursue export earnings and that a corporatised Government owned entity may be the best vehicle to conduct health exports—

- (1) Will she advise on the establishment of this proposed corporatised Government-owned entity?
- (2) Will she provide a guarantee to the House that the health department, or a sub-department of it, will not be corporatised?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99): I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard for answers given by the Honourable Premier and myself to Questions Without Notice and to the Government members' contributions to the Notice of Motion debates in this House.

1177. Southport, Police Resources

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (25/8/99)—

- (1) How many police officers are active in the Southport area during the hours of (a) 6 am to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, (b) 6 p.m. to 6 am Monday to Friday, (c) 6 am to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and (d) 6 p.m. to 6 am Saturday and Sunday?
- (2) Are there plans to increase these numbers; if not, why not?

Mr BARTON (28/9/99): (1) Southport Station rosters are primarily established for the periods 8am to 4pm, 4pm to 12 midnight and 12 midnight to 8am, not 6am to 6pm, and 6pm to 6am as suggested. During a normal working week (Sunday to Thursday) the number of officers working on these shifts from Southport are as follows:

12am to 8 am—9 officers
8am to 4pm—25 officers
4pm to 12am—8 officers

On weekends (including Friday and Saturday nights) the numbers are as follows:

12am to 8am—12 officers
8am to 4pm—9 officers
4pm to 12am—8 officers

It should be clearly understood that the above figures represent officers rostered out of Southport Police Station only. At any one time there can be other additional police from other stations or policing establishments passing through or working in the area. All these officers can be called upon to respond to situations if necessary.

It should also be noted that the allocation of police resources is undertaken using the Queensland Police Service staffing model. The model takes into account population, traffic and crime levels. As such, staff levels in the Southport policing division are in keeping with other Queensland locations with similar population and crime levels.

(2) Southport staffing levels, together with those establishments within the Region are reviewed annually in December. Increases will be determined at this time. It should be noted, however, that the Beattie Labor Government has a commitment to increasing police numbers by an average of 325 officers per year, each year until 30 June 2005. The Southport Police Division will share in these increases.

1178. Bundaberg Base Hospital

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

With reference to the operating deficit which now faces the Bundaberg Base Hospital (some \$334,313) in 1999-2000, and the underlying inadequacy of the recurrent budget—

- (1) What measures will Queensland Health take in an effort to meet its budget in 1999-2000?
- (2) If she has now rejected offering VERs to the full-time equivalent of 18 jobs as recommended by the district manager and has no plans to increase the health district's recurrent budget, what services will be reduced, restructured or phased out to curtail hospital expenditure?
- (3) If casuals, temporary and contract staff are offered redundancy packages, will their termination moneys be drawn from the existing hospital budget; if so, will that money have to be repaid in any subsequent financial years?
- (4) In relation to the \$700,000 allocated in her "rescue package" in February, why wasn't hospital management aware that this allocation would have to be returned to corporate office if unspent in the current financial year—until three days before 30 June 1999?
- (5) Did she or any senior members of staff give an assurance, either verbally or in writing, that these one-off special funds would not have to be repaid if unspent by 30 June 1999?
- (6) Given the history of difficulties the Bundaberg Base Hospital has in retaining specialised surgical staff, did she believe the hospital had the capacity to use those funds allocated to elective surgery within four months (from rescue package announcement to the end of the financial year)?

- (7) Will she provide meaningful financial assistance to the Bundaberg Health District in 1999-2000, which will significantly increase the recurrent budget and eliminate the need to cut staffing hours or services?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99):

(1), (2) & (7) In 1999/2000, the District's State base operating budget increased by \$1.2 million with an additional \$800,000 in growth funding, providing the total of \$2 million increase in recurrent funding. The extra funding will provide high quality health services in and around Bundaberg. District management will be able to build on operational improvements introduced last financial year and look to expand services in areas of need. This includes the specialist services needed in the District, in particular orthopaedic services. Initiatives such as the parenting program and school nurse program are also being expanded, with an extra school nurse appointed. Two extra nursing positions trialled in the Bundaberg Hospitals' emergency department in 1998 have been made permanent. Permanent staff are guaranteed their jobs. Hundreds of jobs have also been created through the hospital's \$26.95 million redevelopment, with \$9.4 million allocated in 1999/2000.

(3) Casual, temporary or contract staff have never been eligible for redundancy packages.

(4) The \$700,000 allocation as part of the rescue package was not required to be returned in the last financial year. The District was required to return \$700,000 in specific purpose payments for elective surgery as it had not undertaken the work required for this funding. This funding was returned in June 1999 under well-documented arrangements that apply to every Queensland hospital and that applied under the previous government.

(5) Elective surgery funds must be spent for the purpose allocated or returned for reallocation in order to ensure that elective surgery targets are met. These arrangements apply to every Queensland hospital and applied under the previous government.

(6) The funds were allocated considering surgical activity up to that date and forecast activity for the remainder of the year.

1179. Oxley Police Academy; Townsville Police Academy

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (25/8/99)—

Will he detail the intake and graduation numbers for Oxley and Townsville Police Academies for 1998-99 and the planned intake and graduation numbers for both academies for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

Mr BARTON (28/9/99): The Beattie Labor Government is committed to increasing police numbers by an average of 325 officers per year, each year to 30 June 2005. The number required to be trained to achieve this average increase varies from year to year, depending on the separation rate. In the 1998/99 financial year, the Government surpassed

the specified target by 46 officers, in part because of the low numbers of experienced officers leaving the Queensland Police Service. As a result, intakes for the current financial year have been adjusted downwards, which is consistent with achieving the Government's target and also consistent with the former coalition Government's target.

As recruitment is undertaken according to need, and it is not possible to determine the failure rate of recruits, it is difficult to accurately detail the number of officers likely to make up each intake in the future.

Adjustment of recruitment levels taking into account variations to the separation rate from year to year, assists in avoiding a scenario which would see the Government so far ahead of the annual targets that in the final year there would be little or no need to recruit new officers. By taking this approach, we will ensure that both academies are running at or near full capacity for the years ahead to 30 June 2005.

1180. Treasurer's Advance Account

Dr WATSON asked the acting Treasurer (25/8/99)—

With reference to the \$99.35m allocated to the Treasurer's Advance Account for 1998-99—

- (1) What was the balance of this account at 30 June 1999?
- (2) What funds were outlaid from this account in 1998-99?
- (3) To which departments and programs were these funds outlaid?
- (4) In respect to each of these outlays, what was the date of each of these outlays and the specific purpose to which these funds were applied?

Mr BEATTIE (22/9/99): An allocation is included each year in Treasury's Budget for the Treasurer's Advance Account. During the course of the year this allocation is not expensed and the allocation lapses at year's end, offsetting unforeseen expenditure in other agencies. In accordance with this, the answers to the above questions are:

1. Zero.
2. None.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.

1181. Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/8/99)—

Will she provide a breakdown of ambulance response times for each region for each month since July 1998?

Mrs ROSE (24/9/99): This question seeks the same information as that provided in response to Question on Notice 1187 asked on the same date. I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to Question on Notice 1187.

1182. Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund—

For the years (a) 1998-99 and (b) 1999-2000 (year to date), (i) how many claims were made on the fund by consumers who were misled by real estate agents (ii) how much was paid from the fund to these claimants, (iii) how many claimants did not receive successful claims, (iv) how many claims were made on the fund by consumers who were misled by car sellers, (v) how much was paid from the fund to these claimants and (vi) how many claimants did not receive successful claims?

Ms SPENCE (27/9/99):

(i) 229 claims were made in 1998-99 by consumers who were misled by real estate agents and 7 in 1999-2000 (year to date).

(ii) The amount of \$765,727.00 was paid from the fund to claimants in 1998-99 and \$24,845.12 has been paid to claimants in 1999-2000 (year to date).

(iii) 13 claims were disallowed by the Committee in 1998-99 and 2 were disallowed in 1999-200 (year to date).

(iv) There were 100 claimants in respect to motor dealing transactions in 1998-99 and 20 claims have been lodged in 1999-2000 (year to date).

(v) The amount of \$279,280.81 was paid to those claimants in 1998-99 and \$65,807.30 has been paid to claimants in 1999-200 (year to date).

(vi) There were 29 claims relating to motor dealers disallowed in 1998-99 and 9 disallowed in 1999-2000 (year to date).

1183. Queensland Building Tribunal

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (25/8/99)—

With reference to the performance of the Queensland Building Tribunal up until 25 August 1999—

(1) How many domestic building disputes have been lodged with the Queensland Building Tribunal since 26 June 1998?

(2) How many domestic building disputes lodged with the Queensland Building Tribunal since 26 June 1998 have been finalised through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?

(3) How many domestic building disputes lodged with the Queensland Building Tribunal prior to 26 June 1998 remained unresolved at 26 June 1998?

(4) How many of the unresolved domestic building disputes lodged with the Queensland Building Tribunal prior to 26 June 1998 have now been

finalised through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?

(5) What was the average cost of each domestic building dispute (a) lodged and finalised by hearing since 26 June 1998 and (b) lodged prior to but finalised by hearing after 26 June 1998?

(6) What was the average cost of each domestic building dispute (a) lodged and finalised by mediation since 26 June 1998 and (b) lodged prior to but finalised by mediation after 26 June 1998?

(7) What was the average time taken by the Queensland Building Tribunal to finalise domestic building disputes lodged since 26 June 1998 through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?

(8) What was the average time taken by the Queensland Building Tribunal to finalise domestic building disputes lodged prior to 26 June 1998 but finalised since 26 June 1998 through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?

Ms SPENCE (27/9/99):

(1) 511 domestic building disputes ("dbd") have been lodged between 26 June 1998 and 25 August 1999. In addition, the Tribunal received 248 Review applications and 346 Disciplinary applications within this period.

(2)(a) 83 dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 had been finalised by hearing at 25 August 1999. (b) 227 dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 had been finalised by mediation at 25 August 1999.

In addition, 59 dbd have been withdrawn, settled, etc with the assistance of the Tribunal making a total of 369 lodged and finalised within that time.

(3) 121 dbd were on hand at 26 June 1998.

(4)(a) 65 dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 were finalised by hearing as at 25 August 1999. (b) 18 dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 were finalised by mediation as at 25 August 1999.

In addition, 19 dbd were withdrawn, settled, etc with the assistance of the Tribunal making a total of 102 on hand at 26 June 1998 and finalised by 25 August 1999.

(5) The Queensland Building Tribunal does not compile costs for each domestic building dispute determined by hearing. However, an estimated average cost for one day of hearing would have been \$1,023.00 up to 14 December 1998 (when Members' fees were increased) and \$1,105.00 since that date.

(6)(a) Average cost of dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 and finalised by mediation is \$256. (b) Average cost of dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 and finalised by mediation is \$286.

(6(a) and (b) are the average costs paid to mediators and the figures do not include any administrative components).

(7)(a) Dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 finalised by hearing in an average of 133 days. (b) Dbd lodged

since 26 June 1998 finalised by mediation in an average of 44 days.

(8)(a) Dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 finalised by hearing in an average of 288 days. (b) Dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 finalised by mediation in an average of 58 days.

1184. Public Housing

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (25/8/99)—

With reference to his decision to revert back to a suburb waitlist system from the waitzones (zonal) waitlist system introduced through the Coalition's housing reforms in October 1997—

Will he provide the following details (a) the total cost of staffing to make the necessary change/s to the computer software and/or systems, (b) the total cost of staffing for any data entry purposes, (c) the total cost of computer consultants and/or software engineers to make the necessary changes to the computer software and/or systems, (d) the total cost of any new computer software and/or systems necessary and (e) the overall total cost associated with the necessary system changes?

Mr SCHWARTEN (24/9/99): The funding arrangements for these changes to which the Honourable Member refers are the same as those which applied in October 1997 when reforms were implemented by the previous Government.

1185. Queensland Building Services Authority, Home Warranty Insurance

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (25/8/99)—

With reference to the home warranty insurance provided to consumers through the Queensland Building Services Authority—

Will she list for the years (a) 1998-99 and (b) from 1 July 1999 until 25 August 1999 the (i) total number of policies taken out, (ii) total value of premiums received, (iii) total value of claims and (iv) total administrative costs for the insurance scheme?

Ms SPENCE (27/9/99): The following table provides information on the total number of policies, value of premiums, total value of approved claims and total administration costs. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1186. Queensland Building Services Authority, Home Warranty Insurance

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (25/8/99)—

With reference to the home warranty insurance provided to consumers through the Queensland Building Services Authority—

Will she list for the years (a) 1998-99 and (b) from 1 July 1999 until 25 August 1999 the (i) total value of claims, (ii) average value of claims, (iii) maximum monetary value of a claim possible at the time and (iv) the premium paid?

Ms SPENCE (27/9/99): The following table provides information in relation to the total estimated value of claims made during each period, the average claim value, premium payments, maximum policy benefits and the percentage of approved claims that were fully compensated. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1187. Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service—

Will she provide monthly response times for both regions and districts since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?

Mrs ROSE (24/9/99): The attached table details the latest available Queensland Ambulance Service response times for each region and district since July 1998 up to and including August 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1188. Fire and Rescue Authority, Response Times

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—

Will she provide monthly response times for both regions and districts since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?

Mrs ROSE (24/9/99): Responses shown in the table are for all call-outs—including responses to motor vehicle incidents, many of which occur outside the Urban Fire district. Motor vehicle incidents outnumber structure fire incidents in many less populated districts. In some cases it may take an hour or more to reach such an incident. Road accident rescue work is an increasing part of the role of firefighters. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority focuses on prevention and public education to reduce the number of fires and their consequences. Statistics suggest the strategy is successful, as Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority has one of the lowest rates of death and injury in fires per 100,000 population in Australia.

1189. Aged Care Centres

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Beattie Government, under its radical and uncaring slash and burn project which plans to shift the responsibility for residential aged care provision from its balance sheet on to that of the Commonwealth and the non-Government sector—

Which residential aged care centres and which aged care centres will be sold off?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99): The basis of this question is wrong as there is no "slash and burn" project. For further information, I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard for answers given by the Honourable Premier and myself to Questions Without Notice and to the Government members' contributions to the Notice of Motion debates in this House.

1190. Rehabilitation Services

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Premier's statement of an additional \$200m into the health department's budget for 1999-2000—

How much funding will be allocated to the establishment of rehabilitation services?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99): Details of expenditure are contained in the Queensland Health budget brought down on 14 September 1999.

1191. Public Hospitals, Market Share

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

Will she advise the House if the private sector is concerned that the new Queensland public hospitals are eroding their market share?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99): I am not able to respond regarding the "concerns" of organisations outside the health department.

1192. Health Department, Funding

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Health (25/8/99)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's slash and burn project in which it was recommended that a detailed risk sharing agreement be drawn up between Treasury and the health department in relation to revenue from all sources and that the health department should move to a net funding base—

Will she outline what is envisaged in relation to the net funding base as well as the risk sharing agreement?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/99): The basis of this question is wrong, as there is no "slash and burn" project. For further information, I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard for answers given by the Honourable Premier and myself to Questions Without Notice and to the Government members' contributions to the Notice of Motion debates in this House.

1193. Animal Health Institute

Mr COOPER asked the Premier (25/8/99)—

With reference to the proposal to co-locate the existing veterinary laboratory activities of the Department of Primary Industries, the University of Queensland and the CSIRO and establish a world-class Animal Health Institute—

- (1) What is the progress of the assessment of this proposal?
- (2) Does the Beattie Government support the establishment of the Animal Health Institute; if so, has the project been considered for inclusion and funding under the Smart State initiative?

Mr BEATTIE (22/9/99):

(1) A report of the feasibility study for the establishment of an Animal Health Institute approved by the previous Government was released for consultation in early 1999. While this consultation revealed in principle support for the concept, concerns were raised about how it would be implemented. In particular, there was strong opposition to the suggested Gatton location. The University of Queensland is preparing a series of recommendations relating to its future use of its Gatton Campus. These recommendations are to be considered by the University of Queensland Senate.

(2) The Government is supportive of this proposal, however any consideration on funding would be affected by the decisions to be made by the University of Queensland Senate.

1194. Ayr Research Station

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Primary Industries (26/8/99)—

Is the Government considering closing down the Ayr Research Station, also known as the Queensland Horticultural Institute?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/9/99): No.

1195. Kogan Creek Power Station

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Premier (26/8/99)—

With reference to an appeal from the firm AGL to him that the approval of a generating licence to the Kogan Creek Power House proposal would place the Chevron pipeline project at risk and given the fact that Kogan Creek coal has the lowest emission levels in the State and the project will offer the cheapest priced electricity—

Will he give an assurance that the Kogan Creek project will not be discriminated against simply to ensure a less economically efficient project such as Chevron can succeed?

Mr BEATTIE (22/9/99): The decision to proceed with the Kogan Creek power station and coal mine lies solely with the proponent, CEPA (Kogan Creek) Holding Pty Ltd. The Government's role in the Kogan Creek project is to ensure that applications and submissions, including the Impact

Assessment Study (IAS) and the Generation Authority, are processed in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements.

1196. Midge Point to Laguna Quays Road

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/99)—

With reference to the controversial Midge Point to Laguna Quays dirt road which comes under the control of Mackay City Council—

Has his department any plans to upgrade this road to a bitumen surface?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99): The Department of Main Roads has no current plans to upgrade the Midge Point to Laguna Quays Road. The upgrading of this road remains the responsibility of the Mackay City Council. Main Roads provides funding assistance for such works through the Roads Implementation Program on a 50:50 basis for approved projects as part of the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme. An application for the upgrading of this section would be considered on a priority basis along with other projects submitted for funding by the Mackay City Council.

1197. Sugar Industry Legislation

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (26/8/99)—

With reference to the recently drafted legislation concerning sugar production in Queensland—

- (1) How can a Government, which within the last year voted with a motion to decrease the power of the National Competition Policy, formulate legislation which lies firmly under the umbrella of the NCP?
- (2) How can a Government which recently spoke about the importance to support SMEs, produce legislation which gives the major negotiating power to the millers, to the disadvantage of the 6,500 growers, most of whom are family farms, in an industry employing 19,000 directly and indirectly creating another 26,000 jobs?
- (3) With the steady increase of evidence that globalisation and deregulation are not realising their promises, illustrated by statements such as: "globalisation has failed every practical test, and that the successful economies since 1945 has been unashamedly interventionist"(John Carroll in "Shutdown") and: "prosperity through free trade: the unfulfilled promise" (Martin and Schumann in "The Global Trap"), why would he legislate to deregulate an industry which contributes about \$4.7 billion into the economy, especially at a time when world prices are low and the Netherlands Institute for Rational Sugar Production is forecasting a 25 per cent increase in world production?
- (4) How can a Government with an admirable aim of "jobs, jobs, jobs", legislate in favour of deregulation and globalism, when these twin

aims are leading to: "the law of the wolves; the jobs crisis and the new transnationals" as evidence from all the developed and developing countries which have embraced these policies illustrate loss of secure jobs and lower returns to workers and the OECD no longer denies the trend to a 20:80 society—a widening gap between the rich and poor?

- (5) Is he confident that he has not been unduly influenced by the interests of the transnationals?
- (6) Does he agree that blind adaptation to world market forces is inexorably propelling affluent societies into a state of anomie, a collapse of the social structures on whose functioning they have to rely and further that the key task is to win back a capacity for political action, to restore the primacy of politics over economics and this proposed legislation gives him the chance to be a world reformer and start that process?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/9/99):

1. The motion passed in the Queensland Parliament on 11 November 1998 read:

"This house supports the Beattie Government's commitment to apply a rigorous Public Benefit Test in any application of the NCP in Queensland. This House considers that this test must give full weight to issues including jobs and job security, social welfare and equity considerations, health and safety, and regional development as well as the interests of consumers ..."

The public benefit test conducted by the Sugar Industry Review Working Party showed that it was in the economic and social interests of Queensland that the Sugar Industry remains regulated. The Government accepts this conclusion and will retain the key regulatory pillars of the industry.

2. The question is premised on the antiquated zero sum view of grower-miller relations—that is, any benefit to growers must come at the expense of millers and vice versa.

The Sugar Industry Bill 1999 facilitates negotiations to enhance the profitability of both growers and millers. They are interdependent and their prosperity is closely linked. The existing Act entrenches confrontation and mutually detrimental antagonism; the Bill offers the way to a more cooperative, profitable relationship.

3. The sugar industry will remain highly regulated. This regulation has been shown to be in the public benefit. It is not correct that the industry is being deregulated.

4. This legislation is not about deregulation or globalism.

5. Yes

6. The purpose of the Sugar Industry Review was to recommend legislative changes that would enhance the international competitiveness of Queensland's raw sugar industry. The best minds in the sugar industry addressed that issue in 1996 and both State and Federal governments and industry supported the

outcome, and still do. The result is the current Bill developed by and for the sugar industry.

1198. Hervey Bay, Flooding

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/99)—

- (1) On average per year over the past 10 years, how many times has Hervey Bay become flood bound due to the limited access by road?
- (2) Has he any long-term view of improving this major problem?
- (3) Does he realise that when the access roads to Hervey Bay are blocked, it also creates a major problem for our emergency service vehicles in the time they are most needed?
- (4) Although some very impressive roadworks have been carried out in the last 12 months, and as some low areas on the Hervey Bay Road, the Torbanlea Road and the River Heads Road which require urgent attention, will consideration be given to improving these areas?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99):

- (1) Hervey Bay City Council advised that Hervey Bay has not been completely flood bound in the last 10 years.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.

1199. Cunningham Highway, Silverdale

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/99)—

With reference to the section of Cunningham Highway between the intersection with Kents Lagoon Road and Kelly Road at Silverdale which has become a perilous traffic hazard and is in such a bad state of repair that it is only time before a serious accident occurs—

- (1) Is he or his department aware of this section; if so, what plans has his department to repair this section of this important interstate highway?
- (2) When will this work commence?
- (3) What is the estimated cost?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99): (1-3) The Cunningham Highway is a National Highway and is federally funded. It is managed by the State Government through the Queensland Department of Main Roads. This section at Silverdale is 1.9 kilometres in length and plans for its reconstruction are currently being prepared by the department.

1200. Three Mile Bridge, Ipswich

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/99)—

With reference to the deteriorating condition of Three Mile Bridge across the Bremer River on the back road from Leichhardt to Amberley—

- (1) Is he aware of the safety factor of this bridge?
- (2) What study has been made or costings done to replace this bridge?
- (3) In the event that construction is carried out, is the Federal Government responsible for any funding for the replacement of the bridge which provides access to Amberley RAAF base?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99): (1-3) The road between Leichhardt and Amberley is not a State-controlled road and, consequently, the condition of the Three Mile Bridge across the Bremer River is a matter for Ipswich City Council.

1201. Queensland Transport, Call Centre

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/99)—

- (1) Will he explain how he considers the State Transport Department information line to be a success, considering the extraordinary number of complaints concerning the waiting time for human contact to answer inquiries?
- (2) Can he justify the inordinate waiting time, most in excess of 45 minutes, some exceeding 90 minutes, just to get a simple yes or no answer to an inquiry?
- (3) As on 12 August 1999 my own staff, in frustration after waiting 50 minutes for an answer on the line, hung up and faxed a copy of the query to his office and the Client Relations and Service Development Branch, it seems, the service here is no better—we are still waiting for an answer—what is he going to do to fix up this poor excuse for a quick fix to inquiries that used to be done so easily at the local State Transport Department facility?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99):

- (1) Currently, Queensland Transport is receiving nearly 132,000 telephone inquiries per month. More than 15% of callers (17,500 calls per month) have their queries satisfied by an automated information system. Since July 1998, telephone call growth stands at 80%, equating to approximately 5,000 to 6,500 calls per day.
- (2) Despite significant and continuing increases in the volume of calls to the Call Centre, response times have improved from an average of 30-40 minutes to 6-8 minutes over the past 6 months. Some technical difficulties, many beyond the control of Queensland Transport in the past led to longer waiting times, but it is believed that those have all been resolved.
- (3) The member is referred to the current budget papers.

1202. Queensland Rail, Dinmore Livestock Unloading Facilities

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/99)—

With reference to Queensland Rail's livestock unloading facilities adjacent to the AMH meatworks at Dinmore—

- (1) Will he confirm or deny a cost of \$6m for this project, if not how much did this facility cost?
- (2) How was this facility paid for, by Queensland Rail, by AMH or a combination of both?
- (3) Has this facility met all requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency?
- (4) Will the transit station currently located at Wacol be transferred to the Dinmore site?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99):

- (1) The current estimated cost of the Dinmore livestock unloading facilities and associated rail infrastructure upgrade is \$5.85 million. Expenditure to 31 July 1999 totalled \$5.19 million.
- (2) Funding is being provided under a commercial arrangement between AMH and Queensland Rail, with AMH contributing directly to part of the initial capital cost.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) This is currently Queensland Rail's preferred arrangement to improve the efficiency of its livestock handling business, and this is being investigated. Community consultation involving Ipswich City Council and local residents is under way. Current planning approval for the Dinmore facility does not permit direct road access.

1203. Queensland Transport, Call Centre

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/99)—

- (1) Was a data processing centre established by Queensland Transport to clear a backlog of transactions associated with motor vehicle registrations?
- (2) Has the backlog of transactions increased despite this action?
- (3) Has the staff of this centre now been advised that their employment is to cease because of budget cuts?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99):

- (1) No.
- (2) At present there is no lengthy delay in processing transactions.
- (3) No advice has been given to staff of either of these centres that their employment is in question because of budget cuts.

1204. Mosman Hall

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (26/8/99)—

- (1) What is the current staff level and resident numbers at Mosman Hall?
- (2) What are the proposed staff levels and resident numbers for the next twelve months at Mosman Hall?

Mrs EDMOND (27/9/99):

- (1) The current staff level as of August 31 1999 at Mosman Hall is a total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of 57. As at 31 August 1999, resident numbers at Mosman Hall are 61 male residents.

- (2) The proposed staff level for the next 12 months at Mosman Hall are expected to increase. The proposed resident numbers for the next 12 months at Mosman Hall are expected to remain stable.

1205. E-commerce, Business Training

Mr CONNOR asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (26/8/99)—

With reference to his answer to a question from Dr Clark on 25 August in which he stated that he had given 12 businesses significant training in and resources for electronic commerce and while I commend him for initiative—

- (1) What process was undertaken to choose these 12 businesses?
- (2) What are their names and industries?
- (3) What were the main criteria that determined his choice?
- (4) How much is it costing to provide these services and training, jointly and severally?
- (5) What are the performance indicators that are being used to judge the effectiveness of this initiative?
- (6) How long will these support structures be in place for these 12 businesses?
- (7) Are there any plans for more businesses to be offered the support directly by his department; if so, what are the details?

Mr ELDER (27/9/99):

- (1) Participants were chosen by my Department on the basis of performance with respect to the criteria specified in (3) below.

- (2) The names and industry sectors of participants in the pilot program are as follows:

Cairns

Allied Professional Group—professional consulting and engineering services for property development

Tong Sing Pty Ltd—agribusiness

Barrier Reef Motors Pty Ltd—specialist modified motor vehicles and parts for use in mining sites

Townsville and surrounds

Townsville Welding Supplies—mining support equipment and services

Ruswin Locksmith & Security—electronic access control and security services

Climate Capital Processors Pty Ltd—processed vegetables

Central Queensland

Capgrains Cooperative Association Ltd—grain and beef (main office in Rockhampton)

Brigalow Beef Company Pty Ltd—beef

South East Queensland

PPI Corporation Pty Ltd—plastic pipe and fittings

Buderim Ginger Ltd—processed ginger products

Tender Plus Pty Ltd—smallgoods

Gold Coast Education and Training network—
education and training.

(3) Participating companies were required to meet most or all of the following criteria:

be established exporters with established international buyers

undertake at least 30 export transactions per year

be computer literate

recognise that electronic commerce has become an important business tool that will provide an opportunity to increase their competitive advantage in the international marketplace

agree to "champion" electronic commerce through participation in 6 regional workshops to relate their e-commerce experiences

be recognised as leaders in their sectors who can influence their peers

In addition, the selected group of participants needed to reflect a wide spread of sectors and regions. In the case of participants from South East Queensland, a further criterion—that of an existing trading relationship with Japan—was applied.

(4) The value of the tender to provide services for the pilot program is \$154,289. This includes a component for travel-related costs for consortium members to provide assistance and advice to participants. As these funds will be expended over the life of the pilot program, final figures per participant will not be available until the conclusion of the program on 30 June 2000.

(5) The performance indicators which will be used to judge the effectiveness of the initiative are:

the percentage of pilot participants who continue to develop their electronic commerce activities at the end of the pilot program

the number of private sector representatives who attend workshops presented by participants in the pilot programs

the level of client satisfaction with the content of the workshops (measured by survey)

the number of companies influenced to consider and take up electronic commerce by attendance at workshops or other promotional activities featuring the pilot program (measured by survey);

the level of interest created by the pilot program in other jurisdictions

the extent of cooperation by allies (such as Austrade) in developing and delivering e-commerce workshops.

(6) The support arrangements for the 12 participants will be in place until the conclusion of the pilot program on 30 June 2000.

The support arrangements outlined above will be limited to those businesses involved in the pilot program.

1206. Southport, Police Mobile Patrols

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/8/99)—

(1) Will he tell the people of Southport how many police mobile patrol units are operating in the Southport area during the hours of (a) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, (b) 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday to Friday, (c) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and (d) 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Saturday and Sunday?

(2) Are there plans to increase these numbers; if not, why not?

Mr BARTON (28/9/99):

(1) Southport Police Station rosters are primarily established for the periods 8am to 4pm, 4pm to 12am and 12am to 8am, not 6am to 6pm, and 6pm to 6am as suggested. During a normal working week (Sunday to Thursday) the number of general patrols working from Southport Police Station is as follows:

12am to 8am—1 patrol
8am to 4pm—1 patrol
4pm to 12am—1 patrol

On weekends an extra shift is established between 7pm and 3am. Consequently the number of general patrols working from Southport, on an average weekend (including Friday and Saturday evenings), is as follows:

12am to 8am—1 patrol
8am to 4pm—1 patrol
4pm to 12am—1 patrol
7pm to 3am—1 patrol

(2) Available staff resources determine the number of patrols rostered on at any time. Southport staffing levels, together with those establishments within the Region are reviewed annually in December. Increases will be determined at this time. It should be noted, however, that the Beattie Labor Government has a commitment to increasing police numbers by an average of 325 officers per year, each year until 30 June 2005. The Southport Police Division will share in these increases.

1207. Gas-fired Power Stations

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (26/8/99)—

With reference to the Premier's indication that three Queensland power stations will convert to gas, including the Mt Stuart and Yabulu liquid fired plants at Townsville—

(1) Have contracts been signed for the supply of gas?

(2) When will these conversions occur?

(3) What will be the source of gas?

(4) Who will pay for the conversion?

Mr McGRADY (27/9/99):

(1) No contracts have been signed for the supply of gas to Mt Stuart or Yabulu. However, the Queensland Power Trading Corporation (QPTC) is negotiating with Ergon Energy on behalf of the power stations concerning the supply of PNG gas.

(2) No date has been set for the conversions of the power stations.

(3) QPTC is currently investigating the use of PNG gas, but has not ruled out other sources of gas, such as coal seam gas, should they become necessary.

(4) The cost of the conversion is a matter for negotiation between QPTC and the power station owners.

1208. Electricity Industry

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (26/8/99)—

- (1) What is the total installed capacity of the Queensland power generating industry, identified by the installed capacity at each station, including in addition to all stations usually listed for these purposes, Mica Creek?
- (2) What contribution is being made by sugar mills, identified by mill and power output?
- (3) Is more power anticipated to come on stream from sugar mill bagasse based generation over the next five years; if so, where, engaging what capacity and when?
- (4) What generating capacity has been retired in Queensland since June 1998?
- (5) As at February 1998 there was capacity for the generation of 170 megawatts from a variety of small oil fired gas turbines around the State, what is the current number of megawatts available from these sources, where are these units and what is their capacity?
- (6) Does the Government plan, is it considering, or will it consider further small-scale generating projects such as the Boral Roma plant to come on line in Queensland over the next five years?

Mr McGRADY (27/9/99):

(1) As at March 1999, the total installed capacity of the Queensland power generating industry, excluding sugar mill generation units, was 8125 MW. This is broken down as follows:

Power Station—Installed Capacity (MW)

Callide A—120
 Callide B—700
 Swanbank A—408
 Swanbank B—500
 Swanbank C—26
 Swanbank D—37
 Tarong—1415
 Stanwell—1400
 Gladstone—1694
 Mica Creek—325
 Mackay—34
 Middle Ridge—56
 Collinsville—180
 Barcaldine—55
 Mt Stuart—300
 Yabulu—169
 Roma—74
 Barron Gorge—60
 Kareeya—72
 Wivenhoe (pumped storage)—500
 TOTAL—8125

(2) The Electricity Supply Association of Australia publication, "Electricity Australia 1999" states that at 30 June 1998, there was 292.3 MW of bagasse generation capacity installed in Queensland. This is broken down as follows:

Sugar Mill—Installed Capacity (MW)

Bingera—5
 Fairymead—6.75
 Mourilyan—4.25
 Babinda—6
 Kalamia—9
 Pioneer—7.2
 Plane Creek—20
 Victoria—11.8
 Inkerman—12
 Invicta—50.5
 Macknade—3
 Mossman—11.85
 Mulgrave—10.5
 South Johnstone—19.3
 Tully—21.3
 Maryborough—4.75
 Isis—10.7
 Farleigh—13
 Marian—18
 Pleystowe—10.1
 Racecourse—10.5
 Proserpine—10
 Rocky Point—4.8
 Tablelands—7
 Millaquin—5
 TOTAL—292.3

The majority of power from the sugar mills is generated during the crushing season in the form of electricity and steam. However, much of the power which is generated is used internally to run the mills. The amount of electricity actually exported to the distribution system from these embedded generators varies from year to year.

(3) There have been increases in power generation capacity from sugar mills over recent years and it is expected that this increase will continue over the next five years. Rocky Point Green Energy Pty Ltd are proposing to construct a 30 MW generation unit at the Rocky Point Sugar Mill, near Beenleigh. The project is expected to come on line in the period 2000 to 2001.

(4) No generating capacity has been retired in Queensland since June 1998.

(5) 651 MW is currently available from oil fired small generation units. Some of these units are located at the major coal fired power stations for the purpose of black starting the major coal fired units as well as providing emergency capacity in times of high demand.

Oil Fired Generation Units—Installed Capacity (MW)

Tarong—15
 Middle Ridge—56
 Mackay—34
 Swanbank C—26
 Swanbank D—37
 Gladstone—14
 Mount Stuart—300
 Yabulu—169
 TOTAL—651

(6) In the competitive electricity market, investors are responsible for decisions to build generation plants having regard to their commercial prospects. However, if a future shortfall in supply is forecast, the Government may initiate projects to deliver necessary new power generation capacity.

1209. Needle Exchange Program

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Health (26/8/99)—

With reference to the increasing number of people who are suffering needlestick injuries in public places such as parks and beaches which are located in many cases in close proximity to Government sponsored needle exchanges—

- (1) What compensation/financial assistance is available to people injured in this way?
- (2) Does the Government accept any liability for the irresponsible disposal of needles distributed through needle exchanges?
- (3) Is there any way of identifying such needles, ie. through the use of bar codes or a specially manufactured product?
- (4) Is any financial assistance available to local governments to assist with their costs of keeping beaches and parks free of used needles?

Mrs EDMOND (27/9/99):

- (1) I am unaware of any compensation/financial assistance options.
- (2) No. The legislation covering the safe disposal is section 6 of the Environmental Protection (Interim Waste) Regulation 1996. The Environmental Protection Agency administers this legislation. The unsafe disposal of used injecting equipment is a breach of this regulation and allows for a maximum fine of 40 penalty points (currently \$3,000.00).
- (3) Not without incurring a significant cost in the administration of the program and risking an increase in blood borne viruses.
- (4) Queensland Health works with local councils to provide advice on the safe disposal of used injecting equipment.

1210. Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra; Queensland Symphony Orchestra

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (26/8/99)—

When is he going to make the long overdue decision on the future of the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra?

Mr FOLEY (24/9/99): Consideration of this matter is subject to the findings of the Commonwealth Government's Major Performing Arts Inquiry. The future of the orchestras will be discussed as part of Queensland's response to this Inquiry.

The Federal government's scandalous under funding of orchestral services in Queensland remains a major impediment to the development of Queensland orchestras. The continued failure of the Minister for Indooroopilly and his coalition colleagues in Queensland to demand action from their coalition colleagues in Canberra for a fair go for Queensland is a deep disappointment to all who care for the future of orchestras in Queensland.

1211. Empire Building

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (26/8/99)—

With reference to the planned refurbishment of the Empire Building—

- (1) What is the expected cost of this refurbishment and what is the scope of the project (ie. work to be undertaken)?
- (2) What are the expected start and completion dates for construction and what other dates have been fixed for all other stages of this redevelopment (including planning, occupancy and opening)?
- (3) Which arts companies and organisations have expressed an interest or have been invited to tenant this building?
- (4) What arrangements have been made with (a) Queensland Treasury and (b) proposed tenants in order to finance this project and what are the terms of this arrangement for all concerned parties?
- (5) Will this refurbishment include the construction of a theatre; if so, what will be the format and seating capacity of this theatre?

Mr FOLEY (24/9/99):

1. The expected cost of the project is \$8.9 million to develop a Contemporary Arts Centre housing a number of the State's key contemporary arts organisations. The Centre will provide public access facilities, including galleries and a performance space, pre-production facilities and an administrative base for resident organisations.
2. Detailed design and tendering of the project will be undertaken in the period September 1999 to February 2000. It is anticipated that construction will begin from February 2000 and the Centre will be complete by March/April 2001.
3. Resident arts organisations will include Expressions Dance Company and the Institute of Modern Art. Discussions are also under way with: Arterial, Kooemba Jdarra Theatre Company, Rock'N'Roll Circus, Elision Contemporary Music Ensemble and Australian Film, Television and Radio School
4. \$7.6 million has been allocated in the State budget over two years (1999-2000 and 2000-2001) for the refurbishment of the Empire Office Furniture site. Arrangements with tenants have yet to be settled.
5. A performance space is considered to be central to the concept of a Contemporary Arts Centre.

Current planning provides for a performance space of 200-240 seats.

1212. Health Districts, Funding

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Health (26/8/99)—

With reference to the course of the Queensland Health Strategy Advisory Project, commonly known as the Edmond Slash and Burn Report, during which the business cases for the redeveloped hospitals were being reworked by the district managers and submitted to the Director-General—

How many health services will be reduced and how much of a funding cut is envisaged by districts throughout the State?

Mrs EDMOND (27/9/99): The basis of this question is wrong, as there is no "slash and burn" report. I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard for answers given by the Honourable Premier and myself to Questions Without Notice and to the Government members' contributions to the Notice of Motion debates in this House.

1213. Bruce Highway, Cooroy-Gympie

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/99)—

With reference to the road building program presently being carried out on the Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Gympie—

- (1) What is the time frame for completion of this section of road?
- (2) Are any plans in place to have the remaining section to Gympie also upgraded to the same standard?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99):

(1) The current \$7.3 million project to upgrade various sections of the Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Gympie is anticipated to be completed by Christmas 1999.

(2) Submissions have been made to the Federal Government for funding to allow further upgrading of the Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Gympie. However, the Federal Government, to date has given no commitment to funding these works.

1214. Pacific Motorway

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/99)—

Is the Gold Coast-Brisbane freeway construction on time and on budget and does he envisage any delays in completion of associated service roads, sound barriers and shrubbery beautification?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99): The motorway component of the Pacific Motorway project between Logan and Nerang is expected to be ready for opening to traffic in March 2000. It will be fully complete, including associated service roads, sound barriers and landscaping by September 2000. The only threat to these dates is the highly inclement

weather. The final budget outcome will not be known until the project is complete.

1215. TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/8/99)—

Will he provide to the Parliament the financial outcome for every TAFE Institute and each TAFE College within each institute for the financial year ending 30 June 1999

Mr BRADDY (27/9/99): The proper process for seeking such information is pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act where appropriate.

1216. Gladstone Hospital

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (26/8/99)—

With reference to 1998-99—

- (1) What was the budget for the Gladstone Hospital?
- (2) What changes were made to hospital services?
- (3) What changes occurred in the management of the hospital particularly in regard to salary levels?
- (4) What changes have occurred or are being considered in the light of the recent health review?

Mrs EDMOND (27/9/99):

- (1) Budgets are allocated on a District-wide basis.
- (2) The \$7.2 million redevelopment of the Emergency, Outpatients, Medical Imaging, Pathology, and Pharmacy Departments and Operating Theatres was completed. Access to health services for Gladstone residents was also enhanced by the construction of a private hospital collocated with the Gladstone Hospital which opened in April. Local mental health services were also expanded with the increased funding for three child and youth mental health workers to service the local area. Vacant dentist positions were filled at the Gladstone Community Dental Clinic which provides emergency and preventive dental health care services to eligible clients. The State Government also allocated \$2,832 to the Gladstone City Council in the first round of funding to assist councils to provide vaccination services. Toolooa, Tannum Sands and Gladstone State High Schools are taking part in the school nurse program.
- (3) There were no changes in the management of the hospital. There was no change to salary levels.
- (4) There will be no change in the management or health service delivery arrangements in Gladstone due to the recent health review. The new Zonal Managers positions were created to give regional and rural Queenslanders a stronger voice in health service delivery, in line with this Government's commitment to providing health services where people live.

1217. Health Portfolio, Capital Works Program

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (26/8/99)—

Will she advise the complement and skills of the team established to assess the Health Department's capital works program and who are also given the responsibility to look for opportunities to cease the hospital rebuilding program or certain aspects of it?

Mrs EDMOND (27/9/99): In 1998-99 the Beattie Labor Government achieved record expenditure on capital works in the health portfolio. The total budget for 1998-99 was \$621 million, with actual expenditure of \$632 million. This Government did not freeze the capital works program which resulted in a shortfall in expenditure in 1997-98 of \$85 million. The capital works on health during 1998-99 created an estimated 9,407 full time equivalent jobs. 1998-99 was the peak year in the Statewide health building program to upgrade hospitals and health services throughout the Queensland. For further information, I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard for answers given by the Honourable Premier and myself to Questions Without Notice and to the Government members' contributions to the Notice of Motion debates in this House.

1218. Redland Bay Police Station

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/8/99)—

With reference to the Redland Bay Police Station—

- (1) What is the timeframe to upgrade the station to a two shift per day operation?
- (2) What is the timeframe to upgrade the station to a 24 hour operation?

Mr BARTON (27/9/99):

- (1) The timeframe has not been identified at this time.
- (2) The timeframe has not been identified at this time.

The upgrade of any station is an operational issue. The Queensland Police Service determines capital works priorities such as that pertaining to the upgrade or construction of new facilities in the context of each year's budget allocation.

1219. Justice Department, Staffing

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (26/8/99)—

Will he provide a break-down of all staff within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General including their positions, their employment address and their Email address?

Mr FOLEY (24/9/99): I decline to ask my Department to prepare a list of the names, employment addresses and e-mail addresses of all staff on the grounds that it would be an onerous task and a breach of their privacy which may lead to unwanted (and for some even dangerous) contact other than for the legitimate purposes for which they are paid. Extensive information on the structure of

my Department and contact details for key personnel are to be found in the Queensland Government Executive Directory 1999.

1220. Westlink

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (26/8/99)—

With reference to the Westlink power interconnect between New South Wales and Queensland—

- (1) What is the proposed date for a start to construction?
- (2) What contracts, if any, have been signed in relation to the project for construction and or for power?
- (3) How is the cost for the project being shared between New South Wales and Queensland?
- (4) What is the current target date for the completion of Westlink?
- (5) What is the current target date for the commissioning of Westlink?
- (6) What is the anticipated scale of power imports from New South Wales for each of the first five years of operation?
- (7) What is the anticipated scale of exports to New South Wales for each of the first five years of operation?
- (8) Are any other interconnections with the New South Wales grid planned by private or public sector entities; if so, will he provide the baseline detail including identification of the proponents, the scale of the proposed interconnect and the planned or proposed interconnect date?

Mr McGRADY (27/9/99):

(1) Easement clearing began in March 1999 and the erection of towers along the line route commenced in August.

(2) Contracts totalling some \$147 million have been let for almost all of the major supply and erection. These contracts are a commercial in confidence matter between the contracting parties.

(3) Powerlink Queensland will pay for the construction of the interconnection within Queensland, while TransGrid will pay for the New South Wales portion of the line. Based on estimates of the capital cost of the project, Queensland (Powerlink) will contribute about \$240 million and New South Wales (TransGrid) about \$140 million.

(4) Powerlink is targeting October 2000 for the completion of construction work on the interconnector.

(5) Powerlink is targeting December 2000 as the date for line commissioning and first power transfer.

(6) The level and direction of electricity flows on Westlink will depend on the relative electricity pool prices in the New South Wales and Queensland regions. Imports and exports will be within the transmission constraints of a maximum of 500MW being able to flow from New South Wales to

Queensland and 1000MW from Queensland to New South Wales.

(7) As per question 6.

(8) At this stage, there is only one other proposed interconnection between New South Wales and Queensland—DirectLink. NorthPower and Transenergie have proposed an underground 180 MW link 65 km between Terranora and Mullumbimby utilising High Voltage DC (HVDC) Light technology developed by ABB Ltd. This interconnector is planned to provide support to the local Gold Coast power supply and be in service by early 2000.

1221. Electricity Demand

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (26/8/99)—

- (1) What was the peak electricity demand in the summer of 1998-99?
- (2) What are the current estimates of peak electricity demand for (a) the winter of 1999, (b) the summer of 1999-2000, (c) the winter of 2000, (d) the summer of 2000-2001, (e) the winter of 2001 and (f) the summer of 2001-2002?

Mr McGRADY (27/9/99):

(1) Peak electricity demand for the Summer 1998/99 period occurred on 18 February with demand of 5994MW.

(2) Powerlink Queensland published their "Annual Planning Statement 1999" report in March 1999. NEMMCO also published their "Statement of Opportunities" report in March 1999. According to both reports, expected peak electricity demand (assuming average weather conditions) will be:

- (a) Winter 1999—5996 MW. The actual peak occurred on 28 June with 5878MW demand.
- (b) Summer 1999/2000—6225 MW.
- (c) Winter 2000—6249 MW.
- (d) Summer 2000/01—6502 MW.
- (e) Winter 2001—6457 MW.
- (f) Summer 2001/02—6750 MW.

1222. Korea Zinc

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (26/8/99)—

With reference to the 1995 agreement between the State and Korea Zinc Ltd which requires the Government to nominate a supplier of approximately 100 megawatts for the production phase of stage one of the smelter—

- (1) Has the State nominated a supplier; if so, who?
- (2) Does the agreement provide for a subsidised power price?
- (3) What plans are in place, if any, to meet the power requirements of stage two of the smelter?

Mr McGRADY (27/9/99): The agreement between Queensland and Korea Zinc Ltd was negotiated in 1996 by the Office of Major Projects. The agreement is now administered by the Department of State Development, and any questions concerning its detail or administration should accordingly be directed to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade, the Honourable Jim Elder MLA.

1223. Q-Build Industry

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/8/99)—

With reference to QBuild Industry (QBI) (26/8/99)—

- (1) What was the total revenue (accrual based) derived from sales and/or services for (a) 1998-99 and (b) year to date for 1999-2000?
- (2) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) for (a) 1998-99 and (b) year to date for 1999-2000?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by QBI for (a) 1998-99 and (b) year to date for 1999-2000?
- (4) Of the total expenditure (accrual based) for (a) 1998-99 and (b) year to date for 1999-2000, how much has been spent in the following categories (i) materials and stores, (ii) salary and wages, (iii) labour hire fees and charges, (iv) advertising and (v) travel/travel expenses?
- (5) What is the projected expenditure (accrual based) for the remainder of 1999-2000 in the following categories (a) materials and stores, (b) salary and wages, (c) labour hire fees and charges, (d) advertising and (e) travel/travel expenses?

Mr SCHWARTEN (27/9/99): With reference to Q-Build Industries (QBI)—

- (1) (a) 1998/99—\$12,801,315 and, (b) year to date for 1999/2000 is not available at this time.
- (2) (a) 1998/99—\$13,631,756 and, (b) year to date for 1999/2000 is not available at this time.
- (3) (a) 1998/99—Loss of \$830,441 (b) year to date for 1999/2000 not available at this time.
- (4) (a) 1998/99—\$11,644,287 (i) \$7,041,590 was for materials and stores, (ii) \$4,422,434 was for salaries and wages, (iii) \$162,179 was for labour hire fees and charges, (iv) \$14,784 was for advertising, and (v) \$3,300 was for travel/travel expenses, (b) year to date 1999/2000 is not available at this time.
- (5) Year to date 1999/2000 expenditure information is not available at this time. This is due to end of financial year reporting requirement management reports that are yet to be completed for the first reporting period in 1999/2000. An estimation of remaining expenditure cannot be made at this stage.

1224. Barambah Electorate, Emergency Services

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (26/8/99)—

With reference to the current status of each of the following with regards to the Ambulance, Fire and State Emergency Services in the Barambah Electorate—

- (1) What increase in services/capital works/staffing has occurred since this Government came into office?
- (2) What decreases in services/capital works/staffing has occurred since this Government came into office?
- (3) What were the staffing levels for each service in the Barambah Electorate on this Government coming into office and what is the present level (at 26 August) of staffing for each service?
- (4) With the reduction in ambulance staff in rural Queensland (ie. Proston) what measures have been put in place to reduce the impact on rural communities for this reduction in services?
- (5) What other communities in the Barambah Electorate have been targeted to lose ambulance staff who are to be replaced by "first responders"?

Mrs ROSE (24/9/99):

Queensland Ambulance Service

1. Since July 1998, two additional student ambulance officers have been employed at Murgon Ambulance Station. One of these officers was employed from the Cherbourg Aboriginal Community.
2. There has been no reduction in services/capital works/staffing to ambulance stations in the Barambah Electorate since this Government came into office.
3. Staffing levels for the QAS in the Barambah Electorate in July 1998 were 27. At 26 August 1999 there were 29 staff.
4. There has been no reduction in ambulance staffing in rural areas of the North Coast Region. Since the transfer of the Officer-in-Charge at Proston, an officer from Murgon has serviced the town on a daily basis. The "First Responder" Program has been initiated to support the community and the position of ambulance officer has been advertised.
5. The QAS has no plans to introduce the "First Responder" program into any other communities in the Barambah Electorate.

Counter Disaster and Rescue Services

1. The Government has committed \$1.5M over 4 years to the Floodboat Replacement Program for the refurbishment of the floodboat fleet held by Local Volunteer SES Units throughout Queensland. As part of this program, floodboats have been replaced at the SES Units at Kilcoy and Esk.

A \$15,000 Accommodation Subsidy was provided for a new SES building which has been established at Nanango and a \$7,500 Accommodation Subsidy was provided for extensions which have been made to the SES facility at Kilcoy.

My Department has assisted with the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the SES Group at Murgon and has provided substantial training support and equipment to assist the SES Cadet Unit at Kingaroy. New staff positions have been established at three of

the four Disaster District Offices that service the local governments and SES Units in the Barambah electorate. These positions are an Operations Officer at Brisbane and Operations and Training Officers at Gympie and Beenleigh. These new staff positions will enhance the capacity to support the disaster planning and operations by local governments and SES Units across the electorate of Barambah.

2. There has been no decrease in services/capital works/staffing/support to SES Units in the Barambah Electorate, since the Government came into office.

3. Changes to total CDRS staff numbers in the District Offices that service areas of the Barambah electorate since the Government came into office are as follows:

Toowoomba Office staff numbers remain at five; Brisbane Office staff numbers have increased from four to five; Gympie Office staff numbers remain at two, but an appointment of one additional staff member should be completed by October 1999 and will take the number to three; Beenleigh Office staff numbers remain at two, but the appointment of one additional staff member should be completed by October 1999 and will take the number to three.

Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority

1. The QFRA has provided increased capital funding for fire stations. Building works have included extensions to the Blackbutt Fire Station; provision of an improved training area at the Kingaroy Fire Station; renovations to the Wooroolin Fire Station; renovations to the Murgon residential property, and renovations to Nanango Fire Station.

QFRA has also provided some additional Road Accident Rescue equipment at Blackbutt, Yarraman, Kingaroy, and Proston.

These capital equipment/works cost \$85,174 during the 1998-99 financial year. Minor capital works have been carried out at the Kilcoy Fire Station. The area underneath the fire station has been enclosed to make a breathing apparatus training area. The engine room doors have been upgraded. These minor capital works totalled approximately \$20,000.

All operational services have been maintained to a high standard. Additionally, enhanced Community Education/Preparedness programs 'Operation Safehome' and 'Fight Fire Fascination' have been implemented. The new North Coast region (NCR) "Mobile Practical Firefighting Training Unit (MTU) has conducted many courses for staff to enhance their operational competence. Additional courses to improve and maintain expertise have also been provided. This has resulted in heightened operational capabilities, confidence and safety.

Safety Equipment/Uniforms—Firefighters now have improved operational firefighting uniforms, boots and equipment.

Breathing apparatus, compressors and their maintenance systems have been improved throughout the Region all of which mean improvements to Barambah.

The QFRA has also provided two new fire appliances to the Barambah electorate at a cost of approximately \$0.4m. Another two appliances will be

provided to Yarraman and Kingaroy during this financial year. The total amount of capital funding allocated to the Barambah electorate was approx. \$485,174.00.

Staffing establishment numbers remain the same for fire stations in the Electorate.

2. There has been no decrease in services/ capital works in the QFRA in the Barambah Electorate since this Government came into office. This Government has considerably increased support for these areas compared to the 1997-98 financial year. (Refer (1) above).

3. Staffing establishment in Barambah has not altered and remains at 135.

1225. Professor Viviani

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/8/99)—

With reference to his answer to part 4 of Question on Notice No. 184 and to Clauses 19.1(a), (b) and (c) and 19.6(a) in the department's standard consultancy contract—

- (1) Will he now answer Question on Notice No. 184 part 4 as requested?
- (2) Will he also provide the same information in relation to all other consultants employed by the department and its agencies during his term in office?

Mr BRADY (27/9/99): (1) & (2) It has been the long standing practice of the Department, including during the period of the Coalition Government, to accept that when the Consultant signed their contract they had public liability insurance and professional indemnity insurance cover. However proof of such cover is now sought by the Department.

1226. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Expenditure by Director-General

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/8/99)—

With reference to expenditure made by or on behalf of the Director-General or Directors-General for his portfolio/s—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Director-General or Directors-General during 1998-99 made on (a) beverages, (b) restaurants, (c) in-house catering, (d) domestic airfares, (e) domestic accommodation, (f) overseas airfares, (g) overseas accommodation and (h) credit card purchases?
- (2) Of any expenditure on beverages, restaurants and/or in-house catering will he provide the (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?
- (3) Of any expenditure on domestic airfares, domestic accommodation, overseas airfares

and/or overseas accommodation will he provide the (a) date/s of each trip, (b) places visited, (c) accommodation venue/s, (d) cost of accommodation, (e) purpose of the trip and (f) any persons accompanying?

- (4) Of any expenditure on credit cards will he provide the (a) date of the expenditure, (b) place/venue, (c) cost, (d) persons present and (e) purpose of the expenditure?

Mr BRADY (27/9/99): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require an inappropriate amount of time and research by my department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland. If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide the relevant information.

1227. Bannikoff Report

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/8/99)—

With reference to the memorandum of 21 January 1998 to the Institute Director, Brisbane Institute of TAFE, from the Director, Planning and Review, provided to the Member for Clayfield consequential to his FOI request for source documentation underpinning various assertions made in the Bannikoff report—

Why did Bannikoff quote the total expenditure listed in this memorandum when it is obvious that (a) the figure quoted is inflated by the author's assumption in relation to the information specified in clauses 6.1, 6.2 and 7.9 that such information can only be disseminated through 1280 identical face-to-face interviews when far more cost-efficient, effective and innovative communication strategies are available and (b) any increased cost incurred by TAFE would be exactly offset by decreased cost in another section of his department?

Mr BRADY (27/9/99): (a) & (b) As an independent consultant, Bannikoff reviewed documentation made available to the Review Taskforce and made recommendations based on his own analysis of the information provided.

1228. Fire and Rescue Authority, Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (26/8/99)—

Will she detail the current status of EBA negotiations for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority including (a) offer of pay increase of the next term of the EBA, (b) offer in terms of manning levels, (c) length of term of the next EBA and (d) offer on staffing levels in terms of permanent staff?

Mrs ROSE (24/9/99): On 22 July 1999 the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) sent letters of intention to propose a certified agreement between the QFRA and all of its employees, except those employed in the joint Queensland Ambulance

Service and Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority communications centre (AFcom). The negotiations commenced on 23 August 1999 and are currently ongoing. It is proposed that the agreement will operate until the 30 June 2000 to enable the QFRA to align the strategic planning and enterprise bargaining processes. As the QFRA is in the process of negotiation, no quantum of salary increase has been finalised.

1229. Hinchinbrook Electorate, Roadworks Funding

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/99)—

- (1) What level of assistance and funds have been made available for roads throughout the Hinchinbrook Electorate as a result of the extraordinarily wet weather that occurred from August 1998 to May 1999?
- (2) Is there any further assistance being provided as there is an ongoing problem with road deterioration which is being compounded by below-cost production returns to the sugar industry which doesn't allow councils to increase the rates to cover damaged roads?
- (3) What additional funding has been provided for the State Government to assist those affected Shires and what else is outstanding?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99):

(1) In 1998-99, an extra \$2.1m was spent repairing flood damaged State-controlled roads in the Hinchinbrook electorate. This is in addition to the \$4.2 million spent on routine maintenance in the shire, which was almost 40% more than budgeted.

(2&3) Given the impact of the last wet season on the State-controlled road network, the allocation for rehabilitation and maintenance of State-funded roads in Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires during 1999-00 will be reconsidered in the formulation of the next Roads Implementation Program.

With regard to projects that will assist the sugar industry, Main Roads has contributed approximately \$5.5 million towards road and drainage works on State-controlled and local government roads in the Hinchinbrook electorate over the past two years, as part of the \$20 million Wet Tropics Sugar Roads Package.

Both Councils have applied for Federal Natural Disaster Relief Assistance for their own road system. The Federal Government has approved \$6.3 million in Natural Disaster Relief Assistance for damage that occurred to local government roads in the Hinchinbrook electorate during 1998-99.

1230. State Development and Trade Portfolio, Consultancies

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (26/8/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his portfolio/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) name of consultant or company and principal consultant, (b) nature/purpose of individual consultancies, (c) total cost of each consultancy, (d) number of days engaged, (e) was a written report submitted; if not, is a report to be submitted regarding each consultancy, (f) how was each consultancy appointed, (g) were tenders advertised and quotes taken; if not, which individual consultancies were not advertised and on what basis were the consultants engaged and (h) will he name consultancies funded/being funded by another department and also, which department for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 26 August 1999 by portfolio area and sub-program?

Mr ELDER (28/9/99): Details of consultancies are being compiled for my Department's Annual Report, which will be completed in the near future. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information that is to be included in the Annual Report.

1231. Whitsunday Electorate, Health Services

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Health (27/8/99)—

With reference to the health services at the Collinsville, Bowen, Proserpine and Mackay hospitals—

- (1) What services (dental, medical, psychiatric and other) have been increased since this Government came into office?
- (2) What services (as above) have been reduced?
- (3) What are the service expenditure figures for each specific hospital since this Government came into office?
- (4) What capital works and their expenditure figure, have been initiated at these hospitals since this Government came into office?
- (5) What are the staff numbers at 27 August, and what were they on the date this Government came into office?

Mrs EDMOND (27/9/99):

(1) The increased services are as follows: Bowen/Collinsville—Mental Health Services have been increased with the appointment of a fulltime psychologist. This service was previously a visiting service to Bowen from Townsville. Bowen now receives four days per week, with Collinsville now receiving one day per week. Previously there was no Mental Health Service in Collinsville. Proserpine—The newly redeveloped Proserpine Hospital was opened in October 1998 and includes upgraded and enhanced services across a number of clinical areas. An extra dentist and support staff have been temporarily employed to address the increased demand for oral health services.

Mackay—The redeveloped Mental Health Unit at Mackay Hospital was opened in October 1998 and provides increased services through 14 low dependency beds and four new high dependency, secure beds. Two extra child and youth mental

health positions were provided from 1 January 1999 to service the Whitsunday and Mackay areas. An indigenous mental health liaison position was established in February 1999 serving the Mackay District. Since July 1999, the Mackay Mental Health Service provides \$5,500 per annum to the Mackay Consumer Advisory Group. This year, \$220,000 is allocated for the development of a 16 bed rehabilitation unit at Mackay Hospital which will have a district-wide focus across Mackay and Sarina Hospitals. Recurrent funding for this project has been \$500,000 over the past two years. Increased numbers of specialist medical staff at Mackay Hospital have been approved and funded, including a specialist anaesthetist, an emergency medicine physician, additional emergency department nursing and \$100,000 per annum in additional visiting sessions for specialist physicians. Visiting services were expanded with a visiting cardiologist and visiting oncologist commencing in November 1998. The capacity of the Mackay Hospital haemodialysis unit has been increased with the purchase of additional haemodialysis machines to meet demand and changed clinical practice. A locally based visiting ENT service commenced in August 1999.

Mackay Child Health Centre is also a site for the positive parenting program. School nurses have been allocated to schools in the Bowen and Mackay Health Service Districts.

(2) There has been no reduction in services.

(3) Budgets are allocated on a District wide basis.

(4) Funding was approved in May 1999 for capital works at Collinsville Hospital. This funding was \$52,000 for electrical services upgrades, and \$20,000 for installation of flyscreening and mechanical exhaust systems. The electrical upgrade component is a prerequisite to any future air-conditioning plant installation, which will receive consideration in the context of the priority allocation of resources in the Department's Capital Works Program. For the period 1 July 1998 to 31 July 1999 \$1,254,791 was expended on the redevelopment of Proserpine Hospital which was opened in October 1998. The total project expenditure is \$8,537,016. For the period 1 July 1998 to 31 July 1999 \$3,297,938 was expended on the redevelopment of Mackay Hospital. The current budget for the Mackay Hospital project is \$28.35 million. A contract for Stages 3 and 4 of the project was awarded in August 1999 to the value of \$17.9m and it is expected the works will be completed by December 2000.

(5) Staff number comparisons between 1 July 1998 and 27 August 1999 are as follows: Bowen Hospital 1/7/98—52.9 Full Time Equivalent (FTEs), 27/8/99—53.9 FTEs; Collinsville Hospital: 1/7/98—28.7 FTEs, 27/8/99—28.1 FTEs; Proserpine 1/7/98—55.97 FTEs, 27/8/99—62.92 FTEs; Mackay 1/7/98—557.38 FTEs, 27/8/99—555.48 FTEs. Minor differences reflect fluctuations due to staff turnover.

1232. Ipswich State High School

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (27/8/99)—

With reference to the Ipswich State High School and the construction of a bus shelter on Vogel Road, Brassall at the rear of the school and access—

- (1) Will the construction begin before the summer storm season?
- (2) What is the expected completion date?
- (3) What is the cost for this construction?

Mr SCHWARTEN (27/9/99): The Department of Public Works is not managing this project. The issues raised fall within the responsibility of the Honourable Dean Wells MLA, Minister for Education. Please redirect this question to Mr Wells.

1233. Harness Racing Industry

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (27/8/99)—

With reference to the harness racing industry and the now closure of this racing at Toowoomba and the reduction of prize money offered at Rocklea and the apparent favouring of the tracks at the Gold Coast, Albion Park and Redcliffe by the Harness Racing Board under the present secretary Peter Caldwell—

- (1) Is he aware of these changes?
- (2) Is he aware that the majority of owners and trainers live to the west of Brisbane; if so, is he aware that the millions of dollars that this industry injects into the local economy is in jeopardy because of the hardships these changes have caused?
- (3) As the Minister responsible for racing, what action/actions has he instigated to reverse some of these decisions and what assistance has he offered to these owners/trainers?
- (4) Are these changes engineered to support the imminent sale of the TAB and does he really care about the plight of these people?

Mr GIBBS (27/9/99):

(1-2) Harness racing has not ceased at Toowoomba, the contribution by the Queensland Harness Racing Board to prizemoney at Rocklea has not fallen and the Board, not the General Manager, sets prizemoney levels.

(3-4) See above.

1234. Tow Truck Regulation 1999

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/8/99)—

With reference to the recent launch of Tow Truck Regulation 1999—

- (1) How many cars were towed in the last 12 months in each of the new licensed areas?
- (2) Were the unlicensed operators notified; if so, when and how?
- (3) What is the deadline for unlicensed operators to comply?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99):

(1) There are no departmental records kept of the total number of tows undertaken in the past 12

months, either as an aggregate figure statewide or by breakdown in each of the new licensed areas.

(2) Yes, by regional transport inspectors.

(3) The deadline for all operators in Hervey Bay and Noosa to comply fully with the Tow Truck Regulation 1999 is 30 September 1999.

1235. Barambah Electorate, Police Resources

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/8/99)—

With reference to the current status of each of the following regarding services in the Barambah Electorate—

- (1) What increase in services/capital works/staffing has occurred since this Government came into office?
- (2) What decreases in services/capital works/staffing has occurred since this Government came into office?
- (3) What were the staffing levels for each station in the Barambah Electorate on this Government coming into office and what is the present (at 27 August) level of staffing for each police station?
- (4) What were the previous staff hours per ranking level of each police station in the Barambah Electorate prior to this Government taking office?
- (5) What are the current staff hours per ranking level of each police station?

Mr BARTON (27/9/99): In answering the question, I refer the honourable member to Sessional Order No. 68(g) which states that questions "shall not be unduly lengthy". The question asked by the honourable member clearly breaches the spirit of Sessional Order 68(g). I have, however, attempted to answer the honourable member's question.

There have been no decreases in services or facilities since the Beattie Labor Government came to office; however, the Kingaroy Police Station has increased its hours of operation to 24 hours. With one exception, staffing levels remain the same. Police numbers have increased at Cherbourg from 2 to 3 officers.

There has been a range of improvements in both service delivery and minor facilities over the period, including miscellaneous security upgrades, and in one case the installation of a rainwater tank, and additional plumbing.

Improvements in service delivery include the re-establishment of the Kilkivan Community Consultative Committee and the implementation of an Adopt-a-Cop program in Cherbourg.

1236. Biboohra, Contaminated Land

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (27/8/99)—

- (1) Will he provide all relevant information relating to the clean-up of a contaminated site at Biboohra, north of Mareeba, in particular, how \$140,000 was spent?
- (2) What material is left at the site?
- (3) Is there any possibility of future leakage?

Mr WELFORD (27/9/99):

(1) Biboohra is a small rural village located approximately 15km north of Mareeba. The contaminated site was a mineral processing operation which was abandoned in the late 1980s to early 1990s. The site was owned and operated by a Mr Craig Weston under the company name W T Exporters. Mr Weston is still the site owner. Concerns regarding the environmental safety of the operation were first raised by the Chief Inspector of Mines in 1987.

Hundreds of corroding drums of processing wastes were left in the open and testing in 1992 revealed very high levels of arsenic contamination, up to 20% in exposed wastes. A Notice to conduct an investigation of the site to develop a remediation plan was issued to the owner by the then Department of Environment and Heritage under the Contaminated Land Act 1991. The owner provided an inadequate response which was not in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

In March 1995 Radiation Health Services of Queensland Health entered the site and seized a radioactive source under the Radioactive Substances Act 1958. They also seized and locked the main processing shed on the site and posted radioactivity warning signs.

In July 1995 the owner was convicted in the Mareeba Magistrates Court on an action taken by the Mareeba Shire Council under Section 79 of the Health Act and a Court Order was made for the owner to clean up the site. The owner did not comply to the Order.

In January 1996 Radiation Health completed an investigation of the site which concluded that 250-300 tonnes of radioactive substance, as defined under the Radioactive Substances Act 1958, and a further 650 tonnes of lower specific activity material was on the site, giving rise to elevated levels of gamma radiation in the proximity of the processing shed.

In 1998, officers of the then Department of Environment were authorised to enter the site and implement the Court Order. The site was assessed by the Environmental Protection Agency and Queensland Health scientists as being grossly contaminated with chemical and radiological substances and in a state which posed an unacceptable risk to the local community and the environment. Apart from dwellings in the local area, a primary school of 150 children is located approximately 200 metres from the site.

Environmental Protection Agency staff prepared a work plan for remediation of the site and invited tenders from consultants specialised in contaminated land work.

The main elements of the work plan involved the following actions—

Construction of an engineered containment cell on the site for the disposal of approximately 600 cubic metres of contaminated material.

Removal of 110 drums of waste from within the processing shed. Scraping up and disposing of approximately 5 cubic metres of waste materials deposited on the floor and cleaning the floor.

Disposal in the cell of approximately 200 corroding drums and 50 tonnes of high level arsenic processing waste from the rear of the shed.

Movement of two stockpiles at the rear of the property containing 350 cubic metres of contaminated soil corroding drums and processing waste to the containment cell.

Surface scraping of soils and other areas of the site for remaining contamination and validation testing of the underlying soils for chemical and radiological contamination to appropriate standards. The guideline values for cleanup included arsenic at 200 milligrams/kilogram and gamma radiation levels at 1 metre above the ground to less than 0.6 micro Sieverts/hour.

Implementation of an appropriate Workplace Health and Safety Plan to protect the health of site workers and to protect the environment during site works. The plan included use of personal protection, radiation monitoring of workers, dust suppression measures and airborne dust monitoring.

An experienced contaminated land consultancy was selected with a contract price of \$98,000.

Cleanup work commenced on the site on 2 August 1999 under the supervision of the EPA and Queensland Health. The site was overgrown with stockpiles of waste and various rusting metal and other refuse obscured by vegetation and lying over contaminated areas. The containment cell was constructed in the first week of operation with a capacity of 800 cubic metres and dimensions of 12m x 27 and 4m deep. The base and walls of the cell were of a natural clay material which was tested and found to have a higher level of impermeability than required by the work plan. The most radioactive and chemically contaminated material was placed at the base of the cell followed by lower grade material. Clean out of the interior of the processing shed was particularly difficult and site workers were closely monitored to ensure protection of health in the confined environment.

Validation testing of the surface soils detected high levels of arsenic up to 6,000 milligrams/kilogram which is 30 times the cleanup level. This resulted in larger quantities of contaminated soil for disposal than expected and a secondary containment cell was constructed to safely contain a further 400 cubic metres of contaminated material.

The containment cell was covered with compacted clay, followed by a robust and high quality impermeable geosynthetic clay liner and a further minimum of 0.5 metres of compacted clay. Large

areas of the site at the rear of the shed were also capped with clay. The land surface was shaped to shed water. Site works were completed on 20 August 1999 resulting in the safe disposal of 1,200 cubic metres of contaminated wastes and soil. Final works involving hydromulching of the containment cells will be conducted when weather conditions are favourable.

The estimated final costing for site work including the extra containment cell is approximately \$110,000.

(2) All of the grossly contaminated material at the site has been placed in the containment cells. No contaminated material has been taken from the site. The surface of the site has been remediated to a level which will protect public health and the environment.

A number of 205 litre drums of liquid chemicals, including caustic soda and unknown material, were removed from a hazardous storage situation in an old decaying tobacco shed at the site. They were placed in the main processing shed in a bunded area and the access doors were locked.

(3) The engineered containment cell, impermeable geotextile liner and natural clays on the site will greatly reduce the infiltration of water into the cell. All of the contaminated materials are solid and have a comparatively low leaching rate.

The high level radioactive material has been placed at the base of the cell and there is a minimum of 3 metres of overlying materials which will permanently reduce radiation levels at the surface to near background levels from this source.

The remediation and containment operations have been successfully completed to acceptable health and environmental standards and have removed the gross hazards posed by the site.

The risk of the leakage or escape of contaminated materials from the site in its current remediated state is negligible provided that the site is not disturbed.

The EPA will now develop a Site Management Plan under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to secure the long term safety of the site. The conditions of this plan will restrict land uses and ensure that the site is not disturbed and EPA approval is obtained before any excavations occur on any part of the area. Breach of this plan will result in a prosecution by the EPA and the penalty which applies is a fine up to \$124,875 or 2 years imprisonment. The site will remain on the EPA's Environmental Management Register.

1237. Dryland Salinity

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Primary Industries (27/8/99)—

With reference to CSIRO and the Murray Darling Basin Commission which advise that much of the basin needs deep rooted plants returned to keep the water table from rising and causing salinisation and as it is suggested that up to 30 per cent of the land area should be returned leaf area of these deep rooted plants—

What efforts are the Queensland Department of Primary Industries taking in developing fodder trees or commercial timber crops for the downs that will allow present cleared land to be changed to the recommended state of tree cover without losing enormous financial capacity?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/9/99): The management of salinity is a very complex issue and one that covers the entire Murray Darling Basin from Queensland to South Australia. Dryland salinity is a major issue in southern parts of the basin but has only relatively recently surfaced as a local issue in Queensland.

A team of Government officers including DPI workshopped with communities in the Border Rivers Condamine, Maranoa-Balonne and Warrego Paroo catchments for their concerns in developing the Queensland Murray Darling Basin Coordinating Committee Natural Resource Management Strategy. Fifty four strategies were developed covering 12 major regional natural resource management issues. Neither dryland nor irrigation salinity were identified as issues of regional concern at this stage.

In relation to fodder trees and native tree growth in general, DPI has done considerable work on fodder trees in South Queensland. Hundreds of plants have been tested. Summaries of this research have been made available to producers in the region at workshops and seminars over several years.

DPI's fodder tree research has found little that could do better than native plants. Growing fodder trees tends to lead to overgrazing and woody weed problems. Native perennial grass pastures are effective at removing most of the rain that infiltrates into our soil.

The DPI Dalby Plant Nursery sells over 70 000 trees/annum. Lately, there have been annual orders for 10-15 000 Eucalyptus argophoia (Chinchilla White Gum) for farm forest plantations in the Upper Condamine Floodplain. Most trees sold to producers are, however, used for shade and shelter belts on properties.

In addition to the tree issue, DPI agronomists and Landcare officers are working with the local problem in the Maranoa area with rotation of wheat with silk sorghum and lucerne. DPI agronomists in the Border Rivers area are working closely with producers on the development of a viable lucerne industry within the Inglewood district.

More deep rooted vegetation is provided by olive trees with over 200 000 trees planted in the Western Downs and Border Rivers areas. DPI officers are closely watching the development of this new industry as there is potential of a systematic oversupply of olive oil in the world market.

The issue of regional salination is beyond the scope of small areas of fodder trees or perennial pastures and is a whole of Government concern with DNR as the lead agency in this form of land management.

1238. Pacific Motorway

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/8/99)—

With reference to the Nerang Interchange Project—

- (1) Is the project on time and on budget; if not, what are the reasons for any delays or cost overruns?
- (2) When is completion of the project expected?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99):

(1) The Nerang River to Pappas Way section of the Pacific Motorway project has experienced delays due to wet weather, design deficiencies and difficult ground conditions. The constrained nature of the project site together with the need to maintain both highway and local access to businesses have added to the difficulties. The project has been delayed due to the aforementioned reasons and increased cost.

(2) The project is expected to be open to traffic on or before 20 November 1999.

1239. East Coast Trawl Fishery

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (27/8/99)—

With reference to the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery Draft Management Plan and Regulatory Impact Statement—

- (1) Is he satisfied that the traditional members of this industry, the family owner/operators, have had adequate opportunity to receive the draft plan, to study it, and to reply before the extended deadline for comments expired given that he has acknowledged that the QFMA omitted to place advertisements in newspapers?
- (2) Is he aware that at the time of release of the draft plan (a) at least 60 per cent of the trawler fleet based from Tin Can Bay north were fishing from Bowen north, as is their custom (b) a high percentage of the trawlers fishing the northern waters, were fishing in Princess Charlotte Bay, and Lloyds Bay and it takes two days to steam from Princess Charlotte Bay to Cairns, whilst in this location these trawlers are out of communication range, except when they visit the mother ship, usually about once a fortnight, (c) a QCFO representative in a fishing port with some 88 trawlers, catching, on average \$65m of product per year, received 23 phone calls in one night from fishers trying to find out how to get a copy of the draft plan, (d) at least two operators rang the QFMA 1800 phone number to request a copy of the draft plan, subsequently, copies were not received within two weeks of phoning and (e) more recently, it is the intention to form the Independent Trawler Association in a desperate attempt to represent the interests of the owner/operator families and to present the argument that family boats do not constitute a threat to the sustainability of the fishery, but their market sustainability and financial future will be at risk if the southern closure is introduced?
- (3) In recognition of the above, will he guarantee to continue to listen to the owner/operators' arguments concerning resource sustainability and effort containment?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/9/99):

1. I am satisfied that the commercial industry was given adequate opportunity to respond to the draft plan, given the extensive campaign that the QFMA undertook to distribute the draft plans and advertise their availability.

The timeline for introducing a management plan for the East Coast Trawl Fishery has been primarily driven by the Commonwealth Government.

2. Although I am aware that some trawl operators spend lengthy periods at sea, I am confident that the communication strategy implemented by the QFMA to ensure that industry and the general community were aware of the Draft Plan was quite comprehensive.

3. I am aware that the draft plan generated a diversity of views in regard to the proposed management arrangements of the trawl fishery. The challenge is in being able to develop a balanced package that suits the needs of all stakeholders as a final plan.

1240. Expedition Pass Creek Bridge, Dalbeg

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/8/99)—

With reference to the bridge situated near Dalbeg which collapsed three years ago due to white ants and which has undergone constant repair over the years, the bridge being once again closed for further repairs leaving Dalbeg cane farmers and vegetable growers stranded unable to transport their produce by semi-trailer and as the state and condition of the bridge is appalling, the wooden bridge is classed as too old and out of date and according to the residents of Dalbeg, a new bridge was promised five years ago and they are still waiting, now we have farmers and residents suffering with the closure of the bridge for repairs and as a further insult, the people were not consulted by Main Roads that these repairs were to take place and as this bridge is the lifeline to the farmers and residents of Dalbeg—

- (1) How much longer do these people have to put up with bandaid repairs?
- (2) How long will it be before a new bridge is finally built?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99):

(1) The Expedition Pass Creek bridge, situated near Dalbeg, underwent major repairs some 5 or 6 years ago; however, contrary to Mr Knuths advice, it did not collapse three years ago. Planning and design for a new bridge is well advanced and expected to be completed by July 2000.

(2) Replacement of the existing bridge is listed in the out years of the current Roads Implementation Program 1998-99 to 2002-03. The actual timing of the project is presently being considered in the development of the Roads Implementation Program 1999-00 to 2003-04. The existing timber bridge will continue to be maintained in a safe condition until it is replaced.

1241. Prawn Industry

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (27/8/99)—

With reference to the reported discovery by a trawler operator of deformed prawns off Bowen recently, which tests by the Mackay Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee revealed as having white flesh disease—

- (1) Has this outbreak been confirmed; if so, what are the likely origins of the disease?
- (2) What action is DPI taking to identify and investigate this disease in wild and domestic prawn stocks?
- (3) What is the effect of the disease on wild prawn stocks?
- (4) What action can be taken and/or is being taken to contain and eradicate this disease?

Mr PALASZCZUK (27/9/99):

(1) There is no outbreak to confirm. The disease was identified in three prawns collected from the wild. The disease is a parasite infestation and occurs naturally in the marine environment. This disease is caused by a single cell parasite of the group Microsporidea. This parasite infects and replaces the muscle tissue, giving it the characteristic "white flesh", which looks like it has been cooked. Microsporideans are well known parasites in the sea, and can infest many different crustaceans throughout the world. This parasite is very rarely seen in cultured prawns.

(2) Department of Primary Industries will continue to provide a diagnostic service from the Oonoonba Veterinary Laboratory in Townsville and, as this is a naturally occurring parasite infestation in the wild, no further action is appropriate. The disease has never been seen in farmed prawn stocks in Queensland. A survey of the prevalence of this parasite in wild caught prawns in Queensland was reported in 1988 (Owens & Galzebrook, 1988). The outcome of the survey was that of the some 250 000 prawns tested only twenty-four were found to be infected.

(3) The effect on wild prawn stocks is minimal and the presence of parasites in wild crustaceans and fishes is natural. There is no evidence currently that there is a large outbreak of white flesh disease in the wild prawn population.

(4) There will be no action taken, as it is a natural occurrence, it is impossible to contain or eradicate a disease in the wild and to date has only been diagnosed in three individual prawns.

1242. Coroner's Inquests

Mr FELDMAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (27/8/99)—

With reference to doubts surrounding the investigation of recent deaths deemed murder/suicide, misadventure, accident, workplace and electrical accidents—

Does he intend to grant the Coroner his own investigative unit to reopen or reinvestigate matters

referred to the Coroner for his determination, particularly concerning the fact that there has been a number of official complaints to the CJC regarding the investigation of these matters including the investigation of these electrical incidents that caused some of these deaths?

Mr FOLEY (27/9/99): The CJC is not within my portfolio responsibilities. Pursuant to section 47 of the Coroners Act 1958 inquests may be reopened. The scope and conduct of any investigation in relation to any reopened inquest is a matter for individual coroners.

1243. Monto Neighbourhood Centre

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (27/8/99)—

With reference to the Monto Neighbourhood Centre in Huxley Street, Monto—

- (1) What funding does her department provide to this centre?
- (2) Who is responsible for the administration of this funding?
- (3) How many staff are employed at the centre?
- (4) How many of these staff are funded by her department?
- (5) What are they employed to do?
- (6) Are the facilities at the centre such as photocopiers, laminators, computers etc available for public use in competition with private businesses in Monto?
- (7) What are the charge rates for this equipment and how much did her department collect from the public use of this equipment in 1998-99?
- (8) What community groups are offered use of this equipment free of charge?
- (9) Are any of the staff employed by her department involved in establishing or running any other business in Monto as part of their job?
- (10) What controls does her department have in place to ensure this centre is not being used for private business or political party purposes?

Ms BLIGH (27/9/99): In response to your question on notice, I provide the following information—

- (1) The department provides recurrent funding of \$66,033 under the Community and Individual Support Program for a Community Development Officer, non-recurrent funds of \$3,113 under the Emergency Relief Program and \$41,644 under the Youth Services Development Grant—Rural Youth Worker Program to the Monto Community Development Council.
- (2) The Monto Community Development Council auspice the funding provided by this department. The department administers the funding program and monitors the specific grants.
- (3) I am unaware of the total number of people working at the Monto Neighbourhood Centre as

some of the staff are employed under programs which are funded by other Queensland Government Departments and/or the Commonwealth programs.

(4) The department provides funding to the organisation under the Youth Services Development Grant—Rural Youth Worker and Community and Individual Support Programs. It is the responsibility of the organisation to determine the appropriate level of staff employed with the funding provided. There are currently two staff employed utilising funds provided by this Department.

(5) The organisation has been approved funding under the Youth Services Development Grant—Rural Youth Worker and Community and Individual Support Programs. Rural Youth Workers are employed to work with young people and their communities to provide services and develop local responses to youth issues. The Community and Individual Support Program provides funding towards a range of services, including community development, information and referral, and coordination of neighbourhood centres.

(6) It is my understanding that the facilities at the neighbourhood centre are available to the public subject to the management policies of the organisation. The use of neighbourhood centre resources to support groups in the community is common practice and part of its community development role.

(7) The department does not collect any fees from the use of this equipment by the public. If a rate were set for resource use, then this would be determined by the organisation. As this community organisation is located in the electorate of Callide the member may wish to inquire about these details directly.

(8) The decision to allow access and use of neighbourhood centre resources is at the discretion of the Management Committee as the owners of the equipment and subject to its policies and management practices.

(9) Staff employed at the neighbourhood centre are selected, recruited and employed by the Monto Community Development Council and are not departmental staff. It would be appropriate for Management Committees to negotiate with staff to ensure that any other activity is not in conflict with the best interests of the neighbourhood centre.

(10) The department enters into an annual service agreement with the organisation. It is through this process that the department sets quality management frameworks and performance requirements within the document as part of a monitoring and resourcing role. In addition, accountability requirements are also in place for the approved funding, including financial returns and an annual evaluation process. Departmental staff are in frequent contact with services such as the neighbourhood centre.

1244. Dinmore Abattoir

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (27/8/99)—

With reference to the development and expansion of the AMH abattoir at Dinmore—

- (1) What obligations and conditions has the Environmental Protection Agency placed on AMH with regard to the expansion of the Dinmore abattoir?
- (2) Will he confirm that inspectors from the Environmental Protection Agency rarely visited the Dinmore abattoir prior to a complaint on 26 July by a Karalee and Barellan Point Action Group and the lodgement of Environmental Management Plans by AMH; if not, why not, and on what dates has the plant been inspected?
- (3) Will he confirm comments by Mr Hutchison, Group Engineer with AMH, at a public meeting at the Ipswich City Council on 29 July that AMH was operating in breach of its environmental licence?
- (4) Why was AMH allowed to continue "normal" operations despite breaching its environmental licence?
- (5) Will he confirm the QAC Cannon Hill abattoir uses an expensive gas to control odour and has "sentinel houses" to advise on both noise and odour, yet AMH does not?
- (6) Will he assure Queenslanders that the Environmental Protection Act 1994 applies to all business, industry and people alike and that if any entity breaches the act, it will be prosecuted or immediately notified to comply with the Act?
- (7) Did the EPA pursue the environmental complaints by residents; if so, how?
- (8) What assurances will he give local residents and the Karalee and Barellan Point Action Group that their concerns with the operation of the Dinmore abattoir are being addressed?

Mr WELFORD (27/9/99):

- (1) AMH is obliged to obtain the appropriate approvals for any expansion to the operation that substantially increases the risk of environmental harm authorised under the current licence.
- (2) No, for the period 1 June 1998 until 26 July 1999 Environmental Protection Agency officers visited the AMH site on 6 separate occasions on the following dates: 3 June 1998; 24 June 1998; 30 June 1998; 6 October 1998; 4 February 1999; and 12 July 1999.
- (3) I am unable to comment on the veracity of the statement allegedly made by Mr Hutchison at the public meeting at the Ipswich City Council Chambers on 29 July 1999. My Environmental Protection Agency has not been provided with the formal minutes of this meeting.
- (4) My Environmental Protection Agency has a number of options available in the administration and enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The use of injunctions for an industry to cease operating is normally only used when all other avenues for environmental management have been exhausted or where serious environmental harm is being caused.

(5) AMH submitted 2 voluntary draft Environmental Management Programs to the Agency on 29 July 1999, one for the control of light and the other for noise emissions from the Dinmore site.

(6) Queensland Abattoir Corporation (QAC) at Cannon Hill use deodour gas as part of their odour control strategy and utilises residents to report the impact of odour from their operations. AMH use different odour control measures than those employed by QAC Cannon Hill.

(7) The Environmental Protection Act 1994 states—

"This Act binds all persons, including the State, and, as far as the legislative power of the Parliament permits, the Commonwealth and the other States."

(8) My Agency's approach to prosecution is contained in the publication Enforcement Guidelines for the Environmental Protection Act 1994. I will separately forward a copy of this to the Honourable Member.

(9) Upon receipt of complaints by local residents, Environmental Protection Agency officers contacted AMH and requested an explanation of the source of the complaint and any remedial actions being undertaken or required to be undertaken. Environmental Protection Agency officers have been working with AMH to resolve these matters, resulting in the lodgement of the EMPs.

(10) Environmental Protection Agency officers met with the Karalee & Barellan Point Action Group on 26 August 1999 and agreed to meet with them on a regular basis to keep them updated. Environmental Protection Agency officers will continue to liaise with AMH and local residents to attempt to resolve the issues to the satisfaction of all parties.

1245. Ergon Energy and Energex, Staffing

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

- (1) How many people are directly employed by Ergon Energy?
- (2) How many people are directly employed by Energex?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

(1) As at 29 June 1999, 2,594 people were directly employed by Ergon Energy. This represents approximately 2,494 full time equivalent employees. These numbers take into account people employed by the distribution and retail corporations, but do not include contractors.

(2) As at 30 July 1999, approximately 2,700 people were directly employed by Energex. This represents approximately 2,648 full time equivalent employees. These numbers take into account people employed by the distribution and retail corporations and Allgas, but do not include contractors.

1246. Gunpowder-Century Transmission Line

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

With reference to advice to Cabinet when meeting in Mt Isa, which indicated that the then late approval of a start of construction of the Gunpowder to Century electricity transmission line would require the application of more capital to accelerate the project if it was to be completed on time, because of delays associated with establishing a viable construction corridor as a result of native title and cultural heritage issues—

- (1) What was the original cost estimate for completion of the project?
- (2) What acceleration payments were made?
- (3) What was the final cost of the project?
- (4) Who has borne the cost of the construction, given that North Queensland Electricity Board ceased to exist on 30 June?
- (5) Did funding involve accessing capital reserves, or were borrowings required; if so, what was the level of those borrowings and from whom was the money borrowed?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

- (1) The Gunpowder to Century transmission line project was originally estimated to cost about \$20 million.
- (2) Despite a five month delayed start to the Gunpowder to Century line due to difficulties in acquiring easements, the line was built on time and within budget by contractors working for NORQEB, now part of Ergon Energy. Commercial arrangements under the contract are considered confidential.
- (3) The final cost of the Gunpowder to Century line was within the estimated budget. The exact cost of the project is commercial in confidence information.
- (4) From 1 July 1999, all six regional distributors were amalgamated into a single corporation, Ergon Energy. The Gunpowder to Century transmission line project was transferred to Ergon Energy as part of this industry restructure.
- (5) The project cost, was totally debt financed through borrowing from the Queensland Treasury Corporation. The exact level of borrowings is commercial in confidence information.

1247. Electricity Industry

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

With reference to the completion by the department last year of a review of the maintenance programs in place in Queensland's power generating industry, requiring attention to 10 recommendations of the task force (published at pages 12 and 13 of the executive summary of the status of maintenance in Government-owned power stations report) (27/8/99)—

- (1) What has been the progress in implementing each of the recommendations?
- (2) Specifically, in relation to recommendations five and six, which relate to increases in both staff and, presumably, capital requirements to meet

the alleged backlog, how many extra staff have been employed at Government-owned power stations?

- (3) What is their status, viz a viz contract or appointments and is there a requirement that the extra staff be members of a trade union?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

(1) All the high priority issues in the recommendations of the McGuigan report have been implemented. The backlog relating to lower priority maintenance has been reduced to one week's work which is considered an acceptable size for such a category. I have also established a new Electricity Monitoring Unit in the Department of Mines and Energy to enhance maintenance activities. Staff recruitment to fill the positions in this Unit is in progress.

(2) The need to recruit some additional appropriate staff to promote better coordination of the operations, maintenance and asset management systems was identified following the restructure that was put in place by each of the three corporations. Since the release of McGuigan's Taskforce report in October 1998, I am advised that CS Energy has recruited thirty additional permanent staff. Stanwell power station permanent workforce has increased by 11 persons. Another thirteen power station staff are to be appointed. Tarong power station did not have a major problem with staff numbers or skill mix. Since the release of McGuigan's report, staff levels at Tarong have been maintained while at Wivenhoe the staff levels have increased by 3.

(3) Where work of a peak and short term nature was identified, the power stations engaged contract employees. The number of contract employees varies from time to time depending on the need.

With regard to the balance of the Question on Notice, as that part of the Question does not conform with section 68 (a) of Sessional Orders, I decline to respond.

1248. Ergon Energy and Energex, Credit Rating

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

- (1) What credit rating has been achieved by Ergon Energy?
- (2) What credit rating has been achieved by Ergon retail?
- (3) What credit rating has been achieved by Energex?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

(1) Ergon Energy Corporation was constituted on 1 July 1999 and has yet to undertake the credit rating process.

(2) Ergon Retail does not have a rating as it not a significant borrower and has always had guarantees from its parent company(s).

(3) Energex has an A+ rating.

1249. Electricity Consumption

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

- (1) Since the privatisation of the Gladstone Power Station, has Comalco ever been requested, or has Comalco ever offered to reduce electricity consumption in order to make more power available to the grid; if so, on how many occasions?
- (2) Particularly, did such an event occur over the summer of 1998-99?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

(1) I assume the question of reducing electricity consumption relates to the Boyne Island aluminium smelter which is operated by Boyne Smelters Limited. Boyne Smelters Limited has not been specifically requested to reduce electricity consumption in order to make its power available to the grid. On one occasion, Boyne Smelters Limited offered to reduce its consumption of electricity.

(2) No.

1250. Mining Tenures

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

- (1) How many mining tenures (identify the nature of the tenures) were granted between the election of the current Government and the passage of the Native Title (Queensland) State Provisions Amendment Bill 1999?
- (2) How many applications for mining tenures, identified by tenure are backlogged?
- (3) When does the department plan that the Land Resources Tribunal be ready to deal with the backlog?
- (4) How long does the department expect to take to clear the backlog?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

(1) The following mining and exploration tenements were granted between the election of the current Government and the passage of the Native Title (Queensland) State Provisions Amendment Act 1999 on 20 July 1999: mining leases—44; mining claims—2; mineral development licences—7; exploration permits for minerals—21; exploration permits for coal—9; prospecting permits—355.

(2) There is a backlog of the following tenements: mining leases—325; mining claims—179; mineral development licences—70; exploration permits for minerals—1147; exploration permits for coal—36. Approximately 180 of the mining leases and mining claims are involved in the 'right-to-negotiate' process for small miners, of which agreement for the grant of 37 mining leases and claims has recently been reached.

(3) The Land and Resources Tribunal is currently being established by the Department of Justice and will begin initial operations after the provisions of the

Native Title (Queensland) State Provisions Amendment Act 1999 have been approved by the Commonwealth Attorney-General and the Federal Parliament.

(4) The Department of Mines and Energy and the Tribunal cannot begin to address the backlog in any meaningful way until the provisions of the Native Title (Queensland) State Provisions Amendment Act 1999 are approved by the Commonwealth Attorney-General. Once the legislation is in place, applications for similar tenements in the same native title area will be batched together to allow the notification and consultation processes to be commenced efficiently. The backlog of low impact-exploration tenements should be able to be cleared within 3-4 months. The timing for other tenements will depend on the rate of consultations and negotiations carried out between tenement applicants and native title parties, and the proportion that may require a Tribunal hearing. If the State provisions are not approved or are disallowed, the backlog could continue for the foreseeable future because of the difficulty of operating under the Commonwealth legislation, particularly for exploration tenements.

1251. Dinmore, Land Subsidence

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

- (1) What arrangements have been reached with the Mayor of Ipswich, Cr Nugent in relation to the subsidence threats to houses at Dinmore?
- (2) What action is being taken to alleviate risks?
- (3) Do the arrangements reached between the City of Ipswich and the department take into account the potential for compensation claims?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

(1) Letters were sent to the occupants and to the owners of the affected properties. The letters were jointly signed by the Mayor of Ipswich and myself. The letters advised " the Queensland Government, in partnership with the Ipswich City Council, has taken a decision to purchase properties at Nos 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36 and 38, at fair market value. This value will be determined by the average of three independent valuations in accordance with the principle adopted for similar events in the Ipswich area some years ago."

(2) The occupants and the owners were advised that the properties should be evacuated as soon as possible. To progress this and to assist occupants, the Minister for Housing, the Hon Robert Schwarten MLA, arranged for the Department of Public Works and Housing to provide immediate temporary accommodation in the Ipswich area. In addition, the Department of Mines and Energy arranged for a removalist to be available at short notice to facilitate the relocation of occupants. The initial geotechnical investigation that identified the eight properties at immediate risk has now been widened to establish if further premises are at risk. Results of this expanded investigation are currently being assessed by the Department of Mines and Energy.

(3) Whilst it is understood that the State of Queensland has no liability in this matter, the indication of offer to each affected property owner was made on the basis that the sale price is in full and final satisfaction of all claims against the State. The purchase contracts reflect this condition.

1252. Electricity Charges

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

With reference to Queensland prices on the National Electricity Market which are still regularly the highest in the system, for example, for the week ending 21 August, according to Nemmo data, Queensland's price peaked at \$935.13/mwh, the highest in the system and the time weighted average price for the week was \$66.95, also the highest in the system, on demand no higher than a moderate 5481.07mw—

Why are Queensland's prices regularly the highest on the National Electricity Market?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99): Electricity prices in Queensland are following a downward trend due to increased reserve margin levels and greater competition.

Since June 1998, 571 MW of generation capacity has been commissioned across five sites in Queensland. This has increased system security. These recently commissioned power stations are all peak load generators, designed to bid into the electricity market at times of high demand.

With regards to the week ending 21 August 1999, two major 350 MW baseload units were unavailable at Stanwell and Tarong meaning greater volumes of higher priced peaking capacity were called into operation, pushing pool prices up for short periods of time.

It is misleading to state that Queensland's prices are regularly the highest on the National Electricity Market. During the Winter months, Queensland's average pool price dropped significantly and was consistently low with the average pool price for the June, July and early August period the lowest in the national electricity market at just over \$26/MWh.

1253. Daintree Region, Electricity Supply

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

- (1) Is the Government still determined to deny the majority of people living north of the Daintree River grid electricity?
- (2) Does he believe the Environmental Impact Assessment Study carried out in 1996 was inadequate?
- (3) Since telephone connections can be made under Government policy, cannot the same infrastructure be used to distribute power?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99): In response to the series of questions asked by the Honourable member, the answers are as follows—

(1) The Government has a clear policy position on opposing the extension of mains power, north of the Daintree River. This was clearly stated at the time of the last election, and recently reaffirmed by Cabinet. The Government is not denying people access to power. As announced in the budget, \$4.5 million has been set aside over the next two years for a new rebate scheme. This new scheme will provide rebates of up to \$15,000 per household for people who install Remote Area Power systems. A commercial rebate scheme is also to be introduced.

(2) The EIAS was controversial but did gain reasonable acceptance as the process was completed. The findings however left open the choice between mains power and Remote Area Power Systems (RAPS). Either is considered acceptable under the EIAS providing correct development controls are put in place. The Government is firmly of the view that the RAPS alternative is more prudent and feasible than mains power because of cost and nature of the region.

(3) No, as the provision of power and telecommunications involves different technologies and infrastructure.

1254. Mining Industry

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 953, point eight, in which he indicated that the number of major project developments including mine expansion, that are awaiting native title clearance was 12—

Will he identify each of these projects, by proponent, product, scale and projected production date and detail the nature of the native title issues and the state of progress towards resolution?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99): I am happy to provide the following details in relation to the projects that were originally identified. It should be noted that the mining tenures involved are on land (in whole or in part) where native title may exist and the procedures under the Commonwealth Native Title Act (eg Right To Negotiate) must be complied with. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1255. Charters Towers, Mine Shafts

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

- (1) What funding was applied to capping disused mine shafts in the Charters Towers region in 1998-99?
- (2) What funding will be applied to this task in 1999-2000?
- (3) When will the capping program be completed?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

(1) In 1998-99, \$1,151,862.50 was spent on the Charters Towers mine shaft repair project.

(2) In 1999-2000, an amount of \$2 million has been set aside in the Budget for shaft repair activities throughout Queensland, including Charters Towers. In addition, \$348,000 was carried forward from 1998-99 to 1999-2000 for the Charters Towers shaft repair project.

(3) It is impossible to say when the capping program will be completed as new shafts are still being discovered.

1256. Mining Industry

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

- (1) Will he quantify the revenue raised by the Department of Mines and Energy from public title searches on the Merlin computer based mining tenement database?
- (2) What is this revenue spent on?
- (3) If the revenue is not spent on upgrading the computer system to make information freely available to the public over the Internet, then what timing and expenditure is envisaged to complete such an upgrade?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

- (1) In 1998-99, \$49,000 was received for undermining searches.
- (2) This revenue was retained by the Department's Southern Regional Office and used to subsidise the salaries and administration expenses of the Bundamba Testing Office where these searches are undertaken.
- (3) A project to improve access to the Department's computer systems using the Internet is currently in the planning stages. The cost and timeframes are yet to be determined.

1257. Gold Coast, Noise Barriers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/8/99)—

With reference to the Bermuda Street upgrade between Rudd Street and Reedy Creek Road on the Gold Coast—

- (1) What is the total cost of this project?
- (2) What is the cost of construction of noise barriers and what percentage of the total project cost is this?
- (3) What is the average cost per metre for construction of the wooden noise barriers?
- (4) What alternatives were considered by Main Roads and why was it decided to use the existing noise barriers?
- (5) Does Main Roads have any evidence from directly affected residents regarding the effectiveness of the noise barriers?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/9/99):

- (1) The Bermuda Street upgrade between Rudd Street and Reedy Creek Road is expected to cost approximately \$16 million.

(2) The cost of noise barriers and associated landscaping is expected to be \$3.2 million. This is approximately 20% of the total project cost.

(3) The cost per square metre of noise barrier varies according to the height of the barriers and the footing types, which are designed on location-specific ground conditions.

(4) Timber barriers were considered the best choice from the alternatives of concrete, aerated concrete, perspex and brick. This choice was made on the basis of cost, ease of construction, availability of materials and the need to blend in with the surrounding landscaping.

(5) The Department of Main Roads has not had any feedback from residents near the roadway, to date, about the effectiveness of the noise barriers.

1258. Schools, Capital Works Projects

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (27/8/99)—

With reference to his recent announcements of special maintenance funding for public schools throughout Queensland—

Will he provide for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (to date) (a) the source of this funding, (b) the program from which the funding is sourced, (c) the total expenditure of this program, (d) the total number of projects approved, (e) the total expenditure of this program by each State electorate, (f) the total number of projects by each State electorate and (g) the date of approval for each project for each State electorate?

Mr SCHWARTEN (27/9/99): (a) \$4.4M became available from Departmental savings and sales. This was allocated into the following areas, (i) Asbestos removal, (ii) larger maintenance expenditure items where further neglect would result in greater expense to taxpayers, (iii) meeting requests to attend to urgent maintenance and outstanding Workplace Health and Safety issues, (iv) backlog maintenance in buildings controlled by the Department of Public Works, (v) direct funding to Q-Build regions where staff was available to complete urgent works. All projects were sourced under the Department of Public Works Building Program. Approvals were given between 16 April and 22 July 1999.

1259. Asian Thoroughbred Breeders Conference, Gold Coast

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (27/8/99)—

Is the State Government offering financial support to assist in staging the Asian Thoroughbred Breeders' Conference on the Gold Coast; if so, to what extent?

Mr GIBBS (27/9/99): The 2nd Asian Thoroughbred Breeders Conference to be held at the Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, between 29 May and 4 June 2000, is a proven international event. It is anticipated that over 500 participants from countries such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, USA, Middle East, France, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore will attend the Conference. This will be a unique

opportunity for the Queensland thoroughbred breeding industry to showcase itself to the world and to promote the outstanding breeding stock we have available. The thoroughbred breeding sector, particularly significant to the Darling Downs, and Australia's and especially Queensland's racing industry will be major beneficiaries during the peak racing period in Queensland next year.

Tapping further into a growing international export market, especially in Asia, is particularly important to Australia's thoroughbred breeding and racing sectors. The Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing has underwritten the event up to a maximum amount of \$150,000 comprising a \$50,000 fixed payment component and a variable payment component of \$200 per delegate (up to 500 delegates). The event also has sponsorship from the Magic Millions Sales Company and other major Australian sponsors.

1260. Mining Industry

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

- (1) Is the Queensland Government still pursuing a 1 per cent royalty on gross proceeds to miners for aborigines for fast tracking approvals for small tin, gold, sapphire and opal mines?
- (2) Are miners also being asked to pay aborigines \$200 per lease upfront; if so, is the Government concerned that the royalty requirement could become a precedent for larger projects?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

(1) The question relates to on-going 'right-to-negotiate' negotiations under the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 for the grant of mining tenements to small miners at Quilpie, Winton, the central Queensland gemfields and parts of north Queensland. Under the Native Title Act 1993 native title holders are entitled to compensation for the effect of the grant of a mining tenement on their native title rights and interests. The Queensland Government is not insisting on any particular compensation regime. The Native Title Services group in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has merely incorporated proposals from native title parties in working versions of the draft 'right to negotiate' agreements for discussion purposes. Agreement on compensation has recently been reached in the Winton district but negotiations are continuing elsewhere. The details of the Winton agreement and the other proposals are confidential between the parties.

(2) The Government is not concerned that these agreements will set a precedent. Native title holders along with other landholders are entitled to compensation, and compensation will be negotiated or determined by the Land and Resources Tribunal for future mining projects on a case by case basis depending on circumstances.

1261. Electricity Industry

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

If the policy of tariff equalisation for household electricity customers is to be maintained across Queensland in a fully competitive market environment, how will it be funded given that traditional sources of funds eg. cross subsidisation and dividend and income tax equivalent payments are in significant historical decline?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99): The Government currently makes an explicit community service obligation payment from Consolidated Revenue as part of the State Budget to the two electricity retailing Government-owned corporations (GOCs)—Energex and Ergon Energy to provide 'safety net' electricity prices on standard regulated tariffs in Queensland. This funding approach will continue in the future.

1262. Chevron Gas Pipeline

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

With reference to a report that, in acting as aggregators of customers for the Chevron Gas Project, Energex and Ergon have assumed some risks associated with the delivery of gas to their customers—

- (1) What is the nature and possible costs of these risks and who will bear it?
- (2) Was ministerial approval required because of the scale of these risks?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

(1) In acting as aggregators for purchasing PNG gas, Energex and Ergon have signed conditional gas purchase agreements with several potential customers. The contents of those agreements are commercial in confidence.

(2) Ministerial approval was not required prior to signing these conditional agreements. Shareholding Ministers approval will however be required before final contractual arrangements are agreed.

1263. Gunpowder-Century Transmission Line

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

With reference to the Premier's media statement which affirmed the Century Mine was not to be the sole customer of the Gunpowder to Century 220kv transmission facility—

Are there other customers; if so, what communities or properties or businesses will achieve power from the power line?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99): Currently the Gunpowder to Century power line only services the Century Mine. However, the line has been designed with capacity to service other customers, such as the existing communities and mines as well as potential future developments. Ergon Energy has already undertaken some investigations into the cost of providing power to local communities and mines, but no agreements have been finalised at this time.

1264. Electricity Industry

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (27/8/99)—

With reference to Department of Mines and Energy figures in relation to eligibility to engage one or other of the four tranches of contestability in the National Electricity Market in which there were an estimated 43 potential tranche one customers, 430 tranche two customers and 6400 tranche three customers—

- (1) How many of these potential customers, in each tranche, have entered the contestable market?
- (2) How many per tranche have entered the wholesale market on their own behalf, how many have developed arrangements with retailers and how many have remained with franchise tariffs?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/99):

- (1) As at 31/8/99, in the first tranche, 68 out of 74 potentially contestable customers or 92% have entered the contestable market. In the second tranche, 257 out of 446 potentially contestable

customers or 57% have entered the contestable market. In the third tranche, 146 out of 6,705 potentially contestable customers have so far entered the contestable market.

- (2) No customers have entered the market on their own behalf, as wholesale market customers. The numbers of customers who have developed arrangements with retailers of which I am aware are—first tranche 68, second tranche 257 and third tranche 255. For the third tranche this includes 109 customers who have developed arrangements with retailers that require a transfer to another retailer. These customers remain on franchise tariffs as non-contestable customers (i.e. do not enter the contestable market) until the transfer is complete. The numbers of customers who have remained with franchise tariffs are—first tranche 6, second tranche 189, third tranche 6,559 at this stage. For the third tranche, this will reduce to 6,420 when the retail transfers are completed for the 109 customers who are transferring to retailers other than the host retailer. The number of customers remaining with franchise tariffs is reducing all the time as more customers finalise arrangements with retailers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**1265. Ambulance Service, Vehicles**

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Emergency Services (14/9/99)—

With reference to the purchase of the new ambulances to be put into service—

- (1) What are the brands of these vehicles and manufacturer?
- (2) What was the tendering process?
- (3) Were they purchased locally?
- (4) In which State will the modifications be carried out?
- (5) What is the cost per completed unit?
- (6) Who will be carrying out the servicing and supplying the spares?

Mrs ROSE (14/10/99):

(1) The brands and the manufacturers of these vehicles are listed on Attachment A. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) Publicly advertised Invitations to Offer, Standing Offer Arrangements, Tenders and Quotes arranged through DES Logistics Branch for QAS or under Q-Fleet Whole-of-Government arrangements, in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy.

(3) 24 vehicles were purchased through local Ford, Toyota and Nissan suppliers or agents. The Ford cab/chassis were purchased through BillRich Victoria, Commodore through Jakab in Tamworth and Mercedes through the manufacturer's Melbourne Head Office.

(4) The F-Series will be converted to Right Hand Drive by the importer (BillRich) in Victoria, Holden Commodore by Jakab Industries in Tamworth, NSW. All other conversion work will be carried out by Superior Industries at Brendale in Brisbane.

(5) The cost per completed unit is detailed in attachment A. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(6) Regions arrange servicing of vehicles through in-house workshops or local service agents contracted by regions. Parts other than those covered by warranty claims are supplied through service agencies.

1266. Drug Rehabilitation Programs; Dr S. Reece

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (14/9/99)—

- (1) Is his Government committed to the prevention of drug addiction and the rehabilitation of drug addicts or are we going to see the "I give up approach" of the New South Wales Carr Government and witness the sponsorship of drug use in shooting galleries?
- (2) In light of his response to the above part of this question, has he granted permission for the running of a rapid drug detoxification (Naltrexone) clinic under the care of Dr Reece

at the family medical centre in Highgate Hill, Brisbane; if so, why has Dr Reece been called to 'show cause' by the Health Department or is there an agenda to now shut down the rehabilitation work that Dr Reece has commenced?

- (3) Has there been a failure on the part of the Health Department to consider individual case management in the rehabilitation of drug addicts in the Naltrexone use situations?

Mr BEATTIE (18/10/99):

(1) Drug dependency results in unnecessary deaths, crime, and misery for the families and friends of those who are addicted to drugs. My Government is committed to the prevention and treatment of drug dependence, and has committed to an increase in drug treatment facilities and to expanding the range of treatment options currently available in Queensland. My Government is also committed to a trial of diverting drug dependent people convicted of non-violent crimes from incarceration into treatment where this is appropriate.

My Government has no plans to introduce 'shooting galleries'.

(2) Medical practitioners do not require approval to either prescribe Naltrexone or to run a clinic above the normal requirements of a medical practitioner's surgery.

The Department of Health issued Dr Stuart Reece a 'show cause' notice asking him to demonstrate why his ability to prescribe controlled drugs and restricted dependent drugs should not be removed because it was alleged that he had been breaching the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996.

Dr Reece has since agreed to comply with the legislation covering the prescription of controlled drugs and the Department of Health has no plans to remove Dr Reece's ability to prescribe these drugs.

(3) The Department of Health supports a patient's right to choose between the treatment options currently available for drug dependence.

The Department of Health, in collaboration with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre, has been conducting a training program for medical practitioners in the use of Naltrexone. Both the Queensland Government and the Department of Health are committed to expanding the range of treatment options currently available for drug dependent persons. Trials are currently being conducted to determine the effectiveness of new treatments for drug dependence, including the use of Naltrexone.

1267. Fraser Island, Dingoes

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (14/9/99)—

With reference to the University of Queensland research project "Fraser Island Dingo Aversive Conditioning Trial using Lithium Chloride and Thiabendazole Baits"—

- (1) Does he agree that the trial was against the spirit of Fraser Island's World Heritage listing?
- (2) Does he agree the trial was not compatible with the draft Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy?
- (3) Why was the trial not conducted in a laboratory supervised by a scientist?
- (4) Why was a student involved, what were the qualifications of this student and what is the student studying?
- (5) Who provided the research funds for the trial, transport, fees, accommodation etc?
- (6) Who provided the poison and is there any now held in Fraser Island or Maryborough offices?
- (7) How many baits were used, what amount of dosage was used and how was this determined?

Mr WELFORD (14/10/99):

1. No, I do not agree. The World Heritage Convention calls upon its signatories to undertake measures to present the property's world heritage values to both the local and international communities. With regards to Fraser Island these measures include the provision of on-site interpretation, education materials and visitor facilities. People are encouraged to visit Fraser Island to experience a natural environment of international significance. The trial did not affect the World Heritage values of Fraser Island.

2. No, I do not agree. Strategy No. 4 of the Draft Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy is 'Programs to modify dingo behaviour and habits which threaten human safety and wellbeing will be implemented.'

The third action under this strategy states: 'Trials will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of meat baits containing a substance to induce vomiting and so discourage the eating of similar foods in that area, particularly at high use areas such as Lake McKenzie and Central Station.'

The fourth action states: 'If the trials are successful, such baiting conditioning programs will be established in all high-use areas where habituated dingoes are known to occur...'

Therefore, the trial clearly satisfied the requirements of the Draft Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy.

3. The trial was not conducted by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), and therefore the Environmental Protection Agency was not responsible for the trial conditions. An Industrial Placement student from Queensland University devised the methodology in consultation with a Departmental Veterinarian, Dr Laurie Corbett, the Academic Supervisor at the University of Queensland and Departmental staff on Fraser Island.

4. With the support of University of Queensland, a student requested permission to undertake the trial. QPWS did not solicit the help of the student. The student was an undergraduate from University of Queensland studying Natural Systems Management.

5. QPWS sponsored the student and paid barge transfers and direct costs associated with the baits and chemicals. The student did not receive any allowances or other payment from QPWS.

6. The chemicals were obtained from a commercial laboratory supplier. None of the chemicals remain stored in Maryborough or Fraser Island QPWS offices.

7. Twenty baits were placed at each location in the evening and picked up the following morning. That is, a total of 60 baits was used each night. Chemicals were injected into the baits on three nights only (4-5-6 November 1998). Of the 180 chemically-laced baits, 85 were recorded as having been eaten.

One hundred and fifty references have been reviewed citing Lithium Chloride for use in aversive conditioning. It is the standard chemical for this process and has been successfully used to condition toads, chickens, eagles, possums, coyotes, wolves, dogs, raccoons, ferrets, rats, lambs and cattle. During the Fraser Island trial a dosage of 0.25 of the LD50 for Lithium Chloride was used.

Thiabendazole is rarely used for aversive conditioning. It is more commonly used as an antifungal agent and anti-parasite remedy in livestock and humans. In the Fraser Island trial it was used at a dosage rate of 0.0083 of the LD50. An adverse reaction to this dosage rate would be unlikely.

The student consulted Dr Laurie Corbett and others in determining the dosage rate to be applied.

1268. Pacific Motorway

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/9/99)—

With reference to discussions amongst councils in Western Downs in recent weeks which have centred on likely funding for State roads in 1999-2000 and as these councils are alarmed by statements that the levels of funding will be reduced and, of what funding eventuates, the Road Construction Technical Services (RCTS) of the Department of Main Roads will take more than normally and this will be at the expense of these councils who rely on maintenance and road construction of State roads and in light of this pessimism—

Is it correct that the cost of landscaping of the new Gold Coast-Brisbane Highway will exceed the total funding of State roads in the south-west region for 1999-2000?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/10/99): In a recent press release, I confirmed my intention to honour project commitments outlined in the existing five year roads Implementation Program, published in October 1998. Funding for years one and two are firm, with commitments for the following three years indicative for planning purposes.

Budget allocations for the 1999-2000 regional roadworks programs are currently being finalised, and the employment viability of local governments and Main Roads' RTCS workforces will be protected. This is in accordance with the existing protocol between State and local governments. It should be

noted that RTCS workforces also form a vital part of rural communities.

The landscaping component on the Pacific Motorway project is considerably less than Southern Region's allocation for other State-controlled roads, which is in the vicinity of \$100 million. This amount includes:

- \$9.45 million for the supply and planting of 1.05 million trees and shrubs; and
- \$1.6 million for hydromulching on 196 hectares of road reserve.

The landscaping component of the Pacific Motorway is between 1 and 2 percent of the total project costs, which is considered reasonable expenditure for landscaping on such a high profile project.

1269. Organ Donor System

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Health (14/9/99)—

With reference to the recommended changes to the organ donor system—

Will she provide me with a time frame for the implementation of the (a) Queensland data base, (b) National data base, (c) awareness campaign advertising, (d) changes to legislation to allow Queensland Transport to provide donor information to Queensland Health and (e) information kit to be available at the transport registry counter?

Mrs EDMOND (14/10/99): The response by myself and the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads in relation to the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee Report No. 16, July 1999, Review of the Transplantation and Anatomy Amendment Bill 1998, is due to be tabled by 28 October 1999. I refer the honourable member to this response.

1270. Atherton Tableland, Roadworks

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/9/99)—

With reference to a commitment made by his department to landholders affected by resumptions for the realignment of the intersection of Marks Lane and the Gillies Highway near Atherton, in which the department assured the affected parties that the work would commence on or around May and landholders counted on this and prepared for the resumptions, their preparations in one case included a cut back of production and given that there are many roads on the Tablelands that were meant to commence before the onset of the wet season and that this is not a one off case and also that an ALP Senator has made statements about the state of our roads—

- (1) Will he explain why work has not commenced?
- (2) When will work commence?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/10/99): Initially that work was due to start on the Gillies Highway/Marks Lane intersection in May 1999. During the public consultation period, some of the landholders who would be subject to resumption under the proposal,

queried why the intersection could not be upgraded using traffic lights, which would result in reduced land requirements. This required additional consultation before agreement was reached on the original "staggered T" proposal for the intersection.

The delay was exacerbated by the protracted negotiations over the relocation of an Atherton Shire Council water main and by changes to resumption processes which required a plan to be surveyed and registered prior to the proclamation of resumptions.

I am pleased to advise that all preconstruction difficulties have now been resolved, the resumptions have been proclaimed and the department called tenders in September 1999. These will close on 21 October 1999.

1271. Capricorn Coast, Police Resources

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (14/9/99)—

As the Capricorn Coast is now the fastest growing area in Australia and as this means additional police will be needed in what are already crowded conditions, what plans are in hand to either build a new police station or largely extend the present one?

Mr BARTON (14/10/99): Construction of a new Police station at Yeppoon is included in the QPS 10-year rolling capital works program. It will proceed in line with other regional and statewide priorities. In the last five years the Capricorn Coast has seen the construction of the Emu Park Police Station and the Rosslyn Bay Water police complex as well as minor works which are currently under way at Yeppoon.

1272. Awoonga Dam; Mr and Mrs I. McGregor

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (14/9/99)—

With reference to the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) which has been, for sometime, negotiating with landowners for purchase of the properties in the Awoonga Dam catchment and as one landowner, Mr and Mrs I McGregor were made an offer by the GAWB and Mr McGregor accepted that offer yet subsequently the GAWB withdrew the offer—

When will the board be required to honour their offer and finalise sale at the agreed price?

Mr WELFORD (14/10/99): After seeking advice from the Gladstone Area Water Board, it is understood that the Board did negotiate with Mr McGregor concerning the purchase of his land over an extended period. The initial discussions were based on early estimates of the land likely to be affected by the proposed raising of the dam over two or more stages. These estimates were based on 1996 studies which were refined during the period of the discussions.

When detailed maps of the affected areas were developed it became clear that the McGregor's property was not substantially affected. Consequently the Board could not justify the purchase and the offer of purchase was withdrawn.

No Contract of Sale was drawn up in relation to the property and, as is an option in all such commercial transactions, the Board, as purchaser, decided not to proceed with the purchase.

In the first raising of the dam, the McGregor's land is not affected at all. In the second stage, the impact is minimal and not sufficient to justify total property acquisition. Additionally it is not known when the second raising will proceed, if ever. This uncertainty gives further weight to the Board's decision not to purchase.

In the view of the Board, there is nothing to prevent the sale of the property for its normal commercial use. The Board has advised Mr McGregor that it will assist him, should he wish to place his property on the market, by providing accurate information to any potential buyers who may be concerned about speculation in the market place about the potential impact of the dam raising. The Board has provided Mr McGregor with a map which clearly shows the very limited impact of possible future raisings of the dam on his land.

1273. South Burnett Meatworks

Mrs PRATT asked the Premier (14/9/99)—

With reference to the South Burnett Meat Works—

- (1) Is he aware that (a) at the recent creditors meeting, the administrators spoke of two options (i) an offer from Wenham Pty Ltd (option A), an offer of \$5m dependent on the purchaser raising \$15m in overseas funding and (ii) the directors option—to liquidate the co-operative, (b) at no time were the creditors given the opportunity to vote on the directors option although there is wide community and worker support for the directors option, (c) with option A, the proposed purchaser had not signed any agreement or contract with the administrators, therefore there is no certainty of a sale and (d) the creditors were put in a situation of having no choice and having to vote for an unknown party, unknown outcome?
- (2) Will he explain why the administrators didn't include the marketing record of QSUN in their calculations?
- (3) Will he give to the South Burnett Meat Works, the equivalent support to ensure the future of the employees there, as that which he gave to the Dinmore Meat Works to ensure the jobs of the 700 employees as stated recently in Parliament?

Mr BEATTIE (18/10/99):

(1) (a) (b) (c) (d) The State Coalition Government did nothing to help the South Burnett Meatworks while it was in power. Indeed, the Coalition Government did virtually nothing to deal with the crisis which developed in the industry. My Government has acted to give the industry a future in Queensland. Yes, I am aware that Wenham Pty Ltd made an offer of \$5m at the creditors meeting of 3 September 1999. I understand that, at the creditors meeting of 3 September 1999, the administrators provided information about a number of options which

included the Wenham Pty Ltd proposal. The creditors were given the opportunity to, and did, express their views and voted that the offer of \$5m by Wenham Pty Ltd be accepted and that the meeting be adjourned to allow time for negotiations to continue. The administrator is currently in negotiations with Wenham Pty Ltd about the proposal.

(2) This question should be directed to the administrators.

(3) Meat works need to be operational and demonstrating longer-term viability to be considered for most Government programs. The Dinmore Meat Works was able to demonstrate that it has a sound and exciting business plan. As I have said in the House previously, this Government is prepared to assist the South Burnett Meat Works by committing \$400,000 to the development of a detailed business plan for any viable propositions that can be identified.

In addition to this, the Government is also prepared to fund the ongoing care and maintenance of the South Burnett Meat Works, in conjunction with Suncorp Metway, for a period of two to three months. This funding would provide sufficient time to allow detailed plans to be developed and to ensure that workers' entitlements are not further eroded.

1274. Charters Towers, Eventide Nursing Home

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (14/9/99)—

With reference to the construction of two new homes and one duplex in the grounds of Eventide Home, Charters Towers—

- (1) How was this construction work financed?
- (2) How many tenders were received for the construction of the duplex and the houses?
- (3) Will she advise the successful builders for the construction work at Eventide for Charters Towers District Health Service?
- (4) Will he provide me with a breakdown in the construction costs of (a) the duplex and (b) the two houses?

Mrs EDMOND (14/10/99):

(1) The finance required for the construction of the two new homes and two duplexes was derived in part from the operating and minor works budgets of the Charters Towers Health Service District.

(2) The number of tenders received for the two duplexes by Project Services North Queensland Regional Office, acting on behalf of the Charters Towers Health Service District was four and for the two houses was five. The evaluation of tenders was conducted in accordance with the Queensland Government's State Purchasing Policy.

(3) The successful tenderer for the construction of the two duplexes is A Gabrielli Constructions Pty Ltd. The successful tenderer for the construction of the two houses has not been decided.

(4) Construction costs for the two duplexes is \$231,150. Construction costs for the two houses will be known once the contract is awarded.

1275. Townsville Industrial Land Project

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (14/9/99)—

With reference to the Townsville Industrial Land Project and the preliminary identification of Woodstock as the preferred site for future industrial growth—

What is the current status of the evaluation process and when can the people of Woodstock and Townsville expect a final outcome from the investigation process and a decision by Government?

Mr ELDER (14/10/99): In August 1997, the Townsville Industrial Land Project (TILP) Study identified an area of some 11,000 ha, south-west of Townsville at Woodstock, for further detailed investigation, with a view to reducing the area to the 3,500 ha required to accommodate all the potential industries and their buffers in one contiguous site.

These detailed field investigations, conducted during the wet and dry seasons, are now complete and have revealed that the most suitable location is a contiguous area of 3,500 ha on the western side of the Flinders Highway, centred on CSIRO's Lansdown Research Station.

As part of the detailed studies, an extensive public consultation program was conducted concentrating on the Woodstock community. There was a reluctance by that community to accept that the Study had made the correct choice in location. To address this concern, a review was undertaken of all other lands in the region that might be suitable for heavy industry. This review revealed that only Woodstock and Stuart, an industrial node closer to Townsville, were suitable for heavy industry. As a consequence, the Consultant was commissioned to undertake further work to establish the capacity of the Stuart area to accommodate additional industry. The Stuart area includes some existing heavy industry, namely MIM copper refinery, Sun Metals zinc refinery and the AMH meatworks.

The consequence of the conduct of the additional investigations at Stuart has been a delay in the release of the Woodstock Report, until both reports had been completed. No decisions can be made on Woodstock until the results of the Stuart investigation are considered. Both reports will be publicly released simultaneously for community comment. It is important that the Government satisfy itself that it is making the correct decision in the interest of both the people of Woodstock and the wider Townsville community. In these circumstances, the delays, while unfortunate, have been justified.

To alleviate uncertainty in the Woodstock community, whilst this work was being completed, directly affected landowners and the Woodstock residents were informed of the findings of the Woodstock Site Selection Report on 24 May 1999.

Landowners whose properties fall within the identified 3,500 ha potential industrial site were advised personally by Departmental officers and in writing that their properties were still under consideration in the context of this Study. All other Woodstock landowners were advised by letter that their properties were outside the potential industrial site and therefore no longer under consideration. The directly affected landowners were advised that they would be provided with a copy of the detailed Site Selection Report for perusal and comment when it and the Stuart Report had been finalised by the Consultant. The Woodstock Action Group was also advised that it would be provided with copies (in limited numbers) for distribution to its members. The reports will also be placed in the local libraries for public scrutiny. A Public Discussion paper will also be released and placed on the Internet.

The final preparations are being made for the simultaneous release of the reports. A period of six weeks will be allowed for public consultation on the reports. This public consultation process will allow adequate opportunity for full consideration and comment by the Woodstock landowners and other interested parties. Following the public consultation and display period, comments will be included in the final report, which will then be considered by the Government early next year.

1276. Deagon Racecourse

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (14/9/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 656 from 26 May (Part 3) (14/9/99)—

What are the formal arrangements for the ownership and management of the operations at the Deagon Racecourse from his consultations with the Queensland racing industry?

Mr GIBBS (15/10/99): Future tenure arrangements for Deagon Racecourse are being addressed through consultation with the above Racing Industry Management Committee.

1277. Ambulance Service, Defibrillators

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (14/9/99)—

Further to her advice that a Queensland Ambulance Service defibrillator replacement program was to commence in 1999-2000 with a goal of ensuring no defibrillator passes a useful life of eight years—

- (1) Has this program commenced; if so, how many units have been replaced?
- (2) Which units are to be replaced?
- (3) How long is the program anticipated to take?

Mrs ROSE (14/10/99):

(1) This program has commenced. 76 new Manual defibrillators, and 52 Automated External Defibrillators (AED) were purchased in the 1998/99 Financial Year. Attachment A details type and age of defibrillators. (Tables and attachments may be

obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The replacement program has only identified three Year 2000 non-compliant units, which have been replaced. Before progressing further, a Registration of Interest has been called to identify the most suitable replacement monitor/defibrillator. Changes in technology require a regular review of what is purchased.

(3) The replacement program is over a three-year period. Units will be replaced by age category when the replacement unit has been determined.

QAS has currently earmarked \$423,200 within the 1999-2000 budget, which will provide for the purchase of approximately 35 defibrillators.

A number of Local Ambulance Committees (LACs) are expected to provide funds to purchase defibrillators during the 1999-2000 year, however, at this stage, details are not yet available as some LACs are still determining their expected revenue for the 1999-2000 year.

1278. Public Housing

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/9/99)—

With reference to public housing at 31 August 1999—

- (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) couples (without children), (b) couples (with children), (c) single (with children), (d) singles (without children), (e) others 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 six months, (b) six to 11 months, (c) one to two years, (d) two to three years, (e) three to four years and (f) greater than four years in total and by area office?
- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 September 1998 and 31 August 1999 in total and by area office?
- (5) How many applicants were allocated public housing during the month of August 1999?
- (6) How many evictions of public housing tenants have occurred during the month of August 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (18/10/99): The Coalition continues to ask questions about waiting lists in Queensland, and I will continue to point out their ongoing responsibility for the situation. As I have recently stated, the waiting list for public housing will probably get worse. This will occur thanks to the actions of Coalition Governments at the federal and State level in recent times that have drastically cut the funding available for public housing programs.

The Federal Government's cutbacks in the new Commonwealth State Housing Agreement will rob Queensland of at least \$60 million over the four-year

life of that agreement. This is before the impact of the Goods and Services Tax is taken into account. The GST will cost the Department of Housing an estimated \$30 million a year in extra costs. These callous cuts come after the Borbidge Government slashed \$130 million from Queensland Department of Housing funds. Both Governments stand condemned. If the Coalition was genuinely interested in public housing waiting lists they would not have slashed Housing funds.

Despite their ongoing efforts to score points on the waiting list, I am yet to hear any Queensland Coalition politician stand up for public housing tenants and applicants who will suffer from the \$60 million cut in CSHA funds and the \$30 million a year impact of the GST.

In answer to the honourable member's specific questions:

(1) As at 31 August 1999, there were a total of 24,764 applicants on the public housing waitlist. 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 waitlist by family type as at 31 August 1999. (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 waitlist by wait time in months, and by area office as at 31 August 1999. (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 September 1998 and 31 August 1999 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 August 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(6) During the month of August 1999 there were 7 public housing tenants evicted.

1279. Public Housing

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/9/99)—

With reference to public housing—

- (1) At 31 August 1999, 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) four to less than eight weeks, (b) eight to less than 12 weeks and (c) 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 August 1999, how many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?

Mr SCHWARTEN (18/10/99):

(1) The current level of tenancies in arrears amongst public housing tenants of 1.9% continues to compare favourably with the arrears level of up to 10% which is generally accepted as the norm in the private market. See Attachment A for the number of accounts in arrears by four or more weeks rent, in total and percentage terms by Area Office. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) See Attachment A for the number of public housing rental accounts in arrears for (a) four to less than eight weeks, (b) eight to less than 12 weeks and (c) greater than 12 weeks in total and by area office, and the monetary value of these categories as at 31 August 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) At 31 August 1999, of the total 48,623 public housing tenants, 3,187 or 6.6 percent, were paying full market rent.

1280. Banana and Eidsvold Shires, Roadworks

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/9/99)—

With reference to the Theodore/Cracow/Eidsvold road—

- (1) How much has his department allocated for expenditure for maintenance on this road in the Banana Shire in the last three years?
- (2) How much of that allocation has been spent on this road in each financial year and what maintenance work was completed with that allocation?
- (3) How much money has his department allocated for expenditure for maintenance on this road in the Eidsvold Shire in the last three years?
- (4) How much of that allocation has been spent on this road in each financial year and what maintenance work was completed with that allocation?
- (5) What capital works projects were funded on this road by his department in the Banana Shire in the last three financial years?
- (6) What capital works projects were funded on this road by his department in the Eidsvold Shire in the last three financial years?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/10/99):

(1) Maintenance works consist of routine and cyclical maintenance carried out by the Banana Shire Council, on behalf of Main Roads. A bulk allocation is made each year and works are carried out on all declared roads in Banana Shire with Banana Shire managing the road network as part of their stewardship role. Works are carried out on a needs basis when the intervention levels are met. In addition some minor upgrading such as low cost sealing, is carried out to obviate expensive resheeting.

In addition to Routine Maintenance, an allocation is provided for specific maintenance works such as gravel resheeting. Indicative allocations for all maintenance works on this road in Banana Shire are detailed below:

In the 1996-1997 financial year, \$151,000 was allocated.

In the 1997-1998 financial year, \$43,000 was allocated.

In the 1998-1999 financial year, \$207,000 was allocated.

In the 1999-2000 financial year, \$310,000 has been allocated.

(2) In the 1996-1997 financial year the actual expenditure was \$143,000. The works carried out involved resealing sections of the road and carrying out routine maintenance.

In the 1997-1998 financial year the actual expenditure was \$115,000. The works carried out involved steel deck repair to Castle Creek and carrying out routine maintenance.

In the 1998-1999 financial year the actual expenditure was \$124,000. The works carried out involved replacement of timber culverts and routine maintenance.

In the 1999-2000 financial year the actual expenditure is estimated to be \$310,000 (this figure is an estimate of works let to Banana Shire Council). The proposed works to be carried out are gravel resheeting*, formation widening and routine maintenance. One section of the gravel resheeting works will be sealed due to concerns expressed by the local community about the bus not being able to climb the gravelled surface.

Routine Maintenance work includes gravel resheeting, formation grading, pothole patching etc.

(3) Routine Maintenance works are those carried out by Eidsvold Shire Council, on behalf of Main Roads. A bulk allocation is made each year and works are carried out on all declared roads in Eidsvold Shire from this allocation with Council managing the road network as part of its stewardship role. Works are carried out on a needs basis when the intervention levels are met.

In addition to Routine Maintenance, an allocation is provided for specific maintenance works such as gravel resheeting. Indicative allocations for all maintenance works on this road in Eidsvold Shire are detailed below:

In the 1996-1997 financial year, \$115,000 was allocated.

In the 1997-1998 financial year, \$202,000 was allocated.

In the 1998-1999 financial year, \$93,000 was allocated.

In the 1999-2000 financial year, \$285,000 has been allocated.

(4) In the 1996-1997 financial year the actual expenditure was \$203,000. The works carried out involved gravel resheeting of road formation, resealing various sections and routine maintenance.

In the 1997-1998 financial year the actual expenditure was \$309,000. The works carried out involved gravel resheeting of shoulders and road formation, resealing of various sections and timber bridge repairs.

In the 1998-1999 financial year the actual expenditure was \$242,000. The works carried out involved gravel resheeting of road formation, grading of shoulders, drainage improvements and routine maintenance.

In the 1999-2000 financial year the actual expenditure is estimated to be \$400,000 (this figure is an estimate of works let to Eidsvold Shire Council). The proposed works to be carried out are gravel resheeting of road formation, resealing of various sections and routine maintenance.

(5) Over the past three years, approximately \$2 million have been spent on the road replacing the Castle Creek Bridge and sealing its approaches. The actual expenditure on that project over the past three years is as follows:

1996-97—\$141,000

1997-98—\$1,463,000

1998-99—\$359,000

In the current financial year, a further \$433,000 will be spent completing the minimum standard seal of the approaches.

1281. Queensland Building Tribunal

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (14/9/99)—

With reference to the performance of the Queensland Building Tribunal up until 14 September 1999—

- (1) How many domestic building disputes have been lodged with the Queensland Building Tribunal since 26 June 1998?
- (2) How many domestic building disputes lodged with the Queensland Building Tribunal since 26 June 1998 have been finalised through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?
- (3) How many of the unresolved domestic building disputes lodged with the Queensland Building Tribunal prior to 26 June 1998 have now been finalised through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?
- (4) What was the average cost of each domestic building dispute (a) lodged and finalised by hearing since 26 June 1998 and (b) lodged prior to but finalised by hearing after 26 June 1998?
- (5) What was the average cost of each domestic building dispute (a) lodged and finalised by mediation since 26 June 1998 and (b) lodged prior to but finalised by mediation after 26 June 1998?
- (6) What was the average time taken by the Queensland Building Tribunal to finalise domestic building disputes lodged since 26 June 1998 through (a) hearing by tribunal

members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?

- (7) What was the average time taken by the Queensland Building Tribunal to finalise domestic building disputes lodged prior to 26 June 1998 but finalised since 26 June 1998 through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?

Ms SPENCE (14/10/99):

(1) 541 domestic building disputes ("dbd") have been lodged between 26 June 1998 and 14 September 1999. In addition, the Tribunal received 257 review applications and 355 Disciplinary applications within this period.

(2)(a) 89 dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 had been finalised by hearing at 14 September 1999 and (b) 252 dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 had been finalised by mediation at 14 September 1999. In addition, 66 dbd have been withdrawn, settled, etc with the assistance of the Tribunal making a total of 407 lodged and finalised within that time.

(3)(a) 65 dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 were finalised by hearing as at 14 September 1999 and (b) 18 dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 were finalised by mediation as at 14 September 1999. In addition, 19 dbd were withdrawn, settled, etc with the assistance of the Tribunal making a total of 102 on hand at 26 June 1998 and finalised by 14 September 1999.

(4) The Queensland Building Tribunal does not compile costs for each domestic building dispute determined by hearing. However, an estimated average cost for one day of hearing would have been \$1,023.00 up to 14 December 1998 (when members' fees were increased) and \$1,105.00 since that date.

(5)(a) Average cost of dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 and finalised by mediation is \$258 and (b) Average cost of dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 and finalised by mediation is \$286. (5(a) and (b) are the average costs paid to mediators and the figures do not include any administrative components).

(6)(a) Dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 and finalised by hearing in an average of 131 days and (b) Dbd lodged since 26 June 1998 were finalised by mediation in an average of 40 days.

(7)(a) Dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 were finalised by hearing in an average of 300 days. (b) Dbd on hand at 26 June 1998 were finalised by mediation in an average of 49 days.

1282. Maryborough Hospital; Hervey Bay Hospital

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Health (14/9/99)—

With reference to speech pathology waiting times and staffing at Maryborough and Hervey Bay Hospital and as the available staff in this region include two private practitioners in Maryborough, two practitioners within the hospital system and two within the education system and there is a vacancy within Disability Operations and the waiting time for assessment at both Maryborough and Hervey Bay

hospitals is currently over six months, then waiting for treatment involves another six months for people who utilise the public system—usually the financially disadvantaged—

What steps are being taken to rectify this situation and the timing of such rectification?

Mrs EDMOND (14/10/99): There are two speech pathologists employed in the Fraser Coast Health Service District—one manages the adult patients and the other in paediatric patients. Inpatients receive priority over outpatients who are treated in order of clinical need. Waiting times for adult patients at both sites is five months with nine patients at Maryborough and 13 at Hervey Bay. Waiting times for paediatric patients is six weeks with three patients at Maryborough and three at Hervey Bay. There are no immediate plans to increase the public hospital speech pathology staff numbers.

1283. Public Housing

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/9/99)—

With reference to public housing at 31 August 1999—

- (1) How many dwellings by dwelling type and bedroom number were vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) greater 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?
- (3) What is the composition of public housing stock by number and dwelling type?

Mr SCHWARTEN (18/10/99):

(1) Data on vacant dwellings has been revised to more accurately reflect the actual stock of housing units available for allocation. Housing units that are undergoing maintenance, for sale, being redeveloped or demolished are not considered as housing stock available for tenants. The listed dwellings are those available for allocation to clients on 31 August 1999. See Attachment A for the number of vacant tenable dwellings, by dwelling type and bedroom number, vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) more than 12 weeks in total and by area office as at 31 August 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The vacant turnaround time for maintenance of public housing premises was 12.3 calendar days, as at 31 August 1999. The vacant turnaround time for allocations of public housing premises was 20.1 calendar days, as at 31 August 1999.

(3) The data supplied by Property Portfolio Management within the Department of Housing provides a snapshot of stock holdings at any given date. Variations in total stock numbers will occur as dwellings are acquired, sold or disposed of in other ways. See Attachment B for the composition of public housing stock by number and dwelling type as at 30 September 1999, which is the latest available

data. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1284. Century Zinc

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (14/9/99)—

With reference to the Century Zinc project in North-west Queensland—

- (1) Will he indicate if any additional native title claims have been lodged over the Century Zinc project; if so, will he provide details of the claims and those involved?
- (2) Have these claims come about through his Government's lack of vigilance since the Century agreement was struck?

Mr McGRADY (15/10/99):

(1) The full details of the claim area and the rights claimed may be obtained on the public register of the native title claims held by the National Native Title Tribunal and also the Federal Court of Australia.

(2) No.

1285. Safety Switches

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (14/9/99)—

With reference to the Government's decision to abolish the former Coalition Government's \$50 rebate for the installation of safety switches in Queensland houses which has been replaced by an initiative that the Government has now provided to allow for the installation of safety switches to be paid for over a period of time—

- (1) What is the cost of the supply and installation of safety switches?
- (2) How has this price been set?
- (3) Can consumers arrange their own certified contractors to supply and install these switches or does the Government insist on selecting these contractors?
- (4) If the Government insists on selecting its own contractors, what guarantees will he give that their prices are competitive with those of private contractors?
- (5) If consumers can use a private contractor of their choice, how do they take advantage of the Government's scheme regarding payment for that contractor?

Mr McGRADY (14/10/99): Stage 2 of the rebate scheme will involve the introduction of programs by Energex and Ergon Energy aimed at providing a simple means for customers to have these important safety devices installed.

(1) Energex is offering two standard safety switch packages:

Option 1. Standard Package—\$185 including installation.

Option 2. Premium Package—\$295 including installation.

These prices are based on a standard installation. Any extra work required to install the switch will be quoted to the customer for acceptance or otherwise prior to installation.

Ergon Energy scheme is similar in nature to the above with matching costs.

(2) Both Corporations have advised me that the price has been determined by a combination of:

Volume based price negotiations with the contractors, plus;

A margin to cover the costs associated with promotion of the product and the sales and service activation processes.

(3) As an interim measure, Energex have engaged the services of the Electrical Contractors Association to coordinate the delivery of the service to customers including the arrangement of a suitably qualified electrical contractor to perform the work.

Energex is developing an accreditation system, where all licensed electrical contractors will be able to apply for an "Energex Approved Installer" certificate.

Ergon Energy advises that they will insist on selecting installers based on a specification that includes satisfying quality, service, and safety criteria.

(4) Energex advises that the anticipated volume of safety switch sales and installations enables Energex to purchase the product below "recommended retail" price. This provides Energex with the opportunity to utilise some of the existing retail margin to cover the costs of providing the service, whilst ensuring the safety switch packages are competitively priced.

Ergon Energy advises that their price structure will meet the market. Costs will be set to reflect the community service nature of the program.

(5) Energex advises that this is not currently an option for safety switch purchasers, however as outlined in the response to question 3, development is under way on a program that will allow more contractors to take advantage of the Energex payment options. Ergon Energy advises that, due to quality, service, and safety considerations, installation will be by preferred contractors.

1286. Entergy; Tarong Power Station

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on (14/9/99)—

With reference to the loss of Entergy as an equity partner from the proposed expansion of the Tarong Power Station—

- (1) Was the lengthy period of time for the Government to provide an operating licence for the project a reason for Entergy's withdrawal?
- (2) Is he aware of any reason where the Government's involvement may have caused Entergy's withdrawal?

Mr McGRADY (14/10/99):

(1) No. There have been no delays in the process for considering the generation authority application once an effective application was submitted.

(2) No. Entergy's American parent company recently announced that the company would be focusing on American business and would be withdrawing from all international ventures. Entergy accordingly withdrew from the partnership arrangement with Tarong Energy.

1287. Community Jobs Plan

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/9/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 172 which he regards as being unclear and in order to clarify the situation—

(1) Will he explain what is meant by the underlined portion of the statement below, which is taken from document ET 10—

"Where the applicant intends to recruit some of the participants for a project from a Flex 3 provider, the applicant will also need to specify in their submission the portion of the Flex 3 providers fee or an in-kind contribution which will be made to the project."

(2) In what way does this portion of the Flex 3 provider's fee or in-kind contribution differ from a kickback from the Flex 3 provider to the project?

Mr BRADY (13/10/99):

(1) Under the Community Jobs Plan Guidelines, employees in a project may be clients of a Flex 3 provider. The above quote was from an early version of the Guidelines for the Community Jobs Plan, when it was understood that Flex 3 providers would receive an 'outcome fee' from the Commonwealth Government as a result of their clients being employed through the Community Jobs Plan.

This is not the case, as the Federal Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business has since made a policy decision not to pay outcome fees to Job Network providers placing their clients in Community Jobs Plan projects, as the Community Jobs Plan is a labour market program.

As a result, the Department has revised the Community Jobs Plan Guidelines for 1999/2000 and distributed them to stakeholders in June 1999. Under the current Guidelines, Flex 3 providers are not required to contribute to Community Jobs Plan projects, but may participate in projects by providing training or services to participants as part of their community contribution.

(2) As a result of the changes to the Guidelines, this question is not relevant.

1288. TAFE

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/9/99)—

- (1) What is the total cost of launching the current Vision Statement for TAFE Queensland (including travel, accommodation, entertainment, salary and administrative costs of himself, his ministerial staff, departmental officers and staff, etc.)?
- (2) As the TAFE Constitution indicates that he will provide an annual Vision Statement for TAFE Queensland, does he anticipate next year's launch costs will be higher, lower, or about the same as this year's?

Mr BRADY (13/10/99):

- (1) This request would result in an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) This matter will be considered next year.

1289. HOME Scheme

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/9/99)—

With reference to the HOME Scheme, including the HOME Loan and Rental Purchase Plan (RPP) at 31 August 1999—

- (1) What was the total number of repossessions and converted "loans to rent" for both schemes listed above since their respective introductions?
- (2) What were the total losses realised from loan write-offs for both schemes listed above since their respective introductions?
- (3) What were the total capital gains or losses realised on the department's share of RPP properties since the schemes introduction?
- (4) What was the total of revaluation decrements for RPP properties since the schemes introduction?
- (5) What was the total value of additional assistance measures for (a) HOME Loan—interest subsidy, (b) RPP—lease subsidy and (c) RPP—insurance costs since their respective introductions?
- (6) How many loans and repossessions are currently on hand?

Mr SCHWARTEN (18/10/99): I welcome this question since it gives me another opportunity to reinforce the relative performance of the two most recent home purchase assistance schemes offered in Queensland:

the interest subsidy scheme initiated by the former Coalition Government in 1982/3 which operated until 1988/89. The scheme set loan repayments at 25 percent of a borrower's income, and

the Home Ownership Made Easier (HOME) Scheme initiated in August 1990 in response to strong consumer demand at a time of record high interest rates of around 16% and 17%. The HOME scheme had two components—HOME Loans and a Rental Purchase Program (RPP). A total of 13,157 Home Loans were advanced between 1990 and June 1994 and 6,225 RPP loans were made between 1990 and May 1996.

Before answering specific questions, it is important to recognise that one of the measures of success of any lending product is the number of people it helps into home ownership. Out of more than 13,100 borrowers under the HOME Loan scheme, more than 10,600 have paid out their loan—either for the purposes of upgrading to another house, swapping to a private sector financier, or paying of their loan. That means the HOME Loan scheme has so far helped more than 10,600 people into the home ownership market—a considerable success rate. Coalition politicians have a track record of criticising the HOME Scheme by focusing on a handful of failed loans and deliberately ignoring its key measures of success.

In answer to specific questions:

(1) As at 31 August 1999, a total of 528 repossessions had occurred under the HOME Scheme and 545 under the RPP. This compares with a total of 574 repossessions made under the Coalition's interest subsidy scheme. Repossessions under the Coalition's scheme hit a single year high of 225 in 1987/88. The highest number of repossessions in a single year under the HOME Scheme was 134 in 1994/5. Attachment A illustrates the repossessions under each scheme. The total number of converted "loans to rent" for the HOME Loan Scheme was 82 and total number of "loans to rent" for the RPP scheme was 58. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) When assessing figures for loan write-offs it is important to recognise that any home finance lender will suffer some losses. However the most recent performance of the HOME Loan scheme indicates these credit losses could be recouped in the longer term. Of the remaining borrowers in both the HOME Loan and RPP schemes, about 78% are ahead in their repayments—a key indicator of a well-performing portfolio. In terms of the HOME Loan scheme, prepayments as at 31 August 1999 total about \$10.3M. Also, since 31 January 1999, the average HOME Loan balance outstanding has decreased from \$70,903 to \$69,121—also regarded as a healthy sign for the portfolio's performance because borrowers are paying off their loans. Based on the performance of previous home lending schemes—which perform better as the portfolio matures—and having regard to the recent strong performance of HOME mortgages, there is an expectation that over time the HOME Scheme could recover all of the credit losses. As at 31 August 1999, the total loss from loan write-offs for the HOME Loan scheme was \$15.4M (representing 1.5% of total lending of \$1,032M) and the total loss from loan write-offs for the RPP scheme was \$4.6M (representing about 2.9% of total lending of \$160M). Interestingly, it is not possible to reveal the full extent of the losses realised on the Coalition's interest subsidy scheme. Under that scheme, any repossessed property that did not sell at public auction was vested to the Department of Housing, ie: transferred to public housing stock at the value of the outstanding debt. In effect, the amount of losses incurred under the Coalition scheme has always been grossly underestimated.

(3) As at 31 August 1999, the total capital gain realised on the department's share of RPP properties was \$10.7M and the total capital loss realised on the department's share of RPP properties was \$5.8M

(4) Revaluation decrements represent adjustments to the "paper" value of the department's share of RPP properties. It is misleading to claim they represent a realised loss. They do not. The adjustments are based on the values determined from an annual valuation of the properties using a conservative index, a sample of kerbside valuations and any physical valuations undertaken during the year. These properties may be subsequently sold which will then give rise to a realised gain or loss. As at 31 August 1999, the total revaluation decrements for RPP properties was \$13.3M.

(5) As at 31 August 1999, the total value of additional assistance measures for the various schemes were:

(a) The cost of subsidies under the HOME Loan scheme has been \$4.8M. This compares with the cost, so far, of interest subsidies under the Coalition Scheme of \$138.7M.

(b) The RPP scheme operates on the basis of a lease subsidy and should be viewed as a substitute for mainstream public housing. Therefore, the lease subsidy—which generally approximates a public rental subsidy—should be regarded as revenue forgone and not as a realised loss. Additional assistance measures including an additional subsidy on the lease component were introduced in January 1996. Neither subsidy is recorded by the department. The amount of the additional subsidy is an estimate of the difference between lease payments and the actual lease payments received. To date that figure is \$10.9M.

(c) For the RPP scheme, insurance costs total \$1.2M.

(6) As at 31 August 1999, the total number of loans for the HOME Loan scheme was 1,928 and the total number of loans for the RPP scheme was 3,097. A total of 2,894 loans from the Coalition's interest subsidy scheme are also still current. The total number of reposessions on hand for the HOME Loan scheme was seven and total number of reposessions on hand for the RPP scheme was 11. Also as at 31 August 1999, there were four reposessions on hand for the Coalition's interest subsidy scheme—10 years after lending ceased, underlining the fact that all home lending schemes face potential losses.

1290. WorkCover, Redundancies

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/9/99)—

With reference to the statement "WorkCover has also assured the Union there will be no more forced redundancies" on page 5 of the SPSFQ Journal "Public Sector Voice"—

(1) Will he indicate the number of forced redundancies undertaken by WorkCover management?

(2) If no such forced redundancies have occurred and the Union's statement is misleading, will he ensure that the union prints a retraction in the next edition of its journal?

Mr BRADY (13/10/99):

(1) I am advised by WorkCover that there have been no forced redundancies.

(2) No. WorkCover Queensland is an independent authority responsible for managing its business activities and human resource matters. As such, this is a matter for discussion between WorkCover and the SPSFQ.

1291. Rural Communities Infrastructure Program

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (14/9/99)—

(1) As the Rural Communities Infrastructure Program provides funds to smaller communities to improve community, recreational and tourist facilities, since July 1998 (a) which local governments were provided funds from this program, (b) what level of funding was provided to each local government and (c) on what date was it provided?

(2) As a \$7.5m program over two years was initiated to assist local governments to identify the work necessary to rehabilitate council owned/controlled waste sites, since July 1998 (a) which local governments were provided funds from this program, (b) what level of funding was provided to each local government and (c) on what date was it provided?

(3) As a \$2m pilot program has been initiated to provide assistance to local governments for infrastructure and equipment to enhance security in public places, since July 1998, (a) which local governments were provided funds from this program, (b) what level of funding was provided to each local government and (c) on what date was it provided?

Mr MACKENROTH (8/10/99):

(1) I advise the honourable member that the Rural Communities Infrastructure Program has been superseded by the Rural Living Infrastructure Program (RLIP). Subsidy offers from the RLIP totalling \$2.184M were made to 79 local governments on 30 March 1999. As a result of approved variations, the total subsidy is now \$2.191M. Details of the local governments and the amount offered to each under the RLIP are listed in Table One. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) Nineteen local governments were made subsidy offers on 3 August 1999 under the first round of the Landfill Remediation Assessment Program (LRAP). Details of the local governments and the amount offered to each under the LRAP are listed in Table Two. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) Subsidy offers from the Security Improvement Program (SIP) totalling \$1.935M were made to 36 local governments on 21 June 1999. Details of the local governments and the amount offered to each under the SIP are listed in Table Three. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1292. Fire Levy

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (14/9/99)—

Why is the cost of the fire levy on motels the same for a two level eight unit block as it is for a two level 30 unit block?

Mrs ROSE (14/10/99): The prescribed fire levy for a Hotel or Motel is based on the number of levels in the building not the number of units. Section 108 of the Fire and Rescue Authority Act 1990 provides for a regulation to be made setting out the amounts of the contributions by categorising prescribed properties and prescribing different amounts of contributions in accordance with those categories. Schedule 2 of the Regulations to the Act sets out the 16 fire levy groups.

The prescribed base for a Hotel or Motel is on the number of levels and is as follows:

- Group 4—Hotel, Motel (No more than 2 levels)
- Group 6—Hotel, Motel (3 levels)
- Group 8—Hotel, Motel (4 levels)
- Group 9—Hotel, Motel (5-6 levels)
- Group 11—Hotel, Motel (7-10 levels)
- Group 12—Hotel, Motel (11-16 levels)
- Group 13—Hotel, Motel (17-25 levels)

The foregoing categories are the bases applied in the Regulation and have been so since the inception of the Urban Fire Levy Scheme in 1985/86.

1293. Health Minister, Cabinet Documents

Miss SIMPSON asked the Premier (14/9/99)—

With reference to his statement in July 1998 in which he said that Cabinet would not be used as a safe haven for politically sensitive documents and that under his Government, documents would only be exempted if they were of a personal nature or deemed to be commercial-in-confidence—

What will he do to discipline his Health Minister for breaching his rules by taking material which is not personal in nature or commercial-in-confidence to Cabinet to avoid scrutiny?

Mr BEATTIE (18/10/99): I can only imagine that the member is confusing the practice of the Coalition Government's Health Minister with the policy adopted by my Government. The Coalition Government's Health Minister constantly refused to release details of his failure to deliver on what he had promised in relation to waiting lists for non-emergency operations.

For the first time in Queensland history, my Government's Health Minister releases full details of waiting lists for operations every quarter. These show that with the increased funding and efficiencies provided by my Government, doctors and nurses in

our public hospitals have been able to increase the number of operations carried out.

I can assure the member that the only documents the Health Minister in my Government brings to Cabinet are Cabinet Submissions. These submissions have resulted in the mess left by the Coalition Government's Health Minister being cleared up by the present Health Minister.

1294. Pacific Motorway; Speed Radar

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/9/99)—

With reference to trailer mounted radar which is used to measure the speed of motor vehicles at work sites on the Pacific Highway and gives electronic warning to motorists if their speed is exceeding the 80 km/h speed limit—

Will he give consideration to extending this system to school zones, 50 km/h zones and other known black spots as is now happening in New South Wales?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/10/99): Queensland transport has a program for school communities called the Speed Awareness Program. The program involves volunteers from the school community using either a hand-held radar and speed display board, or a trailer-mounted variable message board with an in-built radar, to display the speed of passing vehicles and to remind motorists to check their speed when approaching a school area. Each Queensland Transport region has three hand held speed awareness devices and one speed awareness trailer. School communities interested in accessing the program should contact their local Queensland Transport Road Safety Consultant.

The use of a trailer mounted speed display is not considered to be the most appropriate method for addressing speeding issues in 50 km/h local streets. Alternatively, the hand held laser enforcement devices (LIDAR) which are now in use by the Queensland Police Service are considered to be the most effective tool for the control of speeds in local streets.

The use of trailer mounted speed displays is generally not considered to be the optimal means of targeting black spot locations. Speed cameras are already used at black spots where the crashes are speed related. At black spots where crashes are not speed related, crash investigations and road safety audits are undertaken to identify causes and determine more appropriate long term remedial treatments.

1295. Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (14/9/99)—

With reference to the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund—

For 1999-2000 (year to date) (a) how many claims were made on the fund by consumers who were

misled by real estate agents, (b) how much was paid from the funds to these claimants, (c) how many claimants did not receive successful claims, (d) how many claims were made on the fund by consumers who were misled by car sellers, (e) how much was paid from the funds to these claimants and (f) how many claimants did not receive successful claims?

Ms SPENCE (14/10/99): These figures are as at 24 September 1999.

(a) From 1 July 1999 to 24 September 1999, there were 17 claims against the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund considered by the Committee where the claimant maintained they were misled by real estate agents.

(b) The amount of \$32,972.82 has been paid to claimants in respect to claims made against real estate agents.

(c) 11 claimants were unsuccessful in their claims against real estate agents.

(d) From 1 July 1999 to 24 September 1999, there were 26 claims against the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund considered by the Committee where the claimant maintained they were misled by motor dealers.

(e) The amount of \$112,805.70 has been paid to claimants in respect to claims made against motor dealers.

(f) 10 claimants were unsuccessful in their claims against motor dealers.

1296. Q-Build Industry

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/9/99)—

With reference to Q Build Industry—

- (1) What was the total revenue (accrual based) derived from sales and/or services for (a) 1998-99 and (b) year to date for 1999-2000?
- (2) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) for (a) 1998-99 and (b) year to date for 1999-2000?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by QBI for (a) 1998-99 and (b) year to date for 1999-2000?
- (4) Of the total expenditure (accrual based) for (a) 1998-99 and (b) year to date for 1999-2000 how much has been spent in the following categories (i) materials and stores, (ii) salary and wages, (iii) labour hire fees and charges, (iv) advertising and (v) travel/travel expenses?
- (5) What is the projected expenditure (accrual based) for the remainder of 1999-2000 in the following categories (i) materials and stores, (ii) salary and wages, (iii) labour hire fees and charges, (iv) advertising and (v) travel/travel expenses?

Mr SCHWARTEN (15/10/99):

(1)(a) \$12,801,315 for 1998-99, and (b) \$1,637,663 to 30 September 1999.

(2)(a) \$13,631,756 for 1998-99, and (b) \$1,857,704 to 30 September 1999.

(3)(a) A loss of (\$830,441) for 1998-99, and (b) A loss of (\$220,041) to 30 September 1999.

(4)(a) 1998-99 (i) \$7,041,590 for materials and stores, (ii) \$4,422,434 for salaries and wages, (iii) \$162,179 for labour hire fees and charges, (iv) \$14,784 for advertising and (v) \$3,300 for travel/travel expenses, (b) To 30 September 1999 (i) \$566,563 for materials and stores, (ii) \$1,047,426 for salary and wages, (iii) \$13,798 for labour hire fees and charges, (iv) \$3,384 for advertising and (v) \$1,977 for travel/travel expenses.

(5)(a) \$7,679,252 for materials and stores, (b) \$3,033,222 salary and wages, (c) \$41,394 for labour hire fees and charges, (d) \$26,616 for advertising and (e) \$7,023 travel/travel expenses.

1297. Public Works Department, Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/9/99)—

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 the month of August in 1999-2000?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for the month of August in 1999-2000 by (a) cost of sales and (b) operating expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 31 August 1999?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for the month of August 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (14/10/99):

- (1) \$3.096 Million.
- (2) Expenditure (accrual based) (a) Cost of Sales \$2.278 Million (b) Operating Expenses \$0.796 Million.
- (3) \$4.682 Million.
- (4) \$0.022 Million.

1298. Electricity Corporations, CSO Payments

Dr WATSON asked the acting Treasurer (Mr Beattie) (14/9/99)—

With reference to the CSO payments made to the electricity industry, for each electricity corporation or unit, will he provide (a) the quantum of the CSO payments for each electricity corporation or unit for 1997-98 and (b) the expected quantum of CSO payments for each electricity corporation or unit for 1998-99?

Mr HAMILL (12/10/99): GOC retailers, Energex Retail Pty Ltd (Energex) and Ergon Energy Retail (Ergon), are required to provide franchise customers with electricity at regulated, uniform, Statewide tariffs. The cost of providing electricity is underwritten by the Government. Electricity CSO payments are required to be made by the Government when the cost of supplying franchise

customers exceeds the revenue obtained from the uniform tariffs.

CSO payments during 1997-98 totalled \$86.3 million and were paid to Ergon.

As a result of higher than expected pool prices following commencement of the national market in 1998, CSO payments for 1998-99 are expected to be \$150 million for Energex and \$250 million for Ergon.

1299. Queensland Building Services Authority, Home Warranty Insurance

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (14/9/99)—

With reference to the home warranty insurance provided to consumers through the Queensland Building Services Authority—

Will she list for the period 1 July 1999 until 14 September 1999 the (a) total value of claims, (b) average value of claims, (c) maximum monetary value of a claim possible at the time and (d) premium paid?

Ms SPENCE (14/10/99): The following table provides information in relation to the total estimated value of claims made during the period 1 July 1999 to 31 August 1999, total value of claims, the average claim value, premium payments, maximum policy benefits and the percentage of approved claims that were fully compensated. The provision of data to 14 September 1999 as the member has requested is not included as significant resources would be required to produce it for such a period. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1300. Queensland Building Services Authority, Home Warranty Insurance

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (14/9/99)—

With reference to the home warranty insurance provided to consumers through the Queensland Building Services Authority—

Will she list for the period 1 July 1999 until 14 September 1999 the (a) total number of policies taken out, (b) total value of premiums received, (c) total value of claims and (d) total administrative costs for the insurance scheme?

Ms SPENCE (14/10/99): The following table details, for the period 1 July 1999 to 31 August 1999, the total number of policies taken out, total value of premiums processed, total value of claims and the total administrative costs for the insurance scheme. The requested figures to 14 September 1999 are not available without the dedication of significant resources. It is important the member notes the premium processed has no relationship to the claims expense in the same period. Each relate to entirely different insurance periods. This is particularly relevant with the six and a half year span of insurance cover. (Tables and attachments may be obtained

from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1301. Drug-dependent Mothers

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Health (14/9/99)—

- (1) How many children were born to drug dependent mothers in 1998-1999 and what percentage were these of the total number of children born?
- (2) What screening is undertaken of mothers or infants to detect if the child is likely to have been exposed to substance abuse and what percentage of new born infants have been exposed to substance abuse by virtue of their mother's usage?
- (3) Apart from alcohol, what drugs have the infants been exposed to in rank order?
- (4) What follow-up procedures are in place for the care of the mothers and infants and is there any systematic linkage to the Department of Family Services for follow-up on the families for child protection matters?
- (5) Has there been any cost analysis of the ante-natal care of such babies as in the United States and what are the results of any such cost analysis?
- (6) Moreover, is there any legislative or policy driven compulsory reporting of these babies or their families to the SCAN team (Suspected Children Abuse or Neglect) as in child abuse cases?

Mrs EDMOND (14/10/99):

- (1) There is no reliable data on this issue.
- (2) On admission, pregnant women are assessed on a number of health, psychosocial and lifestyle issues.
- (3) The recent National Drug Household Survey showed that alcohol is the drug with the greatest usage in the Australian community. Tobacco, or nicotine, is the drug with the next greatest proportion of use by the general public. Cannabis and analgesics are the only other drugs of major use.
- (4) A newborn child exhibiting drug withdrawal symptoms receives the appropriate treatment. In most hospitals during postnatal care, and on discharge, parents are introduced to parenting skills concepts and informed of various support services. With infants considered at risk of further health complications, follow-up visits to health services are recommended.

The enhancement of parenting skills is considered one of the most effective means of child protection. Queensland Health's Riverton Statewide Program provides a 24-hour telephone information service and a residential service for at-risk families to promote parenting and infant health care.

Queensland Health is also implementing this Government's Strengthening Families Initiative which includes the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), Young Parents Support Program and the Save the Children Future Parents Program. These initiatives

provide free parenting programs to parents. Child health nurses and other health professionals will deliver programs from child health care centres across the State.

A trial of supported home based nursing services provided to identified vulnerable families is currently being evaluated by the Family CARE project. In most cases the psychosocial assessment of a mother includes assessment of a number of risk factors that might indicate child abuse or neglect and subsequently, referral to a SCAN team. Queensland Health has a close working relationship with the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

(5) In Queensland, there has been no cost analysis of the antenatal care of infants with drug related problems.

(6) No, as the use of drugs, illicit or licit, is not necessarily an indicator of child abuse or neglect.

1302. Queensland Transport, Credit Card Facilities

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/9/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question On Notice No. 747 in which he advised that payment of registration by phone using credit cards would remain a payment option and will be promoted appropriately and that payment by credit card constitutes approximately 20 per cent of payments and as staff of the department's customer service centres recently stopped work because of their inability to handle the number of customers required to attend customer service centres—

Will he explain why this payment option has been deleted from registration renewal notices?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/10/99): In April 1997, Queensland Transport introduced a new telephone credit card payment service. It allows customers to pay their vehicle and vessel registration renewals and speed and red-light camera fines by telephone. Since this time a range of other innovative and flexible service options have been introduced by the Department.

Queensland Transport is keen to encourage the use of these new service options—including the use of registration renewal notices. Credit card payments by telephone continues to be available for registration renewals and camera-detected offence payments.

In 1998 Queensland Transport joined the Bpay payment system which allows payment of Queensland Transport and a large number of other accounts by telephone using either a debit card or credit card. This system is more flexible and a lower cost option for Queensland Transport.

Queensland Transport introduced EFTPOS debit facilities in Customer Service Centres in the last half of 1998 to assist customers who did not wish to carry large amounts of cash or who didn't use cheques. The majority of customers are satisfied with the debit option. Unfortunately, the merchant fees on credit card payments preclude the introduction of this option in Customer Service Centres.

Queensland Transport is constantly seeking innovative and flexible payment options for customers, bearing in mind the need to minimise administration costs and hence registration fees.

1303. Wynnum Hospital; Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund

Mr HEGARTY asked the acting Treasurer (Mr Beattie) (14/9/99)—

With reference to the fact that Wynnum Hospital recently received \$7,700 worth of new equipment including an emergency department trolley and cart and two diagnostic sets, through a grant from the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund—

Will he explain why his Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund is being siphoned by Government departments to the detriment of community organisations?

Mr HAMILL (12/10/99): The Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund is intended to supplement, not replace, other sources of support available to community groups, including Government support.

Under the current Fund guidelines, Government or semi-Government organisations such as hospitals are ineligible for funding. Community support groups such as hospital auxiliaries are, however, eligible for consideration. Similarly, schools are ineligible but the local P&C is eligible as a community support group.

The Wynnum Hospital Auxiliary Inc submitted an application for \$10,527 in December 1998 to the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund. This association subsequently received an allocation of \$7,500 towards the purchase of medical equipment for the Wynnum Hospital in June 1999.

1304. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Maryborough Office

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (15/9/99)—

With reference to three files in regard to allegations concerning the work practices of officers of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DFY&CC) from the Maryborough District Office detailing allegations of impropriety against those officers—

- (1) Is she aware that officers of the DFY&CC at Maryborough, combined forces with an officer of the Department of Housing to carry out an undercover investigation into the community service organisation Hervey Bay Crisis & Community Housing Association Inc in March/April/May and that the housing department officer was known and boasts of being a member of the practicing witchcraft fraternity?
- (2) Is she aware that the Department of Housing officer is the current president of a local area women's health service and that her partner is a paid employee of that service?
- (3) Is she aware that the housing department officer and her partner boast of being involved

in witchcraft activities and have direct access to vulnerable women seeking assistance from that health service?

- (4) Is she aware that the housing department officer has boasted about the casting of witchcraft spells on a community service organisation?
- (5) Does she condone the allegiance between the officers of her department at Maryborough with known members of the occult/witchcraft fraternity?
- (6) Is it the usual practice or prerequisite for officers of DFY&CC to employ or obtain the services of known members of the occult/witchcraft fraternity to carry out undercover investigations into community service organisations?
- (7) What credence does she place in regard to allegations laid against the community service organisation in a report presented to the DFY&CC officers at Maryborough by that Department of Housing officer?

Ms BLIGH (15/10/99):

(1) There has been no undercover investigation of Hervey Bay Crisis and Community Housing Association by officers of my Department. On the contrary, I have approved \$10,000 for the conduct of an open and impartial review by an external consultant. This review will also examine the management of the service and provide an opportunity to report on any specific complaints from the organisation about the conduct of departmental officers in their resourcing role to the service.

The "Department of Housing officer" referred to is the incumbent of a position funded by the Department of Housing, but employed by a community agency. If there are specific concerns about that worker, they should, in the interests of accountability and natural justice, be referred directly to the employing body. Because of your reference to the Housing Department, I have referred your concerns to my colleague the Honourable Robert Schwarten MLA, Minister for Housing, for his information.

(2) I understand this service is funded by Queensland Health and concerns should have been addressed to my colleague the Honourable Wendy Edmond MLA, Minister for Health. I have taken the opportunity to bring these concerns to the attention of the Minister for Health. Should you have any further concerns, may I suggest that you contact her.

(3) I understand this service is funded by Queensland Health and concerns should have been addressed to my colleague the Honourable Wendy Edmond MLA, Minister for Health. Also, I have taken the opportunity to bring these concerns to the attention of my colleague, the Minister for Health. Should you have any further concerns, may I suggest that you contact her.

(4) I was unaware of this allegation until the Hervey Bay Crisis and Community Housing Association recently wrote to me alleging that this has occurred.

(5) Any work undertaken by officers of my Department is on a professional basis only. Obviously, it would be of concern if individuals are engaged in these activities and there is clear evidence that this is impinging on their professional role, or affecting clients. In this case, no clear evidence is available. Should such evidence be provided, or arise in the course of the review, appropriate action will be taken.

(6) No, of course not. The assertion in the question by the member is preposterous.

(7) It would not be appropriate to comment further until the independent review has been completed.

1305. Organ Donor System

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/9/99)—

With reference to proposed changes to Section 14A of the Traffic Act 1949 to enable Queensland Transport to pass information on to Queensland Health for the purpose of an organ donation registry—

When will this amendment to the Act occur?

Mr BREDHAUER (15/10/99): As required by section 24 of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1995, the Government will soon be tabling a response to Report No. 16 of the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee, entitled Review of the Transplantation and Anatomy Amendment Bill 1998.

The Government's response to this report will identify measures which are being taken to facilitate organ donation and will outline any further proposals requiring consideration. The Government's position on potential legislative amendments, such as that raised by the member, will be addressed in this response.

The member's interest in this subject is fully appreciated. However, as the Committee's report was requested through a formal referral from the Assembly, it is not appropriate to comment on these matters until this response is tabled.

1306. Roma, Hiring Out of Bulldozers by RTCS

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/9/99)—

With reference to private earthmoving contractors in the Roma district who allege RCTS are hiring out dozers on a dry basis (ie no driver) at ridiculously low prices and, in doing so, are creating unfair competition—

- (1) Will he concede that if this is the case then it represents a misuse of public assets?
- (2) Does he consider such a practice is unfair to the private contractor?
- (3) Will he investigate the matter and, if necessary, ensure hiring prices reflect the true cost of operating these machines?

Mr BREDHAUER (15/10/99):

- (1) It is Plant Hire Services, not RTCS, hiring out the dozers. Plant Hire Services supports the rural and remote communities on a sole invitee basis when plant is available as was the case in Roma.
- (2) Plant Hire Services operates under agreed principles and complies with policy for Commercialisation and Competitive Neutrality.
- (3) When Plant Hire Services do supply under a sole invitee agreement, it is at current market rates with a hire or leasing product that suits its customer's needs.

1307. Atherton Hospital

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Health (15/9/99)—

With reference to the Atherton Hospital—

- (1) Is it her department's policy to close down the outpatients' facility at this hospital and that all outpatients have been advised to see private practitioners?
- (2) If it is not the intention of her department to close down the outpatients' facility at this hospital, why is there a ten week waiting period to see a doctor at the hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (15/10/99):

- (1) No. Queensland Health has no intention of closing the outpatient facility at the Atherton Hospital or any other Queensland Hospital.

Atherton Hospital continues to provide quality inpatient and outpatient health care to the community. Members of the public accessing the Atherton Hospital's 24 hour emergency service are clinically assessed, with emergency and life threatening cases being seen immediately by a medical officer. When emergencies occur, non-urgent patients are advised of waiting times and are provided the option of either remaining at the hospital or seeking the services of one of the 13 private general practitioners in the town. The final decision always rests with the patient.

Patients wishing to book an appointment to see a doctor are given the same advice and options regarding anticipated waiting periods.

- (2) There is currently a two-week waiting period for doctors' appointment for general practice type services. Queensland Health is not funded to provide GP-type services which is the responsibility of the Federal Government through the Medicare system. For continuity of health care it is preferable for patients to utilise a regular GP who is familiar with their medical history.

1308. Point Vernon Hospital

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Health (15/9/99)—

- (1) Will she explain, in detail, her plans for the Point Vernon Hospital?
- (2) When are these changes due to occur?

- (3) What consultation did she have with the residents of Point Vernon before making this decision?
- (4) Is it true that plans are in place to have a drug rehabilitation centre or shooting gallery placed at this location?

Mrs EDMOND (15/10/99):

- (1) Queensland Health intends to utilise the considerable area of vacated space to enhance local community based and public health services including: the Red Cross Blood Bank; Breastscreen Queensland which provides an on site screening service for three months of the year; the Public Health Unit, providing the Young People at Risk Program, Environmental Health, Health Promotion and Disease Surveillance and Control; and the Alcohol and Drug Service. Queensland Health will not locate the new Hervey Bay Methadone Service at the Old Point Vernon Hospital. While Point Vernon was originally suggested as an option by Queensland Health, a number of other options are now being considered in recognition of community concerns. The Government is committed to providing methadone services in the district to ensure that the appropriate treatment is available and accessible for people who are drug dependent.

- (2) It is anticipated that all services will be in place by early 2000.

- (3) In this instance, Queensland Health did not undertake a separate public consultation exercise as the plans represent an enhancement of services on an established health facility site with widely accepted treatment interventions.

- (4) The Government does not support the establishment of shooting galleries and in line with this position, none will be established in Point Vernon or anywhere in Queensland.

1309. Oil Recyclers Australia Pty Ltd; Wulkuraka Industrial Estate

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (15/9/99)—

With reference to ORA Pty Ltd Petroleum Products UN NO. 1271 hazchem 3YE which is operating at the Wulkuraka Industrial Estate, Leichhardt recycling oil and fuel products—

- (1) Under what authority is this company operating as an oil refinery?
- (2) What local government regulations does this company, ORA, have to comply with?
- (3) Is ORA complying with these regulations?

Mr MACKENROTH (8/10/99):

- (1) I am advised Lifnax Pty Ltd and Oil Recyclers Australia Pty Ltd (ORA) were carrying out an oil refinery operation on land at 136 Chalk Street, Wulkuraka for approximately two years without Council approval around 1995-97. During this time, Council issued a prosecution notice under the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990 ordering the operators to cease the operation and

submit an appropriate development application to Council.

On 8 October 1997, Ipswich City Council refused a combined application by Lifnex Pty Ltd and ORA to rezone 1.75 hectares of land from the Future Industry Zone to the Special Facilities (Oil Refinery—Minor) Zone and permitted development, namely an oil refinery (minor) at the subject site.

The applicant appealed Council's decision and the matter was heard in the Planning and Environment Court. On 29 September 1998, the Court overturned Council's decision and approved the application subject to conditions.

(2) ORA must comply with the conditions imposed by the Planning and Environment Court with respect to the application. The conditions of the rezoning application relate to such matters as compliance with Australian Standards, preparation of studies and reports for hazardous areas, fire management, emergency and safety management, preparation of an Environmental Management Plan and compliance with the environmental licensing provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

The conditions of the permitted development application for the oil refinery relate to such matters as intensity of use, preparation of incident reports, site access, landscaping, engineering requirements, health and environment requirements, maintenance and construction hours, lighting, stormwater runoff and liquid waste. The operator must also comply with the provisions of the Ipswich City planning scheme.

(3) This is a matter for the Ipswich City Council and my colleague, the Honourable Rod Welford MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources. However, I am advised that since the approval of the Court was given, ORA has begun to implement the conditions attached to the approval. A management plan has been submitted to council in this regard.

1310. Howard and Tennyson Power Station Sites, Asbestos

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/9/99)—

With reference to the decontamination of asbestos at the Howard and Tennyson power station sites—

- (1) When does he expect the clean-up to commence at each site?
- (2) What was the original clean-up going to cost when it was first looked at, at Tennyson and Howard sites?
- (3) What are the current estimated costs to carry out the clean-up at the Tennyson site and the Howard site?
- (4) What efforts are being made to clean up these hazardous locations?

Mr McGRADY (15/10/99):

(1) The clean up of asbestos at Tennyson Power Station was completed in 1996/97. Rehabilitation of the Howard Power Station site has been delayed due to applications to heritage list the site. The Australian

Heritage Commission has since decided to remove the power station from its Interim Register of National Estates. Public notices of its withdrawal will occur in October subject to a three month objection period. It is expected that removal of asbestos and site rehabilitation work will commence thereafter in early 2000.

(2) In 1998, AUSTA Energy estimated the cost of the decontamination and rehabilitation of the Howard Power Station site at \$6 million. Given that the decontamination work on the Tennyson site was completed over three years ago, comparisons between original expected costs and current costs are no longer relevant.

(3) The Queensland Power Trading Corporation (the present owner) still estimates the current cost of demolition and rehabilitation at the Howard Power Station site at about \$6 million. Given that the decontamination work at the Tennyson site has been completed, there are no expected additional costs.

(4) Tennyson Power Station clean up has been completed. The process to employ contractors to remove asbestos and plant and demolish buildings at the Howard Power Station was halted in 1997 because of applications to heritage list the site. Work at the site is expected to restart in early 2000 (refer to question 1).

1311. Regional Forest Agreement; Caboolture and Woodford, Job Security

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (15/9/99)—

With the still lingering doubt over the swift resolution of south east Queensland's RFA, what assurances in relation to job security and the future for themselves and their families can I give my constituents in the timber communities of Caboolture and Woodford?

Mr WELFORD (15/10/99): The historic agreement signed last Thursday by the Premier, the timber industry and conservationists provides job security and a very bright future for the timber industry. Whilst it has taken time to finalise, the outcome has been well worth it: a true win-win for the timber industry, timber workers, conservationists and the community as a whole.

For example existing native forest hardwood sawmills in Woodford and Caboolture that rely on crown timber will receive allocations at current rates for the next 25 years, providing unprecedented security and a platform for increased business investment.

At the same time the Government will be putting in place measures to ensure the timber industry's future not just for 25 years but far beyond. Funding will be provided to establish a hardwood timber research and extension program and 10 million trees will be planted over the next 5 years as part of an \$18 million softwood and hardwood plantation program.

This very positive outcome for the timber industry has been achieved while securing a very substantial increase of 425,000 hectares in the conservation

reserve system which will ensure the protection of virtually all old growth forests on crown lands in South East Queensland.

1312. Sandgate, Eventide Nursing Home

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (15/9/99)—

As 20 beds at Sandgate Eventide nursing home have recently been closed by the Government, what has happened to those bed approvals or licences?

Mrs EDMOND (15/10/99): No beds have been closed at Eventide Sandgate—therefore nothing has happened to the approvals or licences. A \$4.4 million capital works refurbishment program has been under way at Eventide for some months and the scope of works has resulted in some beds not being occupied during that time. Each of the houses at Eventide has been refurbished to enable fire and safety standards to be met and to address occupational health and safety issues.

1313. Crimes (Confiscation) Act

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (15/9/99)—

What progress has been made to date with updating and amending Queensland's confiscation of the proceeds of crime laws?

Mr FOLEY (15/10/99): Two Acts containing amendments to the Crimes (Confiscation) Act 1989 have been passed with dates of assent in April 1999. They were the Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 and the Statute Law Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. A number of other proposals for amendment to the Act are currently the subject of consultation.

1314. Employment Task Force Report

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/99)—

Will he table the report by Dr David Warner of the Employment Taskforce which indicates that "Australia, it would appear, lacks the strategy, the skills base, the infrastructure and sufficient awareness in regional areas of changes that are occurring in the information technology industry"?

Mr BRADDY (15/10/99): The proper process for seeking such information is pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act where appropriate.

1315. Mount Isa Base Hospital

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (15/9/99)—

With reference to the need for relief staffing at Mount Isa Base Hospital when junior doctors take leave or are required to cover for the leave of the district's peripheral hospital doctors at Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Julia Creek, Richmond and Mornington—

Why is Queensland Health's normal practice of funding specific positions to provide for both internal leave and external relieving not occurring at Mount Isa Base Hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (15/10/99): Queensland Health has not allocated funds to districts specifically for internal medical relief except for the situation when medical superintendents with a right to private practice were approved an additional half-day free from duty. Allocations for relief for the positions described is included within existing budgets as the positions have been in existence for many years.

1316. National Parks

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (15/9/99)—

With reference to the Queensland national park network—

- (1) Will he provide a list of Queensland's national parks, their location and their size?
- (2) Which of these were purchased in the last twelve months and at what cost?
- (3) How many park rangers are there and where are these rangers based?

Mr WELFORD (15/10/99):

- (1) I will forward to the honourable member a listing of all National Parks within Queensland and their sizes along with a map of Queensland depicting the location of current National Parks.
- (2) Six areas of high conservation value have been purchased since 15 September 1998. With the exception of the Moresby Range land, the remainder are awaiting dedication as Protected Areas under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.
 - (a) Albinia Downs, situated about 5km west of Rolleston, was acquired for \$3.29M, with the National Reserve System of the National Heritage Trust contributing two-thirds of this acquisition.
 - (b) Nairana, situated midway between Charters Towers and Clermont, was acquired for \$2.44M with the National Reserve System of the National Heritage Trust contributing two-thirds of this acquisition.
 - (c) A part of Bayview Estate, situated at Mt Cotton, was acquired by Redland Shire Council utilising a contribution of \$2.4M from the Environmental Protection Agency.
 - (d) Freehold lands situated south of Venman Bushland National Park were acquired by Logan City Council for \$1.68M utilising a contribution of \$0.84M from the Environmental Protection Agency.
 - (e) Cammoo Caves, situated at Mount Etna, was acquired for \$0.265M with the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Reserve System of the National Heritage Trust each contributing \$0.1M and the Central Queensland Speleological Society and Pacific Lime contributing \$0.065M.

(f) Freehold lands situated near Moresby Range National Park were acquired by the Environmental Protection Agency for \$0.37M.

(3) As at 30/6/99, the rounded number of park rangers shown as full time equivalents (FTEs) was—

Total park rangers—467

Comprising:

Terrestrial park rangers—378

Terrestrial park rangers (capital projects)—26

Marine park rangers—63

Note: Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service also employed 44 rangers involved in wildlife management, 3 rangers involved in conservation employment programs, 16 rangers at Fleays Wildlife Park, 6 rangers involved in community extension and 6 rangers involved in conservation research activities. A list of the locations of park rangers is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1317. Deaths in Custody

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (15/9/99)—

Will he detail the number of deaths in custody in Queensland correctional facilities in 1998-99 and since 1 July 1999?

Mr BARTON (15/10/99): Yes.

The total number of deaths in custody in Queensland Correctional facilities in 1998/99 was 19, all of whom were males. Four of these deaths were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons. It is important to note that 10 of those deaths were as a result of natural causes.

The total number of deaths in custody in Queensland Correctional facilities between 1 July 1999 and 15 September 1999 was 3, comprising 1 male and 2 females. None of these deaths were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons.

1318. Cape York, Youth Crime Prevention Strategy

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (15/9/99)—

With reference to the \$500,000 announced in July for a youth crime and self harm prevention strategy in the Cape York indigenous communities—

- (1) What are the details of the programs?
- (2) At what centres are the programs located?
- (3) How many youths have participated in each of the programs since July?
- (4) What are the details of the criteria to measure the success or otherwise of each program?

Ms BLIGH (15/10/99):

(1) My Department has been working with remote Aboriginal communities to respond to specific youth issues such as crime, suicide and self harm through

the Far North Queensland Indigenous Youth Development Project.

The Aboriginal Coordinating Council (ACC) has been funded to deliver services to young people in the following manner:

A resource unit based in Cairns, which will: work proactively and on-call with communities experiencing problems with young people's offending and self harming behaviour; provide training and facilitate forums for communities and workers to instigate appropriate responses; call on other agencies, including State and Commonwealth Departments, to problem solve issues as they arise; and work collaboratively with a range of Government agencies in the planning of youth services to North Queensland Indigenous communities.

Discretionary funds to be allocated as required for the implementation of local responses to young people at risk. These responses are likely to be time limited and seasonal and involve the provision of funds to employ community workers and operational funds to conduct preventive or rehabilitative programs. Funds may also be used to finance the operation of planned programs for young people which reduce the extent of self harming and harmful behaviour or to buy specific expertise as required.

(2) The Far North Queensland communities identified as project priorities are Aurukun, Kowanyama, Mornington Island, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Palm Island, Yarrabah, Lockhart River, Napranum and the Northern Peninsula Area. While the resource unit is based at the ACC in Cairns, it will deliver specific resources and on-site services in the priority communities as required.

(3) The Far North Queensland Indigenous Youth Development Project is in the early stages of commencement. Funds totalling \$170,000 (full year effect) have been provided to date. These funds will be used primarily for youth suicide prevention work in the first instance. It is anticipated that the remainder of this year's funds, \$312,000 (full year effect) will be made available in the last quarter of the 1999/2000 financial year. One project worker, with a suicide prevention focus, commenced in early August 1999. Indigenous community protocols require that the Council and the Elders are approached for permission to work directly with individual young people. The focus of the work on youth suicide prevention is with the affected community. Field visits and community meetings have been held in Doomadgee, Mornington Island and Normanton, focusing on issues relating to juvenile crime, self-harm and suicide prevention. It is estimated that 15 young people have participated in the project since August this year. The second project worker will be employed in mid November this year, and at that point the Project will be fully operational.

(4) The measures of success for the Project are being finalised but are expected to include:

the number of community projects identified and the number that are funded

the number of young people actively involved in community matters

the reduction in the incidence of self-harm and contact with the juvenile justice system.

The ACC will be required to report on its performance against outcomes which will be developed in consultation with the ACC and an established Reference Group, and will also be required to participate in data collection and evaluation.

1319. TAFE

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/99)—

With reference to the item titled "TAFE outsourcing" on page 16 in issue No. 40 of the SPSFQ Journal Public Sector Voice—

- (1) How much did each of the institutes named in the article calculate that they could save the Queensland taxpayers by outsourcing the activities mentioned?
- (2) Will the union meet the additional costs incurred by having its members perform these activities?

Mr BRADY (15/10/99): (1 & 2) A decision or not to outsource is not simply a matter of direct costs. Whether or not functions or activities are outsourced is considered by Institute Directors and their Councils, on a case by case basis, having regard to, among other things, a detailed analysis of the costs and benefits, both direct and indirect, and the views of stakeholders, including staff and unions.

1320. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/99)—

With reference to the "Year 2000 Queensland Annual Vocational Education and Training Plan"—

As the department is planning to have a 30 per cent increase in trainee and apprentice commencements and a 10 per cent increase in completions, why are commencements with group training lower (at 25 per cent) but required completions four times higher (at 40 per cent)?

Mr BRADY (15/10/99): The Year 2000 Queensland Annual Vocational Education and Training Plan has not yet been published.

1321. Rescue Helicopter Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (15/9/99)—

With reference to rescue helicopter use for the period from 17 June to 31 August 1999—

Will she advise (a) the purpose of each trip, (b) type of helicopter utilised, (c) who was it owned by, (d)

destination of trip, (e) what was the cost of the trip—hire or charter, staff wages, helicopter costs, (f) what was the base of the helicopter, (g) what was the cost of repositioning and (h) who approved the use of the helicopter?

Mrs ROSE (14/10/99): In response to the question regarding the use of Departmental rescue helicopters, I advise that between 17 June 1998 and 31 August 1999 the Department of Emergency Services helicopters were activated on 415 occasions. The details of these flights are attached. All requests for use of the State's emergency helicopters are referred to the senior pilot at the relevant DES Air Unit. I am pleased to table the details of these flights. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1322. Police Resources

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (15/9/99)—

With reference to the issue of police to population ratios—

- (1) What is the latest National police to population ratio average?
- (2) What is the latest Queensland 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. 456?

Mr BARTON (15/10/99):

(1) As at 1 July 1999, the estimated national police to population ratio average was 1:466.

(2) As at 1 September 1999, Queensland's estimated police to population ratio was 1:485.

(3) As at 1 September 1999, the estimated police to population ratios in all police regions and districts were as follows:

Far Northern—1:432
Cairns—1:468
Innisfail—1:495
Mareeba—1:449

Northern—1:476
Mt Isa—1:261
Townsville—1:577

Central—1562
Gladstone—1:589
Longreach—1:256
Mackay—1:682
Rockhampton—1:546

North Coast—1:731
Bundaberg—1:740
Gympie—1:532
Maryborough—1:721
Redcliffe—1:827
Sunshine Coast—1:776

Southern—1:582
 Charleville—1:198
 Dalby—1:520
 Ipswich—1:616
 Roma—1:353
 Toowoomba—1:782
 Warwick—1:523
 South Eastern—1:631
 Gold Coast—1:615
 Logan—1:691
 Metropolitan South—1:712
 Oxley—1:818
 South Brisbane—1:656
 Wynnum—1:953
 Metropolitan North—1:542
 Boondall—1:1063
 Brisbane City—1:62
 Clayfield—1:780
 Ferny Grove—1:1170
 Fortitude Valley—1:187
 Indooroopilly—1:1161
 Petrie—1:767
 Sandgate—1:745

It should be noted that the National and State police to population ratio figures are inclusive of sworn officers undertaking duties that are centrally located, including many support functions for the whole State, such as the Property Crime Squad, the Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) and the Public Safety Response Team. However, these officers, although included in the overall figure and an integral part of the operational activities of Districts and Regions, are not included in the figures listed in (3) above.

1323. Southbank TAFE Institute

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/99)—

- (1) How much has the management of the Southbank TAFE calculated that they can obtain through the disposal and sale of Kangaroo Point Campus?
- (2) Have departmental calculations off-set the amount this asset sale is expected to raise against the added cost hundreds of hairdressing apprentices will now incur through having to travel to Logan, Bundamba or other outlying colleges for their training?

Mr BRADY (15/10/99):

- (1) No decision has been made to dispose and sell Kangaroo Point Campus.
- (2) Contrary to the inference in your question, there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of hairdressing apprentices enrolled at Kangaroo Point campus. The number of hairdressing apprentices currently enrolled at Kangaroo Point campus is on average 16 or less per day.

The reason for this decrease is:

the introduction of user choice arrangements for all apprentices by the coalition Government

which placed private provider operations in Brisbane's CBD in direct competition with Southbank Institute; and

the establishment of the Stefan partnership during the period of the coalition Government. The partnership requires Stefan apprentices to attend the Stefan training centre, staffed by Southbank Institute of TAFE teachers.

Within this context the management of Southbank Institute of TAFE is considering the nature and extent of its involvement in the training of hairdressers.

1324. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/99)—

With reference to the latest ACPET newsletter which contains a perceptive critique of the research undertaken by one of his departmental officers, Dr Larry Smith and as it appears that all but a few of his senior officers share similar views of the "research" undertaken by Dr Smith, Kim Bannikoff and Kaye Schofield—

Why is he continuing to utilise such flawed 'research' as the sole basis for training policy changes?

Mr BRADY (15/10/99): The "perceptive critique" you refer to was an anonymous unedited letter by one private provider who appears to have misrepresented both the content and purpose of Dr Smith's report in order to launch an unsubstantiated critique against TAFE Queensland. Dr Smith has quite rightly sent a detailed rebuttal of this article for publication in the ACPET newsletter. The Opposition attacks on the research undertaken by Dr Smith, Mr Bannikoff and Ms Schofield have arisen, in the main, from misquoting and misrepresenting the content of the reports. The researchers are highly qualified, highly experienced, and of the highest integrity. Ms Schofield was recently awarded the Australian College of Education medal for 1999.

1325. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 871 and to page 43 of the Statistics Report which underpins all the reports which form part of the research project evaluating the impact of VET reforms on Queensland apprenticeships and traineeships—

Why has he accepted his department's assurance that other histograms in this research project are not incorrectly labelled or described when the histogram and text on page 43 clearly indicate otherwise?

Mr BRADY (15/10/99): The editing error in the histogram on page 43 has no implications for the accuracy of the information presented in the reports. I rely on feedback from department staff with regards to the preparation of their internal reports.

1326. Transport Inspectors

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/9/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 817 in which he was asked how many breaches under transport legislation were submitted by Queensland Transport Inspectors—

As he chose only to answer the part of the question dealing with the hours of patrols undertaken, will he now advise the number of breaches detected for the years ending 30 June 1998 and 1999?

Mr BREDHAUER (18/10/99): The honourable member will recall that during his term as Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Transport introduced a new compliance policy which gave an increased emphasis on industry education and at the same time revised the Penalty Infringement Notice menu to exclude minor and/or administrative offences.

This decision which was implemented in the first half of 1998 resulted in a reduction in the breaches of Transport Legislation submitted by Queensland Transport's Transport Inspectors. As a consequence breaches reduced from 20659 in the year to June 1998 to 14192 in the year June 1999 where the full impact of the change in policy was apparent.

However, since the beginning of this calendar year, new Services Level Agreements have been put in place within Queensland Transport which have set priorities for enforcement in mass, registration, fatigue and vehicles safety.

As a consequence, of these agreements there has been a significant increase in the number of breaches of Transport legislation submitted by Transport Inspectors. In the six month period ended 31 August 1998, 7971 breaches were recorded. In the same period in 1999, 8053 breaches were recorded.

It should also be noted that the number of breaches has increased in targeted areas such as mass, dimensions, load restraint and motor vehicles safety. Breaches in these areas are up by more than 53% on average for the six months to 31 August 1999 compared to the corresponding period last year.

1327. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/99)—

With reference to the Year 2000 Queensland Annual Vocational Education and Training Plan—

As he has been critical of the Coalition for what he considered disproportionately low completion rates in apprenticeships and traineeships, why is his department planning to increase commencements by 30 per cent yet only planning to increase completion by 10 per cent?

Mr BRADY (15/10/99): The Year 2000 Queensland Annual Vocational Education and Training Plan has not yet been published.

1328. Community Jobs Plan; Community Employment Assistance Program

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/99)—

With reference to the Year 2000 Queensland Annual Vocational Education and Training Plan—

Will he indicate by age cohorts, the numbers of participants (a) who commenced with and (b) who completed programs under (c) the Community Jobs Plan and (d) the Community Employment Assistance Program?

Mr BRADY (15/10/99): The Year 2000 Queensland Annual Vocational Education and Training Plan has not yet been published.

1329. Vegetation Management Advisory Committee

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (15/9/99)—

With reference to the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee and the management of native vegetation—

- (1) What types of regional forums are being conducted?
- (2) In which regional communities are they being conducted?
- (3) How are the regional forums being advertised?

Mr WELFORD (15/10/99):

(1) The Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (VMAC), which includes representatives of peak organisations with an interest in sustainable vegetation management, has been meeting since March 1999 to provide policy advice in this important area. VMAC members have been diligent in reflecting the views of the membership of their organisations. Accordingly, duplication of these deliberations through a wider formal public consultation process has not been considered effective or appropriate to date.

However, my Department of Natural Resources has responded to requests from regional organisations, industry bodies and landholders to be informed of progress. Officers of my Department have attended and addressed a large number of meetings, forums and workshops to which they have been invited. These include large meetings such as a two-day vegetation management forum organised by the South West Natural Resource Management Group in Charleville on 3 and 4 August 1999, meetings of regional forums such as the Eastern Downs Regional Organisation of Councils, and meetings organised by Catchment and Landcare groups.

Further forums are planned for late 1999 and early 2000 to inform the community about proposals for the vegetation management framework and to discuss the development process and content of regional vegetation management guidelines. These forums will be coordinated by my Department of Natural Resources and will be conducted in all major centres across the State.

(2) Officers have addressed forums, workshops and meetings in the following centres:

Barcardine; Beaudesert; Biloela, Emerald (Fitzroy Basin Association); Boonah; Charleville; Chinchilla; Clermont (Central Highlands Regional Resource Use & Planning Project); Dalby; Dingo, Taroom (Dawson Valley Catchment Coordinating Association); Eidsvold (Agforce); Esk; Felton; Gatton; Goondiwindi (Waggamba Landcare & Agforce); Gore; Gympie; Inglestone; Inglewood (Inglewood Landcare); Jericho; Jimbour; Maclagan; Mareeba; Maryborough; Miles; Millmerran; Mitchell; Monto; Mt Isa; Mundubbera; Peranga; Rathdowney; Roma; Stanthorpe; and Toowoomba.

(3) Forums, workshops and meetings have been advertised through newsletters, flyers and the media.

1330. North Burnett Regional Economic Development Council

Mr SEENEY asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (15/9/99)—

With reference to the North Burnett Regional Economic Development Council (NBREDC) based at Monto—

- (1) Has his department provided any funding, either ongoing or one-off grant funding, to this organisation; if so, what was the funding provided for and what benefits were forthcoming from that funding?
- (2) What processes are in place to ensure any such funding is not misused or misappropriated?

Mr ELDER (15/10/99):

1. My Department has not provided any assistance to the North Burnett Regional Economic Development Council. However, I am advised that grants were provided by the previous Departments of Business, Industry and Regional Development and Tourism, Small Business and Industry to the organisation as follows:

\$10,000—'Main Street' Program (1996)

\$25,000—'Future Search' Program (1996)

The 'Main Street' program grant was provided for the employment of a Project Officer to work with retailers and Council to market and promote the Monto CBD. I am advised that benefits were realised by retailers in Monto and that a positive outcome report was submitted as a requirement in acquitting grant funding.

The 'Future Search' program was an initiative to identify and progress economic opportunities for the Monto Shire. A conference organised as part of this initiative attracted 130 attendees. Outcomes included the formation of industry groups to progress identified opportunities some groups of which are still operating—notably the Tourism Group and the Timber Group. The Timber group represented the interests of the Shire during recent Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) negotiations and is working, in

conjunction with the Bundaberg State Development Centre on a 'value adding to timber' project.

2. Strict conditions exist in relation to grant funding to ensure that funds are used in an ethical and accountable manner. Both of these grants were acquitted in accordance with State Government guidelines with mandatory outcome reports being provided.

1331. State Development and Trade Minister, Visit to South Africa

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (15/9/99)—

With reference to his recent visit to South Africa—

- (1) Who accompanied him on this visit (the names of staff, departmental officers and private sector individuals)?
- (2) Was former Premier, Wayne Goss, involved in the visit in any way?
- (3) Did he attend any football matches in South Africa; if so, which ones and who comprised the attending party?
- (4) Did he meet with any South African Government officials; if so, who and their official position?
- (5) Was an invitation extended to any other party to accompany him on this visit; if so, which party?
- (6) What South African officials were involved in the arrangement of the visit and what role did they play?
- (7) Were any costs associated with non Government members of his party borne by his office or department?

Mr ELDER (15/10/99):

(1) The Minister was accompanied by:

Mr Andrew Fraser, Senior Media Adviser; Mr John Strano, Executive Director Investment Division, DSD; Mr Giam Swiegers, Managing Partner, Deloitte Touche Tomatsu; Mr Wayne Goss, Consultant, Deloitte Touche Tomatsu

(2) Yes.

(3) The official party attended a test match between South Africa and Australia as guests of Western Province Rugby Union.

(4) No. The main objective of the mission was tightly focused on South African companies that had the capacity to invest in Queensland. The trip identified Queensland as a real alternative to Sydney and Melbourne for companies wishing to invest in Australia.

(5) No. The visit was facilitated by Deloitte Touche Tomatsu. I would stress that Deloitte is the largest accounting firm in South Africa which, in this instance, translated to direct access to a large number of private sector companies. During my time there some 150 businesses and individuals attended presentations given by myself or other members of the official visiting delegation.

Aside from the fact that it would be more than imprudent for the Government to invite other companies on a visit hosted by a non-Government organisation, I reiterate the objectives of the visit as outlined in the answer to question four.

(6) Other than those officials that may have been involved in the official process of entering and departing South Africa, none.

(7) No.

1332. Fishing Industry

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (15/9/99)—

With reference to Queensland's live fish trade—

- (1) Will he provide the catch figures for this trade since its inception?
- (2) What are the major markets for Queensland's live fish trade and what are they worth?
- (3) What controls are placed on the live fish trade?
- (4) How are these controls enforced?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/10/99):

1. It is not possible to distinguish reliably between catches of reef fish taken and retained "live" and retained "whole" from logbook data. However such distinction can be achieved from data about exports of fish and figures based on that data are provided as follows.

1995—96 tonnes
 1996—431 tonnes
 1997—369 tonnes
 1998—215 tonnes
 1999—195 tonnes to 30 June 1999

2. Live reef fish have been almost exclusively supplied to the Hong Kong market since the practice of marketing the fish "live" first commenced. Minor quantities have been exported elsewhere to south-east Asia. Queensland is only a minor supplier to the Hong Kong market which has an estimated official live reef fish market of 15,000 tonnes throughput annually. Prices for live fish have fallen substantially to around \$30 per kilo during 1999 placing a current value on landings at \$A12 to \$A15 million.

3. The live fish trade is subject to the same legal requirements as another commercial line fisher. The operator must be licensed under limited entry arrangements for the fishery, can only use rod and line or hand line for taking target species such as coral trout and must comply with minimum and maximum fish size limits.

4. These requirements are enforced by officers of the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol. The patrol carries out a range of inspection activities throughout the entire catching, marketing and pre-export chain according to the provisions of the Fisheries Act 1994.

1333. Prisons, Strip Searches

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (15/9/99)—

With reference to individual concerns that have been expressed about the use of strip searches of prison visitors and to information made public on 14 September which indicates the use or overuse of strip searches should be a matter of concern—

- (1) What are these search statistics district by district?
- (2) How many persons are charged after being strip searched?
- (3) Will he be reviewing the process needed and situations which will allow for strip searches?

Mr BARTON (15/10/99):

(1 & 2) The following strip searches of visitors have been conducted since July 1999:

Lotus Glen—Two strip searches conducted by police. Further testing of a substance is being conducted with a view to charges being laid. No charges were laid as a result of the second search.

Townsville—One strip search conducted by police. No charges.

Rockhampton—Thirteen strip searches conducted by police. No charges.

Woodford—Two strip searches conducted by police. No charges.

Moreton—Fourteen strip searches conducted by police. Twelve resulted in charges.

Sir David Longland—Six strip searches conducted by correctional officers. No charges were recorded regarding the searches.

Brisbane Women's—One strip search conducted by police. No charges.

Wolston—No searches. No charges.

Darling Downs—No searches. No charges.

Palen Creek—No searches. No charges.

Numinbah—No searches. No charges.

Section 108 of the Corrective Services Act 1988 refers to the search of visitors. Under this section, the general manager may ask a visitor to submit to a search. A visitor who refuses to submit to a search may be prohibited from entering the correctional centre.

It is practice that in all centres operated by Queensland Corrections, where information indicates that a visitor may attempt to introduce contraband to a centre, the information is carefully assessed prior to forwarding a request for search to the Corrective Services Investigation Unit or Queensland Police. Where passive drug dogs react to visitors at these centres, the visitor is offered a non-contact visit.

Where the police agree with a search request, the search is conducted by relevant police officers under the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. On occasion, when female police officers are unavailable to conduct a search of a female visitor, police may order female correctional officers to conduct the search under this Act.

(3) A review of legislation is currently being conducted by the Department of Corrective

Services. The review will also consider the amendment of legislation regarding the searching of visitors to prisons.

Visitors to centres are subject to various checks when entering a correctional centre. This may include scanning by a walk through metal detector or hand held metal detector, or search by passive alert dog. Additionally, it is anticipated that the department will introduce drug scanning machines in October 1999.

1334. Premier's Department, Policy Coordination Division

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (15/9/99)—

- (1) How many staff were appointed to positions in the Policy Coordination Division in 1998-99?
- (2) What is the projected number of staff in the division at 20 June 2000?

Mr BEATTIE (18/10/99):

(1) In the first full year of the Coalition Government (1996-97) staffing in the Department of Premier and Cabinet rose by 19 per cent. This was despite the National Party Premier gutting the Office of the Cabinet, which was the Government's coordinating and whole-of-government agenda setter. It was later admitted that the lack of a central coordinating unit had resulted in what commentators called 'chaos'.

I decided it was crucial to have a central agency providing a strong and visionary agenda-setting and coordination role. At 1 July 1998, Policy Coordination Division (PCD) had 58 FTEs.

During 1998/99 it was decided that Native Title Services (NTS), which at June 30, 1998 had 30 FTEs, would come under PCD. Through this division my Government has produced a solution to the native title impasse with the best legislation in Australia. In addition, NTS has successfully negotiated three major native title determinations—the Moa and Saibai Islands, and the historic Western Yalanyji agreement on Cape York. It is estimated these three settlements have saved the State the \$5 million that would have been spent by the Coalition Government in litigation. A further six claims are being negotiated at the moment. If the Coalition Government had been handling these, they would also have gone to court and would be costing up to \$10 million in lawyers' fees. All this has been achieved with a staff that at 30 June 1999, comprised 46 FTEs.

With Managing for Outcomes PCD's output was called 'Strategic Policy Advice including Coordination'. Cabinet Secretariat had its own output title of Cabinet Secretariat. During 1998/99, PCD filled 33 positions. With project teams such as Qld Heritage Trails Network, the Smithsonian Collaborative team, and Social Policy projects (eg. Crime Prevention and Community Services Strategy), the output (including NTS) had 135 FTEs at 30 June 1999.

(2) It is expected that there will be 153 FTEs at June 30, 2000. The Cabinet Secretariat will have 12 FTEs.

1335. Olympic Games

Mr HEALY asked the Acting Treasurer (Mr Beattie) (15/9/99)—

- (1) Will the State Government fund any suites at Sydney's Sheraton Wentworth Hotel during the 2000 Olympic Games; if so, how many and at what cost?
- (2) How many Olympic Games tickets has the Queensland Government been allocated for events in Sydney, to what events and to whom have they been allocated?
- (3) How many corporate boxes has the Government booked for Olympic Soccer games at the Gabba?
- (4) What is the total cost of these corporate boxes?

Mr HAMILL (19/10/99): I would suggest the member refer his question to the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing.

1336. Apprentices and Trainees

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/99)—

With reference to the Year 2000 Queensland Annual Vocational Education and Training Plan—

As he has been exceptionally critical of the Coalition for allowing an imbalance to occur, with more trainees commencing work than 'traditional' apprentices, why is his department planning to have precisely four times as many school-based trainees as school-based apprentices?

Mr BRADY (15/10/99): The Year 2000 Queensland Annual Vocational Education and Training Plan has not yet been published.

1337. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/99)—

- (1) Were all members of the project team assisting Kaye Schofield provided with a copy of the departmental document "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends, Statistics Report", which contains the statistical basis for various other reports?
- (2) If the answer is negative, will he explain why this critically important document was withheld from participants in the Schofield project?

Mr BRADY (15/10/99): The project team had access to the document.

1338. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/99)—

With reference to the Year 2000 Queensland Annual Vocational Education and Training Plan—

As he has been exceptionally critical of the Coalition's "Existing Workers Policy", why is his department now planning to ignore his policy in this area by having existing workers comprise 20 per cent of commencements of trainees and apprentices?

Mr BRADY (15/10/99): The honourable member fundamentally misunderstands the current Existing Workers Policy. People can still enter traineeships without attracting Government funding.

1339. Teacher Aides

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Education (15/9/99)—

On the first pay day of each month during 1999-2000, to date—

- (1) What was the number of teacher-aides employed in Queensland State schools (listed by month)?
- (2) How many FTE teacher-aides were employed and how many were FTE full-time, FTE part-time, FTE casual or FTE other (please specify) (listed by month)?
- (3) What was the total amount paid to teacher-aides on each of these pay days (listed by month)?
- (4) What was the total amount paid to FTE full-time, FTE part-time, FTE casual or FTE other (please specify) teacher-aides on each of these pay days (listed by month)?

Mr WELLS (15/10/99): The department informs me that:

It is not always possible to provide information for an exact date such as the first day of the month. Information as provided relates to staffing numbers as at the first pay close date of the month. Pay close date means the date upon which computer payroll processing concludes for the next due payment. The 'as at' date quoted for the information will represent the pay closure date.

FTE as at 9/7/99

Total—4,658.4; Permanent/Temporary—4,610.2;
Casual—48.2

Total amount paid—\$4,094,472.

FTE as 6/8/99

Total—6,121.0; Permanent/Temporary—4,676.7;
Casual—1,444.3

Total amount paid—\$5,767,494.

FTE as at 3/9/99

Total—6,172.9; Permanent/Temporary—4,640.2;
Casual—1,532.7

Total amount paid—\$5,829,644.

Note: The department informs me that:

1. FTE for teacher aides is based on 32 hours per week over 52 weeks which is the traditional standard maximum hours.
2. Includes all paid teacher aides ie State funded, commonwealth funded, school funded, and those on long service leave and other paid leave.

3. Excludes teacher aides on unpaid leave.

4. The 'as at' dates are the pay closure dates.

5. Casual teacher aides are paid via claim forms. The FTE counts reflect when the claim forms are submitted and processed, and therefore may not necessarily reflect the actual casual teacher aides working in a particular fortnight.

6. The casual hours are converted to full time equivalent hours.

7. The FTEs are prorated across the outputs based on the distribution of employee numbers that have been budgeted for in the 1999/2000 budget.

1340. Chevron and Sudaw Energy Projects

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (16/9/99)—

With reference to the current methods of prioritising energy projects whereby I would expect that projects that will efficiently cause the greatest benefit to the most Queenslanders, with the longest benefit streams, are regarded as deserving higher priorities and, in particular, I address the relative benefits of the Chevron and the Sudaw projects, both projects having significant foreign equity; indeed, most of the companies involved in Chevron, can be traced back to one banking dynasty in U.S.A., also to a statement by the Premier on 5 August that the Chevron pipeline was the most important job creator in Queensland and I take it the Premier meant Chevron and the Comalco project at Gladstone which needs cheap power thus in relation to Chevron and Sudaw and the associated Nathan Dam—

- (1) Will he provide a comparison of the benefits of both projects, including (a) 20 or 50 year benefit cost flows, (b) the life of each project, (c) the number of long term jobs and incomes generated, (d) the sensitivity of the Comalco project to energy cost, (e) the salvage value of the infrastructure, (f) risk assessments and (g) carbon credits and/or debits created by each project?
- (2) How can the Cabinet and he support their decision that Chevron is the most important job creator in Queensland?
- (3) Will he also give an assurance that heavy reliance on Chevron is free of risk?

Mr McGRADY (20/10/99): (1) Both the Surat-Dawson and PNG-Qld gas projects involve massive expenditure on infrastructure facilities and as they are the responsibility of the Deputy Premier, the Honourable Jim Elder MLA, these questions should be directed to him.

1341. Walloon-Rosewood Road

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/9/99)—

With reference to the Walloon to Rosewood, Rosewood to Grandchester Road—

- (1) Has his department any projected plans to upgrade this disgraceful road carrying heavy traffic?
- (2) Has his department allocated funds for expenditure on upgrading this road, in particular, the upgrading of a section in front of the Walloon State School; If so, is there any projected time when work might be carried out?

Mr BREDHAUER (18/10/99):

(1) The department is designing a 600 metre section of the Karrabin-Rosewood Road in front of the Walloon State School with the intention of construction commencing in early 2000.

In addition, funds have been provided in the maintenance contract with Ipswich City Council, to allow urgent maintenance and minor works on these roads.

(2) Construction of the road section in front of the Walloon State School is programmed for the 1999-2000 financial year with an anticipated start in early 2000.

1342. Whitsunday Electorate, Driver Testing Centres

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/9/99)—

With reference to the Department of Transport's driver testing centres at Mackay, Proserpine and Bowen—

- (1) How far in advance do learner drivers have to book to sit for their practical driving examination in relation to Class A motor vehicles?
- (2) How far in advance do learner drivers applying for heavy vehicle licences have to book to sit for their practical driving examination?
- (3) How far in advance do learner drivers applying for a motorcycle licence in both the under 250 cc and over 250 cc category have to book to sit for their practical driving examination?

Mr BREDHAUER (18/10/99):

- (1) Car: Mackay (6 days); Proserpine (3 weeks); Bowen (4 weeks)
- (2) Heavy Vehicle: Mackay (9 days); Proserpine (7 weeks*); Bowen (4 weeks)
- (3) Motorcycle: Mackay (6 days); Proserpine (3 weeks); Bowen (4 weeks)

* The reason for the slightly longer time for Heavy Vehicle tests in Proserpine is that the heavy vehicle examiner has to travel from Mackay and fit it in with the requirements for tests in Mackay.

1343. Caboolture, Driver Testing Centre

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/9/99)—

With reference to the Department of Transport's driver testing centre at Caboolture—

- (1) How far in advance do learner drivers have to book to sit for their practical driving

examination in relation to Class A motor vehicles?

- (2) How far in advance do learner drivers applying for heavy vehicle licences have to book to sit for their practical driving examination?
- (3) How far in advance do learner drivers applying for a motorcycle licence in both the under 250 cc and over 250 cc category have to book to sit for their practical driving examination?

Mr BREDHAUER (18/10/99): The approximate waiting periods for driving tests at Caboolture Customer Service Centre are as follows:

- (1) Car: 5 weeks
- (2) Heavy vehicles: 5 weeks
- (3) Motorcycle: 6 weeks.

1344. School Students, Suspension

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Education (16/9/99)—

With reference to the need for students who behave in an extremely undesirable manner to be suspended (or excluded) from school in order that the remaining students may continue their education in a satisfactory environment and to the Education (General Provisions) Act 1989 which states that, if a student is suspended for more than five school days, the principal must co-ordinate arrangements for placing the student in an alternative education program that allows the student to continue with the student's education—

- (1) During the period that a student is suspended, when that time is less than five school days, what controls are in place to avoid that student from being left to his/her own devices?
- (2) Because most people are employed and must attend their place of employment, does he believe that a facility should be established for the suspended students to attend as a compulsory requirement of their suspension?
- (3) If such a facility were considered, would he also consider allocating an isolated classroom and recreation area at the school for these students, in preference to excluding them from attending school?
- (4) What rehabilitation processes are available to the students who are suspended or excluded from attending school?
- (5) If there are rehabilitation processes already in place, is it compulsory for the suspended or excluded students to attend?
- (6) What power is assigned to the police to enforce attendance of students at schools, regardless of suspension or exclusion?

Mr WELLS (21/10/99):

- (1) The Education Act requires that students suspended for six to twenty days be provided with alternative education programs. Students suspended for one to five days are, as a matter of law, deemed to be in the care of their parents or care givers.

(2) A period of suspension of less than five days is considered to be too short for viable programs to be implemented. However some schools do make alternative arrangements in certain cases.

(3) Not applicable, see above.

(4) The Student Disciplinary Absences Policy requires principals to plan for a student's re-entry when enforcing a suspension to minimise recurrence of unacceptable behaviour and disruption to the student's education. Excluded students are also allocated a case manager by the district office to assist with any requirements for enrolment at a new school. This person is usually the senior guidance officer. Behaviour management support staff who work with students at risk also perform a role in the process of rehabilitation and re-entry of both suspended and excluded students.

(5) The Education Act requires students on 6-20 day suspensions to be placed in an alternative program at a specific setting. Principals are responsible for coordinating these arrangements which allow the student to continue his or her education. Schools also work with students and their families prior to and following a suspension or exclusion to ensure a successful re-entry or transition to another school.

(6) While it is the responsibility of the principal under the Act to inform the police of students who are absent without valid reason after a certain period, schools are more likely to establish collaborative processes to assist these students and their families.

1345. Tablelands Electorate, Funding

Mr NELSON asked the Premier (16/9/99)—

- (1) What is the total spending as allocated in the Budget for the Tablelands?
- (2) What major projects are in the Budget for the Tablelands?

Mr BEATTIE (18/10/99): Details of expenditure allocated in the Budget are provided in the Budget Papers, including capital works projects which are provided on a Statistical Division basis in Budget paper No. 5.

1346. Dalby Agricultural College, Engineering Workshop

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/9/99)—

With reference to a proposed engineering workshop at the Dalby Agricultural College to be shared with TAFE which was listed in the 1998-99 Budget as a \$500,000 proposed expenditure but now in the 1999-2000 Budget it is listed again this time as a \$917,000 proposed expenditure and given Dalby is probably the largest provincial centre in Queensland not to have a dedicated TAFE facility and given on two occasions Labor Governments have taken away a proposed TAFE facility for Dalby—

- (1) Will this proposed engineering workshop be built in 1999-2000?

(2) Why wasn't it built in 1998-99 as proposed?

- (3) Will he give the people of Dalby an undertaking that they won't be the victims of another cruel decision under Labor?

Mr BRADY (18/10/99):

(1) Yes.

(2) Discussions between Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE, Dalby Agricultural College and the Asset and Building Services Unit of DETIR to determine the scope of works and develop appropriate plans have been under way since 23 July 1998.

The intensive consultation was necessitated by the need to ensure compatibility of user arrangements for both Southern Queensland Institute and Dalby Agricultural College and because of particular engineering requirements that emerged in the course of planning.

User arrangements and the particular engineering requirements have been resolved, and an increase in the budget required to meet these has been approved and is included in the 1999-2000 Budget.

Site works for the first phase of the project have been completed and the first phase of constructing the engineering facility was put out to four local contractors for quotation in the week ending 24 September 1999. Quotations will close on 15 October and actual construction is expected to commence almost immediately.

(3) See answer to (1).

1347. Aquaculture

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Primary Industries (16/9/99)—

Will he provide comparative details for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 of funding for aquaculture research and development and detail ongoing programs?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/10/99): In 1998-1999 expenditure on aquaculture research and development totalled \$3.927 million. The budget for 1999-2000 is \$3.876 million. Aquaculture will continue research on Eels, Prawns, Lobster, Reef Fish, Mud Crabs, Barramundi And Freshwater Species and Mullet. Research areas covered include:

Glass eel stock resource identification and eel growout, husbandry and nutrition;

Prawn pond management and prawn virus disease diagnosis, prevention health management, Kuruma prawn harvest, handling and transport strategies;

Tropical Rock Lobster, collection and culture of juvenile lobsters, larval rearing and culture of juveniles to sub adults;

Reef Fish, development of reproductive and larval rearing technologies;

Mud Crabs, refinement of larval rearing and juvenile production technologies, pilot commercial production of crabs in collaboration with industry, sand crab larval rearing and growout;

Barramundi, nutrition and research on the effect of barramundi nodavirus on important freshwater fishes;

Freshwater species, golden perch, sleepy cod and redclaw. Growout, reproduction (sleepy cod) husbandry, weaning studies (golden perch), selective breeding/genetics (redclaw);

Mullet reproductive and larval rearing technologies.

1348. Barambah Electorate, Emergency Services

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/9/99)—

With reference to the new fire tenders, ambulances and other emergency services vehicles and staff—

- (1) How many were allocated to (a) rural Queensland and (b) the Barambah electorate?
- (2) Which specific areas of the Barambah electorate received units?
- (3) What staff positions and/or staff hours have been increased or reduced at all stations in the Barambah electorate?

Mrs ROSE (18/10/99):

Counter Disaster and Rescue Service

The purchase and allocation of emergency service vehicles operated by the State Emergency Service (SES) is a decision for Local Governments not the State Government. Similarly, decisions with regard to SES Volunteer staff is the responsibility for the respective Local Governments. Counter Disaster & Rescue Services does not maintain any full time staff within the Barambah Electorate.

Queensland Ambulance Service

1. From the total number of ambulances built in 1998/99, 21 were allocated to outside the South East Region. Four of these went to the Barambah electorate.

2. The areas of Kingaroy, Murgon, Yarraman and Kilcoy in the Barambah electorate received units.

3. QAS staffing level in the Barambah electorate in July 1998, was 27 staff. As at 26 August 1999, the staffing level was 29 staff; an increase of two staff.

Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority

1. (a) QFRA (Rural Fire Service) delivered 73 medium attack appliances to Rural Fire Brigades during the 1998/1999 financial year. Delivery of an additional 24 light attack fire appliances will be completed by the end of September 1999. (b) QFRA (Urban) recently provided two new fire appliances to Murgon in the Barambah electorate. Existing appliances in Murgon were relocated in the electorate to Kumbia and Cherbourg. The replaced vehicle from Kumbia was transferred to Bottlecamp Rural Brigade. The replaced Cherbourg appliance is currently being transferred to another Rural Brigade in the area. The QFRA plans to deliver a new appliance to Yarraman Station during this financial year. The existing Yarraman appliance is likely to be relocated to Wooroolin Station in the Barambah electorate. The appliance at Kilcoy was replaced in early 1999.

2. Two new appliances were received at Murgon Fire Station. Replacement upgrades were received at Kilcoy Fire Station, Kumbia Fire Station, Cherbourg Fire Station and Bottlecamp Rural Fire Brigade. The vehicle formerly at Cherbourg Station is currently being transferred to a Rural Brigade in the area.

3. No staff positions or staff hours have been increased or reduced at stations in the Barambah electorate.

1349. Deeragun, Police Station

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (16/9/99)—

With reference to the Budget and my concern that the Government has reneged on a commitment to build a police station at Deeragun in Thuringowa and the recognition of the urgent need for this police station—

- (1) Why has this project been deferred?
- (2) When will it be built?
- (3) Can the Government be trusted to keep its word after breaking this promise?

Mr BARTON (14/10/99):

(1) The 1999-2000 Budget has been developed within the fiscal constraints required to deliver to the people of Queensland responsible financial management and service delivery. Unfortunately, working within these constraints has meant that the Queensland Police Service is at this point unable to proceed with the planned construction of the Deeragun Police Station.

(2) The Deeragun Police Station remains a priority for the QPS in the Northern Region and construction will begin as soon as possible having regard to available funding, Statewide priorities and the demands placed on the service.

(3) Yes.

1350. Walla Weir

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (16/9/99)—

With reference to the resumption of land associated with the construction of the Walla Weir—

- (1) How many claims haven't been finalised?
- (2) When does he expect they will be and will he give an assurance, that considering the length of time that has elapsed since land has been inundated, that he will prioritise the finalisation of compensation claims?
- (3) Does he recognise that landholders suffer economic loss through the inundation of the bed and banks of the river and will he provide compensation for that loss?

Mr WELFORD (21/10/99):

(1) The Walla Weir on the Burnett River, south-west of Bundaberg was completed in late 1998 and provides improved reliability of water supply to the Bundaberg Irrigation Area.

Approximately 200 hectares of land is being acquired affecting 27 property owners. The majority of the 200 hectares acquired for the weir comprises land subject to storage inundation along tributary creeks and major gullies of the Burnett River.

Land is being acquired by both Resumption and Agreement in accordance with the Acquisition of Land Act 1967.

Of the 27 property owners affected by land acquisition:

- 8 compensation claims have been finalised;
- 4 acquisitions are proceeding by way of Agreement; and
- The remaining 15 dealings are proceeding by way of resumption and are at various stages of finalisation.

(2) Acquisition under the Act is influenced by a number of factors such as the hearing and processing of objections, the period which landholders take to lodge their claim, settlement negotiations, referral to Land Court, etc. In this way, affected landholders are given every opportunity to address the important aspect of compensation.

(3) The treatment of property inundation associated with Walla Weir remains in accordance with existing legislation and consistent with measures adopted for previous weir projects undertaken by the previous Government of which the member was part.

Resumption of land and resultant compensation is being addressed on the basis of whether the inundated land is within or outside the bed and bank of a boundary watercourse.

1351. Gympie Driver Training Centre; Roadcraft

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/9/99)—

With reference to the success of Roadcraft in Gympie who have been operating for 20 years—

Will he consider the use of these facilities for training ambulance and departmental drivers which will encourage safer drivers on the roads?

Mrs ROSE (18/10/99):

(1) The contract Queensland Ambulance Service had with RoadCraft to provide Driver Training Services to QAS expired on the 31 December 1998.

(2) When the contract expired, "Invitations to Offer" were released by my department's Logistic Services Branch for the selection of the ongoing provider of Driver Training Services to QAS in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy. Six potential providers responded with Offers to QAS including RoadCraft at Gympie.

(3) The Offers were properly considered in accordance with State Purchasing Policy with Mt Cotton Training Services being selected as the successful new provider of Driver Training Services to QAS.

(4) QAS has established a new commercial contract with Mt Cotton Training Services.

(5) The Department has taken action to identify any other work that could be provided to RoadCraft. All endeavours consistent with the State Purchasing Policy, have been made to assist RoadCraft.

1352. Cancer Patient, Cost of MRI

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (16/9/99)—

As a private patient suffering from a brain tumour required surgery costing about \$26,000—a cost not borne by the taxpayer, how equitable is it for the Health Department to charge that cancer patient \$41 for MRI despite the overall saving to the taxpayer in treatment and the fact that if they had opted to go public for the subsequent treatment, the MRI would have been free?

Mrs EDMOND (18/10/99): People who elect to be private patients in public hospitals are charged for the services provided by both the doctors and the hospital, including any diagnostic services such as MRI. Until 31 August 1998, MRI services in public hospitals were funded by the Commonwealth. However, the Commonwealth ceased this arrangement and added MRI services to the Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS). Under the new arrangement, any MRI scan performed on a private patient or public outpatient is eligible for a MBS rebate. The cost of a public inpatient MRI is now borne wholly by Queensland Health.

As has always been the case for private patients, it is the prerogative of the treating doctor to charge at or above the MBS rebate level. A doctor's fee above the MBS level results in a 'gap' payment to be paid by the patient or their health fund. I presume that the \$41 referred to is a gap payment.

Under a longstanding arrangement, hospitals handle the administration of billing MBS and, if necessary, patients on behalf of doctors with rights of private practice in Queensland public hospitals.

1353. Cool Schools Program

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Education (16/9/99)—

With reference to the Cool Schools program where financial assistance is provided to schools in North Queensland—

When will this or a similar program be available to schools in south west Queensland?

Mr WELLS (18/10/99): Prior to the last election the Labor Party undertook to expand the area covered by the Coalition's Cool Schools zone to also include the old Capricornia region. The Government has since proceeded to deliver on its commitment.

The Coalition did not make any undertaking to air condition schools in South West Queensland, and neither did the Government. The Cooler Schools initiative is a 4-year program, 1999 to 2002, focused on the areas in respect of which the undertakings were made.

1354. Redland Shire, Fire and Rescue Authority Response Times

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/9/99)—

As the population in the southern portion of the Redland Shire is growing quickly, have the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority recently evaluated the risk and response times for servicing properties in that area and when is it proposed to build a fire station at Redland Bay?

Mrs ROSE (18/10/99): The QFRA previously conducted a risk analysis of the Redland Shire local government area in October 1998. Currently, the QFRA is undertaking a further assessment and evaluation using the latest methodologies and tools developed by QFRA personnel to address the issues of development and population growth. This information will be used to optimise the allocation of any new facility within the Redland Shire.

An estimated time frame for any future fire station based on this new methodology within the Redland Shire local government area is not available at this time. However, the QFRA is committed to providing high-quality fire and rescue services that meet the needs of local communities, as well as raising community awareness of how to prevent or minimise the impacts of emergencies.

1355. Public Servants, Internet Access

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (16/9/99)—

What steps have been taken by the Government to prevent public servants from accessing pornographic material on the Internet at their place of work?

Mr MACKENROTH (8/10/99): The Government has taken a number of steps to prevent public servants from using Internet access at work inappropriately, including accessing pornography.

In May 1999, the Honourable Premier and I issued a Use of the Internet and Electronic Mail Policy and Principles Statement which clearly states the obligations of public servants to use the Internet and electronic mail appropriately. The Statement can be viewed by public servants on GovNet, the Government intranet.

The Criminal Justice Commission assisted in developing the Statement. The Statement says, in part, "Employees' use of the Internet, email and electronic storage of material will be monitored by agencies." The Statement also makes clear that disciplinary action will be taken against public servants for accessing pornography and/or transmitting it using electronic mail. There have been a number of publicised instances of such disciplinary action being taken.

The Public Service Commissioner has sent a copy of the Statement to all Directors-General with a letter advising them of the seriousness of the matter. The letter also advises Directors-General of the need to take steps to ensure all staff in their Departments are aware of the Statement and its implications.

For example, within my own Department, there is a very clear policy on what is deemed to be acceptable material. A warning notice is shown on the first screen when the browser is opened. This notice states, in part, that breaches of the policy are considered very serious offences and will be dealt with as official misconduct. Both the policy and the warning screen have been copied by several other Government departments. In addition, all access is logged and inappropriate usage is reported to the Director-General.

The Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning is also developing an Information Standard that extends application of the Policy and Principles Statement to other communications and information devices such as mobile phones, fax machines and computers. The Information Standard will also provide guidance to departments on implementing the Policy and Principles Statement. The Criminal Justice Commission is closely involved in the development of the Information Standard which is scheduled to be finalised by December 1999.

1356. Mines and Energy Department; Environmental Protection Agency

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (16/9/99)—

- (1) What will the actual cost be to transfer the responsibility of Department of Mines staff to the Environmental Agency?
- (2) What number of staff were employed by the Department of Mines and Energy for environmental management of mines?
- (3) How many will have employment in the EPA; if not all, what arrangements will be made for their future?
- (4) What will be the responsibilities of former DME personnel in the EPA (eg. executive or advisory)?
- (5) Will their remuneration be similar and account be taken for their former experience?
- (6) When will this transition be concluded?

Mr McGRADY (18/10/99):

(1) The actual cost of transfer will be borne within existing budgets. The main costs relate to the establishment of IT links between the EPA and DME and particularly across the different regional structures of the two agencies. This cost was anticipated and will be fully covered by the additional special funding provided, for the environmental management of the mining and petroleum sectors, for the 1999-2003 period.

(2) As at 30 December 1998, there was a total of 27 staff employed by DME for environmental management. An additional 12 positions were made possible as a result of the special funding to be provided over 1999-2003.

(3) All current DME environmental staff, both those base and special funded, will maintain employment, either with the EPA or with DME. Negotiations are

continuing with the EPA on the final allocation of these resources.

(4) Generally similar to those they now undertake. However the final details of tasks and responsibilities of specific staff will be determined by the EPA.

(5) Yes.

(6) This process is ongoing as it is critical that the best logistical, geographical and skill mix is achieved. It is also important that the needs and expectations of the staff concerned are also considered. It is my expectation that this issue should be finalised by the end of the year, although related legislative changes will take longer.

1357. Disposal of Contaminated Animals

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (16/9/99)—

With reference to the Department of Primary Industries which I understand has shut down and disposed of all its incinerators at the Parkhurst vet laboratory, Tor Street vet laboratory, Oonoonba vet laboratory (two units), Animal Research Institute, the Arid Zone Research Station at Longreach and the Wacol Tick Fever Research Centre—

- (1) What methods are now used for the disposal of animals?
- (2) What provision has been made to ensure that contaminated animals from those labs are disposed of in a manner where the contamination is contained (eg. if they go to landfill, what action is taken to ensure the water table is not contaminated)?
- (3) What provision has been put in place to ensure that safe and effective disposal methods are available should there be a major disease outbreak such as Newcastle disease or Equine Morbillivirus?
- (4) What costs are now involved in the preparation, transporting and disposal of animals compared to the previous methods where incinerators were on site?
- (5) Why was the latest incinerator at Wacol Tick Fever Research Station closed and removed when money was spent just three years ago to install the most advanced incineration unit for animal disposal in Queensland and how is the Wacol station disposing of animals now?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/10/99):

- (1) It is a requirement that wastes from all pathology laboratories be disposed of by contractors licensed under Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 1998.
- (2) As with any other pathological wastes, waste disposal from Departmental Veterinary Laboratories is under the control of the Environmental Protection Agency. Where landfill is used it is the responsibility of the landfill operator to ensure that there is no groundwater contamination.
- (3) The disposal of animal carcasses during the Equine Morbillivirus and Avian Influenza outbreaks was undertaken by licensed contractors.

(4) The cost of upgrading each Departmental incinerator to meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 was estimated to be \$300,000. In addition the substantial costs of annual emission testing (particularly for dioxins and furans) would have had to be met as well as annual license fees of \$4,750 per year. These costs, together with the fact that four of the six incinerators were located adjacent to office or laboratory accommodation in urban environments, made their closure inevitable. The cost of ongoing maintenance and the need for training of staff to operate the incinerators was also avoided.

(5) Even though the Wacol Tick Fever Research Centre (TFRC) incinerator would have required the least upgrading, substantial capital expenditure would still have been necessary to meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1994. Carcasses from the TFRC, which pose a low disease risk, are now rendered and the cost of this service is small compared with the cost of upgrading and of operating the incinerator.

1358. Prisons, Methadone Trial

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (16/9/99)—

- (1) In which prisons is the methadone trial currently being trialled?
- (2) When will the trial finish and will a report of the trial be publicly available?
- (3) Is there any plan to extend the trial or program to other correctional facilities?

Mr BARTON (14/10/99):

- (1) Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre and Townsville Correctional Centre.
- (2) August 2000. The report in relation to the trial will be considered by the Department of Corrective Services and the Minister prior to any decision being made to provide it publicly.
- (3) Any plans to extend the trial program will be dependent upon the outcome of the current trial.

1359. Killarney and Warwick Sawmills

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Primary Industries (16/9/99)—

With reference to the closure during the week ending 18 September of the Killarney pine and Warwick sawmills and the subsequent loss of employment for about 30 people—

- (1) What previous action has the Department of Primary Industries taken to stop these closures?
- (2) What action is he planning to take in an effort to reopen these mills, including ensuring that there will be no problems with sawlog allocations for the mills and that prohibitive timber royalties do not act as a deterrent to any such attempts?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/10/99):

- (1) Throughout 1998 and early 1999, Warwick Sawmills was consistently overdue in making royalty

payments to DPI Forestry, breaching the thirty (30) day payment requirement under their sales contracts, despite monthly reminders of their obligations.

Although the firm's debt to DPI Forestry was secured under a Cover of Account guarantee, despite periodic payments by Warwick Sawmills a significant underlying debt was not being reduced. In December 1998 and February 1999 DPI Forestry staff negotiated repayment plans with the company to reduce the underlying debt. On both occasions the firm abandoned these schedules within a few weeks. As the firm's debt had continued to grow, DPI Forestry was left with no option but to freeze their line of credit and require "up-front" royalty payments.

DPI Forestry staff have been very aware of the financial difficulties Warwick Sawmills have been experiencing and of the ramifications of the business failing. As a consequence, these staff afforded Warwick Sawmills sympathetic consideration. However, a debt of the magnitude involved could clearly not be allowed to continue to grow and action had to be taken to limit the size of the debt.

(2) I understand that a provisional liquidator was appointed for Warwick Sawmills on 17 September 1999. The future of the business obviously rests with the provisional liquidator. In view of the closure of the business and the outstanding debt, DPI Forestry will call on the guarantor to make good the moneys outstanding to DPI Forestry.

DPI Forestry has not cancelled its sale agreements with Warwick Sawmills which will facilitate either a recommencement of operations by Warwick Sawmills or a transfer of the timber entitlements to a new owner.

1360. Protection of Children

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (16/9/99)—

With reference to her response about a year ago to reports about the handling of a case involving the torture of a young child in Yandina—

- (1) What steps have been taken in the ensuing months to ensure closer liaison between relevant agencies to avoid mishandling of such matters in future?
- (2) Which agencies have been involved in the development of the enhanced level of liaison/cooperation envisaged in her statement of October?
- (3) What measures have been developed to provide a quality evaluation of the new processes?

Ms BLIGH (18/10/99): In response to your question on notice, I provide the following information.

(1) A number of major initiatives have been developed to ensure effective liaison between relevant agencies in managing responses to the abuse and neglect of children.

The Child Protection Act 1999 updates powers of investigation and assessment to assist officers of my

Department and Queensland Police in responding to allegations of abuse and neglect. The Act makes clear the responsibilities of Queensland Police and my Department in assessing allegations of abuse and neglect. It further clarifies the sharing of information between agencies for the purposes of ensuring the protection and care of children. In addition, the Child Protection Council has been established to provide advice on the broad range of matters relevant to the prevention of, and response to, the abuse and neglect of children. The Council has a role in enhancing the coordination of activities from across the Government and non-Government sector.

Important work has also occurred at the national level. The Community Services Ministers' Council, on which I represent Queensland, has approved a Protocol for the Transfer of Child Protection Orders and Proceedings and Interstate Assistance. Implementation of the Protocol in Queensland has commenced with the issue of Interim Guidelines for Child Protection—Interstate Transfer. This will ensure thorough planning of all interstate transfers and placements, better communication between the States and a clear process for proposing and responding to proposals for interstate transfers and placements.

(2) The enhanced level of liaison and cooperation between departments and agencies is reflected in the membership of the Child Protection Council. The Council's broad terms of reference include the building of partnerships between Government and community, collaboration in the development of services, cultural diversity, participation and determination of research priorities. The Council is made up of representatives from the Departments of Health, Education, Police, Justice and the Attorney-General, Families, Youth and Community Care as well as experts from the community services sector. The community services sector is represented by members from a broad range of services including CREATE which is the former Queensland Branch of Young People in Care (QBYPIC), The Abused Child Trust, Kids Help Line, Yuddika, and the Youth Advocacy Centre. The Council, therefore, has a significant role in enhancing the coordination of activities across the Government and non-Government sector. Effective liaison between agencies involved in the protection and care of children and the coordination of their activities is critical to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children.

(3) The Child Protection Council will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Child Protection Act. The Council will provide advice to the Minister, advocate for children, and provide leadership and policy advice within an integrated approach that promotes children's wellbeing. The Children's Commissioner and Children's Services Tribunal Act 1996 monitors and evaluates service delivery through its complaints, investigation and review processes. The outcomes of the review of the Children's Commissioner and Children's Services Tribunal Act 1996 are soon to be considered by Cabinet.

Clearly, the past year has been one of considerable activity and reform of Queensland's approach to the

protection and care of children and support of their families. This is a complex area and officers of my Department are to be applauded for their professionalism and dedication in the way they approach this task.

It is important that in striving to enhance the protection and care of children, we must acknowledge the complexity of the work and provide the necessary structures and supports to staff.

1361. Pacific Motorway; South East Transit Project

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/9/99)—

Have bridges or other structures or pavements recently constructed as part of the Pacific Motorway or the South East Transit Project failed to meet the necessary construction standards; if so, what are they, what was the nature of the failure and what is the impact upon the project construction timetable and budget?

Mr BREDHAUER (18/10/99): Sections of the concrete pavements between Pimpama and Oxenford have not met specification requirements. In such instances, the contractor has to remove and replace the non-conforming product at this expense.

In relation to bridges, there have been some recent problems with the pre-cast components of some bridges between Coomera and Helensvale. In these cases, the Department of Main Roads brings its own experts to fully assess the suitability against the design standards and specifications. The investigation of remedial treatments and the removal and replacement is at the contractor's expense. It is envisaged the corrective action will proceed without impact on the project's overall construction timetable.

In relation to the South East Transit project, monitoring and surveillance processes have identified some non-conformances and defective workmanship. These issues are being addressed and rectified proactively to allow the work to proceed without impact on final delivery programs and budgets. The department will not accept a product which compromises the project's standards of safety, serviceability and appearance.

1362. Road Noise Testing

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/9/99)—

Which roads in Queensland have been tested for road noise, which have exceeded the necessary decibel reading but are still awaiting sound amelioration measures and can these be grouped in the two relevant decibel reading categories?

Mr BREDHAUER (18/10/99): The departmental Interim Guidelines and Technical Notes for Road Traffic Noise Amelioration (1992) prescribes that road traffic noise measurements are undertaken in accordance with the National Association of Australian State Road Authorities (1980) Publication "Guide Policy for Traffic Noise Measurement

Procedures" and/or Australian Standard AS 2702—1984 "Acoustics—Methods for the Measurement of Road Traffic Noise".

The current guidelines divide roads into various categories each with a separate criterion level. In general, the following noise levels are applied for noise sensitive developments such as residential subdivision:

New access-controlled roads—63dB (A) L10 (18 hour); or

Existing access-controlled roads—68dB (A) L10 (18 hour).

The above criteria must be exceeded before Main Roads can consider the implementation of measures to ameliorate road traffic noise.

Not all noise barriers are erected by Main Roads. Developers of land adjoining a main road, in urban environments, must conduct a noise assessment. If the 63dB(A) L10 (18 hour) level is exceeded, developers are required as a condition of their development approval to erect noise barriers or implement other ameliorative measures.

Where the departmental criteria are exceeded noise barriers are built as funding becomes available.

1363. Mining Industry

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/9/99)—

With reference to the number of accidents at mining sites during 1998-99—

Will she detail (a) response times to emergencies at mine sites during 1998-99, (b) whether those responses were by helicopter, vehicle or helicopter and vehicle and (c) which base each responded from?

Mrs ROSE (18/10/99):

Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority

(a) Details of response times to emergencies at mine sites during 1998/99 are contained in attachment A. (b) In all instances, response was made by vehicle. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The attached information also details the station from which each response was made.

Queensland Ambulance Service

Details of response times to emergencies at mine sites during 1998-99 are detailed in Attachment B. In each case, the initial response was provided either by road transport or by the patient being brought to the ambulance facility by other persons. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Counter Disaster and Rescue Service

The Department of Emergency Services' helicopters responded to six requests for aeromedical transport at mine sites during 1998-99. All six tasks were undertaken by the Townsville based Bell 412 helicopter.

As Townsville General Hospital does not have a helipad, response times for aeromedical tasks from

Townsville Air Unit can be affected by waiting for medical teams to travel to the Air Unit. Wherever possible, the Clinical Coordinators at Townsville request Queensland Ambulance Service paramedics (who are based closer to the Air Unit than the hospital medical teams) to attend aeromedical tasks.

The details of flights to mine sites are tabled below. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1364. Monto, Builyan and Ubobo, Regional Forest Agreement

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (16/9/99)—

With reference to the time which has elapsed for the RFA negotiations—

What is the date for finalisation of the RFA affecting the timber industry in the Monto, Builyan and Ubobo areas?

Mr WELFORD (21/10/99): The historic agreement announced by the Premier on the 16th of September provides job security and a very bright future for the timber industry in South East Queensland. Whilst it has taken time to finalise, the outcome has been well worth it: a true win-win for the timber industry, timber workers, conservationists and the community as a whole.

In relation to the particular areas mentioned by the honourable member, I can say that the mill in Builyan will receive Crown allocations at current rates for the next 25 years, providing unprecedented security and a platform for increased business investment. The mill at Monto is outside the area covered by the agreement.

And this very positive outcome for the timber industry is achieved whilst securing a very substantial increase of 425,000 hectares in the conservation reserve system which will ensure the protection of virtually all old growth forests on crown lands in South East Queensland.

1365. Nurses

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (16/9/99)—

With reference to the current low and disastrous levels of nurse recruitments and nursing staff in the Queensland health system—

- (1) Will she consider introducing the Coalition Government's concept of training nurses in local hospitals?
- (2) Will she consider a recruitment drive for nursing careers, targeting school leavers?

Mrs EDMOND (18/10/99):

(1) Queensland Health's Ministerial Taskforce on Recruitment and Retention of Nurses, was an initiative of this Labor Government. Included within the terms of reference for the taskforce was a review of undergraduate nurse education. Extensive consultation with the nursing profession and other key personnel fully examined the issue. Whilst it has

not been determined which recommendations from the Taskforce are to be implemented, the nursing profession is not supportive of training nurses in hospitals.

Hospital training of nurses was limiting and did not cover many of the key areas, such as community, rural, aged care, rehabilitation and health promotion, in which nurses work. It has been necessary to change the way nurses are educated in response to the contemporary health care environment. Increasingly complex clinical health care, reduced length of stay, the technological advancement of medical procedures and the demand for a professional career path requires all nurses to be prepared at a higher level, across a broad range of topics. The move from the hospitals to the universities has provided nurses with the opportunity to receive a broader and more in-depth education than that received from hospital training.

(2) Queensland Health's Ministerial Taskforce Recruitment and Retention of Nurses has made many recommendations in respect to recruiting more nurses. Whilst it has not been determined which recommendations from the Taskforce are to be implemented, the targeting of students in secondary schools to consider nursing as a career option is an important recommendation under consideration.

1366. Beenleigh-Robina Rail Service

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/9/99)—

- (1) In supplying details of the cost of operation of Queensland Rail Services Beenleigh—Robina extension since its inception, will he provide (a) the cost of providing all services that have operated and are operating, (b) the revenue generated from these operations and any other interactive sources, (c) the number of passenger journeys undertaken on these services, (d) the amount of subsidy allocated to the provision of these services for the stated period above and (e) the amount per passenger journey of this subsidy at to-days level?
- (2) Have these figures been compiled in accordance with the Government's accrual accountancy method?

Mr BREDHAUER (18/10/99): In light of existing and possible future legal proceedings in which these issues might arise it is inappropriate to provide the information requested at this time.

1367. Schools, Capital Enhancement Dividend

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Education (16/9/99)—

- (1) Will he explain how his department will calculate the 6 per cent Capital Enhancement Dividend in regard to the older small country schools eg. Vale View, Ramsay, Ryford, Back Plains and Pilton?
- (2) What impact does the replacement value method have on the viability of these small schools?

Mr WELLS (18/10/99): There is no Capital Enhancement Dividend; however as a component of the introduction of accrual output budgeting the Government has introduced an incentives regime to encourage agencies to adopt behaviours which maximise value for money. One component of the incentives regime is the introduction of an Equity Return.

The Equity Return has been introduced to ensure the cost of capital is reflected in the cost of each agency's outputs. For 1999/2000 the Treasurer has set the Equity Return rate at 6 per cent. The Equity Return is calculated on the agency's total net asset base. Although the Department is required to allocate the Equity Return across outputs for reporting purposes, it is not intended to calculate the cost of the Equity Return for individual schools in 1999/2000.

The replacement value methodology is used in respect of all schools and therefore does not have any more of an impact on small schools than it does on any other school. Cost is only one of a number of factors that are considered in assessing the viability of any school. Other factors considered include the proximity of the school to other alternative schools, the availability of cost effective transport to enable access to alternative schools, the breadth of curriculum offerings at the school under consideration and the alternative school/s, the access the school has to support personnel and resources and the relative importance of the school to the community it serves.

1368. Central Queensland, Disability Services

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (16/9/99)—

With reference to the provision of disability services in the central Queensland region—

- (1) How many support packages are currently allocated in the central Queensland region?
- (2) How many registrations for support have been received by her department this year in central Queensland?
- (3) What assessment procedure was used to assess these registrations?
- (4) What was the result of this assessment process with respect to priority and capacity to cope with registrations?
- (5) How many additional funding packages will be available in the central Queensland region this year to meet the priority needs identified in this assessment process?
- (6) Does she believe funding for disability services in the central Queensland region is satisfactory to meet needs in the area?

Ms BLIGH (18/10/99):

- (1) 34 individuals have been allocated Lifestyle Support Packages in Central Queensland Region:

11 Urgent and critical
14 Early Intervention
9 Low Support Needs

- (2) 589 Registrations of Need as at 11 June 1999.

(3) Individuals and/or their families, service providers or advocates submitted a Registration of Need. The information received was forwarded to a Regional Priority Panel. Regional Priority Panels comprised four community representatives (two consumer representatives and two service provider representatives) and two departmental representatives. The Regional Priority Panel used the priority determination process and tools that are used by all Regional Priority panels in Queensland, to allocate a Priority Determination rating to each Registration of Need.

- (4) The combination of Departmental staff and community representatives on the Central Queensland Regional Priority Panel coped well, evolving into a professional team which efficiently and effectively processed the 589 Forms.

At 11 June 1999, the Central Queensland Region had allocated the following priority ratings:-

Priority 1: 134
Priority 2: 111
Priority 3: 202
Priority 4: 111
Ineligible: 31
Early Intervention: 27 *
Low Support Needs: 13 *

* These groups are also included in the groups for ratings 1-4.

- (5) The September/October 1999 Funding Round is soon to be allocated. For the Central Queensland Region this comprises an additional:

3 Urgent and Critical packages
4 Early Intervention packages
3 Low Support Needs packages

Another Funding Round later in the year is being considered.

- (6) Clearly, not all needs can be met from within the funds available. It should be acknowledged that the Beattie Labor Government has provided the single biggest increase in funding to disability services in Queensland's history. The previous Borbidge Government made little attempt to address unmet need in Queensland. This Government has taken important steps towards addressing unmet need in all regions of the State through initiatives such as:

Unmet Need funding has been provided for an estimated 307 Individual Adult Lifestyle Support packages;

six Local Area Coordination Pilot Programs which will commence in October 1999 in Mt Isa, Cooktown, Gympie, Mundubbera, Murgon and Hervey Bay areas; and

additional intake of 160 current school leavers to the Moving Ahead Program in 1999-2000.

additional support to families of children with disabilities will be provided through the Intensive Family Support Program and the Flexible Family Support Program currently being established. Allocation of these family packages will be finalised in the near future.

1369. Metropolitan North Police Region

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (17/9/99)—

Will he detail the number of sworn police officers employed with the Metropolitan North Police Region and the number of civilian employees employed within this region at 1 July 1998 compared to those employed at 16 September 1999?

Mr BARTON (14/10/99): Since coming to power the Beattie Labor Government has increased police numbers substantially across the State. For the Metropolitan North Region this has meant an increase in sworn officers of 63 and a further 18 civilian staff.

Sworn Officers in Metropolitan North Region as at:

1/6/98—871

1/9/99—934

Civilian staff in Metropolitan North Region as at:

1/6/98—136

1/9/99—154.

1370. Sunshine Coast, Police Resources

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (17/9/99)—

- (1) At 1 September, how many police officers were assigned to (a) Noosa Heads Police Station, (b) Coolum Police Station, (c) Eumundi Police Station and (d) Cooroy Police Station?
- (2) How many civilian staff were assigned to the above police stations at 1 September and how many of these are employed full-time and how many part-time?
- (3) How many motor vehicles were assigned to the above police stations at 1 September?

Mr BARTON (14/10/99):

(1)(a) 26; (b) 7; (c) 2; (d) 4

(2)(a) 4; (b) 1; (c) Nil; (d) 1 (20 hours p/week)

(3)(a) 5; (b) 1; (c) 1; (d) 1

These stations are also supported by regional specialist units.

1371. Regional Forest Agreement

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (17/9/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Government plan for the SEQ. RFA, as contained in the fact sheet—

- (1) Under what criteria was the number of new jobs (the proposed 471 new jobs), assessed?
- (2) Will these new jobs be long term sustainable career opportunities, or will the jobs created be merely short term, part time, or casual jobs, not sustainable in the long term?

Mr BEATTIE (18/10/99):

(1) Queensland has developed an improvement to the regional forest agreement process. The criteria used to plan the jobs for the South-East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement is based on private sector investment plans, existing Queensland

Government employment patterns and nationally accepted figures for similar activities.

In the case of the private sector jobs, these jobs were assessed in the context of business proposals put to my Government by the companies themselves. The jobs planned for management of the conservation estate are based on existing Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service operational activity. The plantation establishment and management jobs were planned on the basis of data for similar activities for Queensland and northern New South Wales, sourced from the Commonwealth Bureau of Rural Sciences.

(2) My Government and the timber industry are confident that the vast majority of jobs will be sustainable and will offer workers long-term employment opportunities.

1372. Ipswich West Electorate, Driver Testing Centre

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/9/99)—

With reference to the Department of Transport's driver testing centre in the Ipswich West Electorate—

- (1) How far in advance do learner drivers have to book to sit for their practical driving examination in relation to Class A motor vehicles?
- (2) How far in advance do learner drivers applying for heavy vehicle licences have to book to sit for their practical driving examination?
- (3) How far in advance do learner drivers applying for a motorcycle licence in both the under 250 cc and over 250 cc category have to book to sit for their practical driving examination?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/10/99):

(1) Car: 5 weeks

(2) Heavy vehicle: 5 weeks

(3) Motorcycle: 2 weeks.

1373. Regional Forest Agreement

Mr BLACK asked the Premier (17/9/99)—

With reference to the RFA deal—

- (1) Which towns will be most effected by job losses?
- (2) Which towns will benefit from the proposed new jobs?
- (3) Has provision been factored in for the flow on effect of the changes in the nature of the employment?

Mr BEATTIE (18/10/99):

(1-2) There will be a total of 471 new jobs offsets potential job losses of 80 in Noosa's immediate hinterland. The new jobs would come from:

241 jobs proposed at Maryborough-based Hyne and Son through the expansion of its softwood operation

100 jobs in the management of the public and private sector plantations that will be planted to provide for the long-term future of the industry

100 jobs in the management of the expanded conservation reserve

30 jobs in the Gympie region from the installation of a second line at the medium density fibreboard (MDF) Laminex factory.

(3) The Regional Forest Agreement guarantees jobs in the timber industry or related employment for timber workers. The flow on from the Regional Forest Agreement are benefits to all of the communities in South-East Queensland, with 471 new jobs created over four years. The Queensland Government will work closely with local communities to minimise any adverse local impacts of employment changes that may occur. It is anticipated that there will be considerable positive flow on impacts from the Regional Forest Agreement and considerable effort will be made to ensure that these impacts are maximised.

1374. Hervey Bay, State Government Building

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Premier (17/9/99)—

With reference to the new Government building in Main Street, Pialba, Hervey Bay—

- (1) How many offices have tenants in them?
- (2) What are his intentions for filling the remaining empty offices?
- (3) Which Government departments will be moved into this new building?
- (4) Does he have any intention of offering office space to non-Government organisations?
- (5) Would he consider establishing in this building, the Methadone clinic planned for a residential area at Point Vernon; if not, why not?

Mr BEATTIE (18/10/99):

(1) Many provincial communities lobby the Government, requesting the Government to add to the local infrastructure and local employment opportunities by constructing an office building for the provision of Government services. The State Government was pleased to provide such a building in Hervey Bay. Four tenancies have been confirmed covering the majority of the tenable area on the ground floor of the new Government building in Main Street, Pialba, Hervey Bay.

(2) It is expected that the current total area requirement for Government agencies will be known by 31 October 1999. If this requirement is less than 100% of the building's tenable area, then alternative tenancy options will be investigated.

(3) The Department of Transport, the Department of Corrective Services, the Department of State Development and the Department of Public Works will locate into this new building.

(4) A decision in relation to the tenancy of any available space by non-Government organisations in this new building will be made once the total area requirement for Government agencies is known.

(5) No. The new Government office building is designed for administrative office use and not for the delivery of clinical services.

1375. Nangram Weir; Condamine Weir

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/9/99)—

With reference to the proposed Nangram and Condamine Weirs and as that section of the Condamine catchment between Dalby and Surat is relatively under-developed in terms of water storage, whereas the upper section of the Condamine above Dalby and below Surat is highly developed and given the land owners and communities in the Dalby-Surat section are entitled to develop their resources to a sustainable level and given research confirms this unused potential—

- (1) Will he confirm this Dalby-Surat section has a low usage of its local water resource?
- (2) Does he concede the people in this area are entitled to a fair share of use of the water resources of the area?
- (3) Will he allow construction of the Nangram and Condamine Weirs?
- (4) Will he ensure equity will prevail in the allocation of the water resources of the Condamine and ensure the Dalby-Surat section does not bear an unfair burden because of the usage in the other parts of the catchment?

Mr WELFORD (21/10/99):

(1) The part of the Condamine-Balonne basin between Dalby and Surat has had a moderate level of development to date, less than some other parts of the basin. The Chinchilla Irrigation Project based on Chinchilla Weir is the main development while there are also some waterharvesting licences along this section of the river.

(2) The notion of a "fair" share of the water resource needs to be considered in the context of sustainable water use and development across all parts of the basin. The technical information required to make an objective assessment of sustainable use of the basin's water resources is being obtained in the Condamine-Balonne WAMP process. This work is almost finalised. It is only when this information is available and the views of the community are gathered that a view on what is a "fair" share can be formed.

(3) Before a decision can be made on the approvals for either the proposed Nangram Weir or Condamine Weir, two things need to be undertaken. Firstly, environmental impact studies and subsequent review processes need to be completed. Secondly, the whole of basin implications of these developments need to be considered within the Condamine-Balonne WAMP planning process. I can advise that the individual studies for each of these weirs are well advanced and the broader basin wide implications are now being assessed within the WAMP planning process. Only after both of these processes have been completed will the Government be in a position to make a decision on these proposals.

(4) There are a number of difficult issues to be resolved within the Condamine-Balonne WAMP process. The so-called equity consideration within the basin is recognised as one of these issues. It is only after considering the potential benefits and impacts across all stakeholders within the basin that a position on this issue can be formed.

1376. Disability Services

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/9/99)—

With reference to the Government's most recent data, reported by the Unmet Needs Working Group, which shows \$125m in new funding is required to address unmet need in Queensland—

- (1) How can the "smart State" with "the best economy in Australia" so neglect its citizens with a disability when other States contribute so much per person?
- (2) With only \$30m announced in the 1998-99 Budget, how does the Government think it can overcome the \$125m shortfall for people with disability?

Ms BLIGH (18/10/99):

(1) I am very aware of the critical levels of unmet need for disability support services. This is as a result of decades of neglect by successive Governments in Queensland. It is also a national issue which all States and Territories are attempting to address in cooperation with the Commonwealth.

(2) The injection of \$30m of recurrent funding by the Beattie Government, which will take full effect this financial year, was a significant step towards addressing this issue. This funding increase is the single biggest increase in Queensland's history. It honours the Government's election promise and is already having a significant impact on the lives of many people with disabilities in Queensland. However, I acknowledge that a lot more still needs to be done.

I am committed to ensuring that this matter stays at the forefront of this Government's social policy agenda and I am committed to making further progress in this area.

1377. Barambah Electorate, Medical Services

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health (17/9/99)—

With reference to a constituent who injured his back at work on 16 September and who endeavoured to obtain the services of a doctor to assess his injury and as (a) no doctor in Nanango could offer an appointment under a two week wait, (b) no doctor was available at Nanango hospital as it only has a doctor between 9—11 am, (c) Kingaroy hospital turned him away as they were packed, (d) the man's boss rang the doctors to verify what the injured man said and tried to get the injury assessed but failed and (e) the only solution still being sought was that

the man would have to travel to Cherbourg (over an hour away) as it has a doctor on duty full time—

- (1) Will she guarantee the people of Nanango that (a) the hospital will not have any services reduced and (b) the shortage of doctors in the Burnett will be addressed as a matter of urgency?
- (2) What measures will she adopt to ensure this type of situation will never be repeated?
- (3) Will she apologise to this man, his family and his boss for the stress that not being able to access essential medical assistance caused?

Mrs EDMOND (18/10/99):

(1)(a) No health services are being reduced in Nanango. (b) All South Burnett Health Service District medical officers positions are filled. However, it has been brought to my attention that a number of general practitioners will be leaving the Kingaroy area by the end of the year. I have been informed that community leaders and representatives including the South Burnett Local Government Association and Health Service District representatives have begun discussions and are investigating strategies to attract general practitioners to the area.

(2) All patients who arrive at the emergency department are assessed by a registered nurse in line with the emergency presentation triage policy. I am advised that your constituent was assessed for an injury that occurred on 15 September 1999 (not 16 September) as Triage No. 5—a non-urgent case. He advised he had taken no pain relief to date and was provided with pain relief and advised to make an appointment with the general practitioner's surgery in the morning. He was also advised that he should visit the doctor's surgery if the pain was not relieved and return to the hospital if the pain worsened.

(3) All patients are treated equitably under the triage system which prioritises patients according to their clinical need. Your constituent was assessed, given pain relief and advised to make an appointment with his general practitioner. It was explained to his employer that it is not a legal requisite that a patient must see a doctor on the day the injury occurred. The employer was informed that the man was advised to see his general practitioner. It is regrettable that the man and his family were distressed.

1378. Brisbane Light Rail Project

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/9/99)—

- (1) What is the present anticipated schedule concerning the awarding of tenders associated with the Brisbane Light Rail project?
- (2) When will a final route plan and final associated traffic implications be available for public scrutiny?
- (3) When will construction commence and when will services commence?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/10/99):

(1) The current planning for the awarding of tenders is for the four invited Consortia to submit detailed

proposals for the project by 24 December 1999. The four detailed proposals will be then assessed during the first quarter of next year and a preferred proponent selected and a contract awarded.

(2) There has already been extensive consultation regarding the proposed network for the light rail project and associated traffic impacts. Finalisation of the proposed network is expected to occur by the end of the year.

(3) Subject to successful negotiations with a preferred proponent, it is planned for construction to commence next year with the first commercial services operating on Stage 1 of the network in 2001.

1379. Public Works Department, Project Services

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (17/9/99)—

With reference to Project Services within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999 by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Project Services for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?
- (4) What was the total number of chargeable hours for Project Services for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (18/10/99):

- (1) The breakdown is shown in column 1 of the table.
- (2) The operational expenses are shown in column 2a of the table, and the administration expenses are shown in column 2b. The total expenditure for (a) and (b) is shown in the Total Expenditure column.
- (3) The net profit/loss is shown in column 3.
- (4) The total number of chargeable hours is shown in column 4. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1380. Teachers

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education (17/9/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

On the first day of each month during 1999-2000 to date (a) what was the total number of teachers employed by Education Queensland in each sub-program, by sub-program and (b) how many of these teachers were on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?

Mr WELLS (18/10/99): I refer the honourable member to the answer to Question on Notice No 1391.

1381. Teachers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (17/9/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

On the first day of each month during 1999-2000 to date (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 and (e) how many were supply teachers?

Mr WELLS (18/10/99): I refer the honourable member to the answer to Question on Notice No 1391.

1382. Information Technology and Biotechnology

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/9/99)—

How much of the \$50m allocated through the competitive purchasing program to deliver training across the State is devoted to the provision of training in those information technology and biotechnology areas the Premier is promoting as being critical to the development of a smart workforce?

Mr BRADY (18/10/99): In addition to the \$1.7m provided directly for information technology and telecommunications training in the 2000 Competitive Purchasing Program, there is also a substantial amount of generic information technology and telecommunications training—in the order of \$3m—embedded in other training programs, such as small business management.

While no funding is provided for biotechnology through the Competitive Purchasing Program, it should be noted that \$400,000 in additional funding specifically for biotechnology is provided through TAFE direct grant in 2000.

1383. TAFE Teachers (See also p.6367)

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/9/99)—

- (1) What was the equivalent full-time number of permanent TAFE teachers on the departmental payroll at (a) 30 June 1998 and (b) 30 June 1999?
- (2) What is the projected increase or decrease in teacher numbers between 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2000?

Mr BRADY (18/10/99): (1) The Department is currently implementing a new human resource information system (AURION). Due to the different categories recorded in the AURION system and the fact that the system is not yet fully converted, the

Department is operating on two parallel systems. Therefore, extracting the data to answer the question accurately requires significant effort. I will table this information as soon as it becomes available.

1384. TAFE

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/9/99)—

- (1) How does he explain to TAFE staff how his boast of providing a record of \$145.7m in contestable funds (in his media release of 14 September) accords with Labor's pre-election promise of freezing contestable funds at December 1997 levels for three years?
- (2) Has he abandoned the promised freeze?

Mr BRADY (18/10/99):

(1) As opposed to actions taken under the Coalition Government, not one additional dollar has been channelled from the TAFE budget since the change in Government into contestable funding. On the contrary, \$13.1m in new, extra funding is available through direct grant in 1999-2000 for TAFE Institutes.

(2) No.

1385. Oxford Park TAFE Campus

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/9/99)—

How much have the financial managers of Brisbane Institute estimated that TAFE could obtain through the sale of the Oxford Park Campus?

Mr BRADY (18/10/99): No decision has been made to sell Oxford Park campus. As with any of the Department's properties, if such a decision was made such information as has been requested would be Commercial-in-Confidence.

1386. Drug Rehabilitation Programs; Dr S. Reece

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (17/9/99)—

With reference to the Health Department's "Show cause" notice to Dr Stewart Reece, threatening to close down his Naltrexone treatment clinic for heroin addicts—

- (1) What is the department's turn-around time for approval of the restricted drugs used by Dr Reece in the treatment process?
- (2) Does the department accept that a lengthy delay, or any delay, in approval will result in a lost opportunity to treat an addict and to help them towards recovery?

Mrs EDMOND (18/10/99): In regard to your specific questions, I submit the following information:

(1) Mechanisms are in place which allow approval for treatment with controlled or restricted drugs of dependence to meet situational need.

(2) The mechanisms referred to above ensure that opportunities are not lost.

1387. Yarwun Targinnie Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (17/9/99)—

With reference to Yarwun Targinnie fruit and vegetable growers meeting with him on a number of occasions and in responding to the grower concerns a member of the State Development office was requested to liaise with growers, clarify their issues, identify response options, and report to the Minister and as an initial meeting was held however the promised follow ups prior to reporting did not occur and grower representatives have been refused access to a copy of the officer's report, as has my office—

Why do these producers have to resort to FOI applications for a report which purports to address their own issues and concerns?

Mr ELDER (18/10/99): I first met with the Yarwun & Targinnie Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association late last year and was presented with a list of their concerns. I requested that an officer from the Gladstone State Development Centre meet with the Association and report to me on the issues raised by the Association by means of a Ministerial Briefing Note. The Association has not been provided with this document given it is a Ministerial Briefing Note, and therefore not a public document. Your office was verbally informed of this when you previously requested a copy of the document.

As the Briefing Note is not a public document an application under the Freedom of Information Act 1992 is necessary. I believe that such an application has been made and will be processed in accordance with the Act's requirements. I might add that I consider the tone of your question with regards to FOI as quite disparaging; Freedom of Information legislation was introduced to allow ordinary citizens of this State gain access to certain Government documents to which they may not ordinarily have been able to access.

Further to my meeting with the Association, and correspondence received from it and you, I wrote to the Association on 11 June 1999 and 25 June 1999, and to you on 4 November 1998 and 18 May 1999. The correspondence advised of the status of the matter and what measures my Department of State Development was implementing to assist the Association.

1388. St Bernard State School

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (17/9/99)—

With reference to the decision not to build a \$300,000 half teaching permanent block at St Bernard State School on Mt Tamborine for use in the year 2000 and as the decision means that St Bernard State School will be deprived of permanent buildings

required to cater for the increased population at the school—

Will he reconsider this decision?

Mr WELLS (18/10/99): St Bernard SS has experienced an unexpected slight increase in enrolments. This has been attributed to the opening of the Tamborine Mtn campus of Helensvale SHS this year and the subsequent decision of some families to favour the State as opposed to the non-state system of schooling, given that the State now has comprehensive coverage of schooling on the Mountain. Nevertheless the Department advises that the school will have adequate buildings for the forthcoming year.

1389. Tarzali Sawmill; WorkCover

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/9/99)—

With reference to Tarzali Sawmill's Workcover policy rate which has risen from 6.6 per cent to 15.25 per cent, partly because of an "estimated claim of approximately \$200,000 being lodged, when surely the rates would go up only after an award is given and not before and not on the presumption that it will be given and that any increases alter with the court's findings and not before—

Will he confirm that it is indeed Workcover policy to increase policy rates upon a claim being made and not after an award has been given?

Mr BRADY (18/10/99): WorkCover Queensland has advised that Tarzali Sawmill's premium rate has increased from \$10.543 to \$15.253 per \$100 wages. It is the gazetted industry rate which is \$6.656 per \$100 wages.

WorkCover Queensland uses the experience-based rating (EBR) formula to calculate premiums for employers. This formula was introduced by the former Coalition Government with the support of business, following the Kennedy review into workers' compensation in Queensland.

WorkCover advises that, in line with EBR process introduced by the Coalition Government, premium rates reflect actual claims costs paid in relation to common law and statutory claims, and a reasonable estimate of damages and costs to be paid.

1390. WorkCover

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/9/99)—

With reference to WorkCover Queensland which has for many years provided a valuable service to Queensland employers by supplying claims histories of prospective employees, always with the employee's written consent and as this information was important in identifying the risks which needed to be managed when engaging an employee—

(1) Will he explain the reason for WorkCover Queensland's decision to cease providing claims histories to employers?

(2) What alternative measures are being effected by WorkCover to address the recruitment impediments imposed by this decision?

(3) Is he not concerned that there has been absolutely no consultation with employers prior to implementing this change?

Mr BRADY (18/10/99): I am advised by WorkCover Queensland that:

(1) WorkCover Queensland received advice from the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland that there was potential for workers' compensation claims histories to be used in a discriminatory way.

(2) While WorkCover Queensland will no longer be forwarding claims histories to employers, they will still provide this information to applicants (usually the injured worker) at no cost upon verification of identity. The employer can then seek this information from the prospective employee if this information is relevant to the vacant position.

(3) WorkCover Queensland is a statutory authority established by the Coalition and as such is responsible for its own administration and business processes.

1391. Teachers

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Education (17/9/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

On the first day of each month during 1999-2000 to date (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 and (e) how many were FTE supply teachers?

Mr WELLS (18/10/99): The Department informs me that it is not always possible to provide information for an exact date such as the first day of the month. Information as provided relates to staffing numbers as at the first pay close date of the month. Pay close date means the date upon which computer payroll processing concludes for the next due payment. The 'as at' date quoted for the information will represent the pay closure date.

Details regarding recoupment of seconded teachers salaries are no longer collated as part of general departmental business. This information has not been supplied as it places an unnecessary burden on otherwise limited departmental staff resources that are better utilised servicing core business.

Refer to Attachments A&B. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1392. Mining Leases

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (17/9/99)—

With reference to a general perception in the gem fields that the Department of Environment is making it difficult to have mining leases processed—

Is the native title issue once again bogged down and what can he do to exercise his Ministerial capacity to have these leases processed as there was an indication from the Premier in the House that the Government has fixed the problem?

Mr McGRADY (18/10/99): I presume that the question relates to ongoing 'right-to-negotiate' negotiations under the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 for the grant of a number of mining leases and mining claims to small miners on the central Queensland gemfields. There has been some difficulty in finalising an agreement between the native title parties and the miners' representatives for the grant of the first batch of tenements, but negotiations are continuing. As a conclusion is so close all parties have held off seeking a determination from the National Native Title Tribunal, which could take up to 6 months. There is nothing I can do to expedite the situation as the requirements of the Commonwealth legislation have to be complied with. Once the negotiations are completed, it is hoped to follow up the first agreement with Indigenous Land Use Agreements for the grant of all remaining and future applications for mining tenements without the 'right to negotiate' process.

1393. Education Department, Staffing

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Education (17/9/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

On the first day of each month during 1999-2000 to date (a) what was the total number of (i) public servants and (ii) wages employees employed in each sub-program, by sub-program within his department and (b) what was the number of (i) FTE public servants and (ii) FTE wages employees employed in each sub-program, by sub-program in his department?

Mr WELLS (18/10/99): The Department informs me that It is not always possible to provide information for an exact date such as the first day of the month. Information as provided relates to staffing numbers as at the first pay close date of the month. Pay close date means the date upon which computer payroll processing concludes for the next due payment. The 'as at' date quoted for the information will represent the pay closure date.

Refer to Attachment A & B

Attachment A—Public Servants (comprises public servants, janitor grounds-care, trainees and AAEP)

Attachment B—Wages (Cleaners) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1394. Gocorp Ltd; Navari Pty Ltd

Mr HOBBS asked the Premier (17/9/99)—

With reference to the Internet gaming licence awarded to GOCORP Ltd—

On what dates and at what locations did his Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Briskey, meet with any of the investors, consultants, or advisers to

GOCORP Ltd, Navari Pty Ltd, their antecedent companies or any other associated entity?

Mr BEATTIE (18/10/99): I am advised by Mr Briskey that no such meetings occurred.

1395. Gocorp Ltd; Topki Holdings Pty Ltd

Dr WATSON asked the Premier (17/9/99)—

With reference to the Internet gaming licence awarded to GOCORP Ltd—

Will he list the beneficiaries of each superannuation fund that invested in this licence through Topki Pty Ltd, Tahoe Superfund or any other entity and were probity checks undertaken on each of these beneficiaries?

Mr BEATTIE (18/10/99): The Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998 contains stringent secrecy provisions with regard to information provided to the Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation in connection with probity investigations. Accordingly, it would not be appropriate to provide the information sought, especially as none of the mentioned companies currently has any beneficial interest in GOCORP.

The Office of Gaming Regulation applied its normal, long established criteria in determining which persons should be subject to probity checks. These include—

Directors of the licence applicant or of companies with shareholdings in excess of 5% in the licence applicant;

Executive Officers of the licence applicant or companies with shareholdings in excess of 5% in the licence applicant; and

Shareholders with a beneficial interest in excess of 5% in the licence applicant.

In addition, QOGR has been conducting probity investigations into all shareholders of Navari Pty Ltd, irrespective of the level of their beneficial interest in GOCORP. The Auditor-General has now completed his report.

1396. Teachers

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Education (17/9/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

On the first day of each month during 1999-2000 to date (a) what was the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers employed in his portfolio in each sub-program, by sub-program, (b) how many FTE teachers were on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the education portfolio and (c) what is the name of each organisation inside and outside the education portfolio that had teachers on secondment, at these dates, (including the number of FTE teachers and the percentage of salary recouped from each organisation)?

Mr WELLS (18/10/99): The Department informs me that it is not always possible to provide information for an exact date such as the first day of

the month. Information as provided relates to staffing numbers as at the first pay close date of the month. Pay close date means the date upon which computer payroll processing concludes for the next due payment. The 'as at' date quoted for the information will represent the pay closure date.

Details regarding recoupment of seconded teachers salaries are no longer collated as part of general departmental business. This information has not been supplied as it places an unnecessary burden on otherwise limited departmental staff resources that are better utilised servicing core business.

Refer to Attachments A&B. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1397. Education Department, Staffing

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Education (17/9/99)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

On the first day of each month during 1999-2000 to date (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 and (f) as for (c) how many were FTE contract employees?

Mr WELLS (18/10/99): The Department informs me that It is not always possible to provide information for an exact date such as the first day of the month. Information as provided relates to staffing numbers as at the first pay close date of the month. Pay close date means the date upon which computer payroll processing concludes for the next due payment. The 'as at' date quoted for the information will represent the pay closure date.

Refer to Attachment A & B

Attachment A—Public Servants (comprises public servants, janitor grounds-care, trainees and AAEP)

Attachment B—Wages (Cleaners) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1398. Pine Rivers Youth Emergency Centre

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/9/99)—

With reference to the Pine Rivers Youth Emergency Centre—

- (1) What was the quantum of funding for this centre from her department for 1998-99?
- (2) What was the program source of funding for this centre from her department for 1998-99?
- (3) What was the purpose of funding (capital, grant, operating etc) for this centre from her department for 1998-99?
- (4) What is the budgeted quantum of funding for this centre from her department for 1999-2000?

- (5) What was the program source of funding for this centre from her department for 1999-2000?
- (6) What was the purpose of funding (capital, grant, operating etc) for this centre from her department for 1999-2000?

Ms BLIGH (18/10/99):

- (1) The centre did not receive any funding under programs administered by my Department for 1998-99.
- (2) See above.
- (3) See above.
- (4) Funding for accommodation support services to homeless people is available through the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP). SAAP is a joint Federal/State Government funded program through which grants are made available to church and community based organisations for the provisional of transitional supported accommodation and related support to homeless people in crisis. In recent years there have been no additional funds available within SAAP for new services. Negotiations are currently occurring with the Commonwealth Government as part of the development of a bilateral agreement, which will direct the program's focus for the next five years.

Funding for the Lions Youth Emergency Accommodation Centre will be further considered in the context of the SAAP funds that become available to my Department, within the context of other State and regional priorities.

My Department's Strategic Plan provides a framework for the allocation of all future funding through a local area planning process which identifies local needs, available resources and appropriate strategies and priorities. The centre will be invited to participate in this planning process.

- (5) See above.
- (6) See above.

1399. Tennyson Power Station Site

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (17/9/99)—

With reference to the use of the disused Tennyson Powerhouse site development as film and television studios—

- (1) What is (a) the estimated intended number of people to be employed and (b) the area of the site to be utilised for studios and associated office space?
- (2) What action is contemplated to minimise noise emanating from the site, including the river, day and night during filming and production and what environmental impact studies will be undertaken to ensure that noise will not affect residents in the vicinity including across the river?
- (3) As a greenfield site would be considerably cheaper to develop, what are the detailed reasons for choosing the Tennyson Powerhouse site over other locations?

Mr FOLEY (18/10/99):

(1) The possible use of the former Tennyson Powerhouse as a film studio is subject to assessment and eventually to decision by Government. It is therefore not yet possible to give definitive answers to all questions. However, the number of people employed would be determined largely by the number and type of productions undertaken, and the current projected floorspace for the studios is 3400m² and 10,000m² for the production offices, tenancies, wardrobe, art department, workshops and other supporting activities.

(2) The prime objective of a sound stage is to create an environment in which external noise is minimised to acceptable levels for film production purposes. Any structure that limits external noise penetration to minimal levels would also ensure that noise generated in the film production process will be contained within the confines of the sound stage. All environmental impact studies required to meet planning approval requirements will be undertaken.

(3) As part of the assessment process, the PFTC engaged Project Services, Department of Public Works to prepare cost plans for the Tennyson Powerhouse redevelopment option against other options, including demolition of the Tennyson Powerhouse and constructing new studios and other greenfield options. The redevelopment of the Tennyson Powerhouse provided the lowest cost option. To test the validity of the Project Services cost estimates, Quantity Surveyors, Ryder Hunt were engaged to cost the options, and confirmed that redevelopment of the Tennyson Powerhouse was less expensive than greenfield options.

1400. Drug Rehabilitation Programs

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Health (17/9/99)—

- (1) How many drug addicts are there in each region of Queensland and how many are regulated under Section 5(2) of the Mental Health Act?
- (2) What are the types of drugs for which these people are being treated and how often does the department distribute the drug message with other departments?
- (3) What linkage is there between the Health Department, the Education Department and police at operating level?
- (4) When were the programs last evaluated?

Mrs EDMOND (18/10/99):

(1) No accurate figures are available on the extent of drug dependence. There are no patients regulated under the Mental Health Act for treatment of their drug dependence.

(2) The majority of patients in treatment for drug problems are in treatment for their heroin addiction.

Queensland Health has for many years led a cooperative and collaborative approach with other Government departments in drug policy and strategies.

(3) Queensland Health works closely with Queensland Police Services and Education Queensland. Examples include:

increasing safety and reducing violence in and around licensed premises and at major public events;

local community projects around alcohol and illicit drugs;

schoolies week strategies;

promotions and strategies such as the Water and Alcohol Safety Project piloted in the Whitsundays;

the Spiked Drinks Project, also in the Whitsundays; and

suicide prevention projects.

schoolies strategies;

through the School Nurses program and through links from alcohol and drug workers with teachers, Queensland Health works with schools on a range of strategies within a health promoting schools framework; and

100% IN CONTROL Rock Eisteddfod Challenge events and 100% IN CONTROL Croc Eisteddfod Festival.

(4) These programs are all evaluated at periodic intervals depending on the nature of the programs. All clinical services provided by Queensland Health are evaluated on an ongoing basis.

1401. Q-Fleet

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (17/9/99)—

With reference to Q-Fleet within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999 by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?
- (4) What was the total value of vehicle assets for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?
- (5) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Q-Fleet for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (18/10/99):

(1) The breakdown is shown in column 1 of the table.

(2) The operational expenses are shown in column 2a of the table, and the administration expenses are shown in column 2b. The total expenditure for (a) and (b) is shown in the Total Expenditure column.

(3) The value of the inventory is shown in column 3.

- (4) The value of vehicle assets is shown in column 4.
 (5) The net profit/loss is shown in column 5. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1402. Coorparoo TAFE Campus

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/9/99)—

How much have the financial managers of Southbank Institute estimated that TAFE will retain from the disposal of the Coorparoo TAFE Campus?

Mr BRADDY (18/10/99): This information is Commercial-in-Confidence.

1403. Toowoomba Sports Ground Trust

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/9/99)—

With reference to a claim by Mr Stephen Hagan, currently before the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, where it is understood he is claiming \$50,000 in compensation for anxiety over the sign on a grandstand at Toowoomba's Athletic Oval named after former international rugby league player E S (Nigger) Brown and considering the Toowoomba Sports Ground Trust administers the Athletic Oval complex on behalf of the State Government—

Will he advise of any possible financial implications, should such a claim be successful, for either the State Government or the Toowoomba Sports Ground Trust?

Mr WELFORD (21/10/99): Toowoomba's Athletic Oval is land set aside for Sports Ground purposes with appointed trustees under the provisions of the Land Act 1994. In accordance with Section 91 of the Land Act 1994, trustees are to be taken as owner of the land for legal proceedings.

It is not appropriate to make predictions about possible financial implications for a private entity such as the reserve trustees in this matter. I do not anticipate that the State Government would be liable for any financial implications that may or may not arise in this matter.

1404. Childers Hospital

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health (17/9/99)—

- (1) Will she explain why the Childers Hospital is couriering its surgical instruments to Bundaberg for sterilisation, when there is an existing unit at Childers?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of repair of this Childers sterilisation unit?
- (3) What has been the cost of the daily special courier and the complete extra set of surgical instruments which were purchased to allow for weekends when the courier is not available?

- (4) Will she explain the rationale behind this double handling and will this situation be resolved, and when?

Mrs EDMOND (18/10/99): I am advised that:

(1) The existing unit at Childers has been deemed unsafe. Frequent reports of breakdowns were received from staff. An Australian Council on Healthcare Standards Accreditation review team also made the recommendation that use of the autoclave be ceased. This decision recognises that the safety of staff and patients is a high priority and integral to the provision of a quality health service.

(2) The estimated cost of repairs to the Childers Hospital sterilisation unit is approximately \$4,000. However, these repairs would only be a short term solution to the problem due to the limited life expectancy of the unit. A new unit would cost in the vicinity of \$20,000.

(3) The cost of surgical instruments was \$2,700. On many occasions the instruments can be transported by District Health staff travelling between Childers and Bundaberg in their normal course of business. The courier service when used will cost \$4.00 per day.

(4) There is no double handling of equipment as Childers Hospital staff package the equipment ready for sterilisation. This is a cost neutral process as no extra staff are employed at Bundaberg Central Sterilising Services Department (CSSD).

A similar situation occurred at the Gin Gin Hospital, approximately three years ago, and their sterilisation has been performed by the Bundaberg Hospital CSSD since that time. The Gin Gin Hospital has not experienced any problems with the process, such as delays on return of equipment, and is satisfied with the quality of the service and the quality control of sterilised items.

1405. Q-Build

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (17/9/99)—

With reference to Q-Build within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999 by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Q-Build for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (18/10/99):

- (1) The breakdown is shown in column 1 of the table.
- (2) The operational expenses are shown in column 2a of the table, and the administration expenses are

shown in column 2b. The total expenditure for (a) and (b) is shown in the Total Expenditure column.

- (3) The value of the inventory is shown in column 3.
 (4) The net profit/loss is shown in column 4. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1406. Goprint

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (17/9/99)—

With reference to Go-Print within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999 by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Go-Print for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?
- (5) What was the value of spoilage for each month since July 1998 up to and including August 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (18/10/99):

- (1) The breakdown is shown in column 1 of the table.
- (2) The operational expenses are shown in column 2a of the table, and the administration expenses are shown in column 2b. The total expenditure for (a) and (b) is shown in the Total Expenditure column.
- (3) The value of the inventory is shown in column 3.
- (4) The net profit/loss is shown in column 4.
- (5) The value of spoilage is shown in column 5. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1407. Queensland Building Services Authority, Rectification Work

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (17/9/99)—

With reference to the appearance that it is now the policy of the Queensland Building Service Authority (QBSA) to not send a dispute notice to any building company in liquidation, the directors of these

companies or any builder who has been declared bankrupt and the sole responsibility of assessing whether or not something has to be rectified now falls on the shoulders of the QBSA Inspectors in the field and if it warrants fixing as defective work, he refers it on to the insurance division—

- (1) As the QBSA will not allow the builder to appoint a Gold Card carrying contractor, who would be legally liable should any rectification be proven adequate, to carry out the work in a cost effective manner, isn't this a denial of natural justice to all builders and to directors who may be personally legally liable, as it does not enable them to mitigate their loss?
- (2) Will she rectify this situation?

Ms SPENCE (19/10/99): I am advised that under the law as it stands BSA does not have to issue a Direction to Rectify in every case and does not have to issue a Direction to Rectify to a company that is in liquidation. These positions were affirmed by the District Court in QBSA -v- Rottenberry in which the BSA successfully reviewed a decision of the Queensland Building Tribunal.

In the QBT hearing Selby -v- QBSA it was established that BSA does not have to forward copies of the Direction to Rectify or notice of a dispute to a company's guarantors. It has also been established in the QBT that BSA's decision to pursue a guarantor is not a reviewable decision.

BSA policy in regard to Directions to Rectify is to notify the Liquidator or Trustee that a dispute has been recorded, assessed as being the builder's responsibility and has been referred directly to insurance for processing of the consumer's claim. This policy is to expedite payments to the consumer and the contractor engaged.

I am advised that under the Corporations Law, directors of companies in liquidation no longer have control or influence over the affairs of those companies. The directors are not able to legally execute documents or act on the company's behalf, without the approval of the Liquidator.

Liquidators and Trustees in bankruptcy are charged with the responsibility to act in the best interests of creditors. In many instances this does not include spending what funds, if any, are available to the administration on rectifying building work. If there was a direct benefit to be had, usually in the form of a progress payment for completing works, Liquidators and Trustees evaluate the potential benefit to creditors of undertaking such action.

In most instances the entity is insolvent and has no cash assets to finance such work. The Liquidator would have to provide personal guarantees for the contractors and suppliers contributing to the work.

FRIDAY, 3 DECEMBER 1999

Mr SPEAKER (Hon. R. K. Hollis, Redcliffe) read prayers and took the chair at 9.30 a.m.

PRIVILEGE

Destruction of Documents, Hervey Bay Office of Department of Families

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.30 a.m.): Yesterday the honourable member of Caboolture accused the Government of destroying copies of a document. Members may recall the question he asked me. The matter concerns a report called "Items of Interest to SAAP Services in the Central Region from the Ministerial Advisory Arrangement". The report was circulated by a member of the Ministerial Advisory Arrangement at a meeting of central Queensland SAAP representatives on 29 September 1999. I am advised that the majority of the report was factual material; however, a number of pages of jokes, including obscene and sexist jokes, were added by the particular member of the Ministerial Advisory Arrangement, who has now indicated that he will not be seeking reappointment to the ministerial council to begin early next year.

I should make the point that those jokes were vulgar, and every member of this House would have found them vulgar and offensive. That person is not an employee of the Queensland Government. The added material was not endorsed or condoned by either the Government or the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. The Minister has asked all funded services to destroy the material to prevent anyone else from being offended. The Government would not consider, nor does it have the authority to direct independent organisations to destroy information in the report. The whole report has not been destroyed, only the insensitive and offending material which, as I said, all members of this House would have found to be offensive and vulgar.

PETITION

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petition—

Prostitution Laws

From **Mr Horan** (71 petitioners) requesting the House to reject any move to legalise

brothels in Queensland and do all in its power to restrict and contain this immoral practice which is so harmful to society.

Petition received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Young Australian of the Year Awards; Environment

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.33 a.m.), by leave: I want to tell members of this House and all Queenslanders that the future of this State is in good hands. The Queensland presentation last night of the Young Australian of the Year Awards demonstrated the depth of talent, initiative, compassion and determination we have among our young Queenslanders. Last night there were 21 finalists in seven categories. Today I congratulate the seven winners and all the other entrants throughout Queensland who are all achievers in their own right.

The Mayne Nickless Community Service Award was won by 27-year-old Melissa Anderson. The QCL Group Science and Technology Award was won by Andrew Roberts, aged 22. The Minister for Youth Affairs Career Achievement Award was won by Brett Jones, aged 27. The Unilever Environment Award was won by Justine Baillie, aged 26. The Abigroup Sports Award was won by Karrie Webb, aged 26. The Main Roads Regional Development Award was won by Daniel Grainger, aged 26. The Golden Circle Arts Award was won by Ali Wood, aged 19. Brett Jones was selected as the Network 10/Courier-Mail Young Achiever of the Year for Queensland. Brett won his award for his dedication in coaching and motivating athletes with intellectual and physical disabilities. I am sure all members would want to join me in congratulating these winners and all young Queenslanders who are seeking to make the most of their lives in these difficult times. I thank the honourable member for Chermiside for representing me on that occasion.

I want to discuss another award, but I will come back to that in a minute. Over the past couple of weeks, as honourable members would know, the Federal Environment Minister has gone to some pains to paint me as somewhat of an environmental vandal. He has accused me—quite wrongly, of course—of allowing overfishing on the Great Barrier Reef, of failing to secure land-clearing controls on leasehold and freehold land, of allowing the aquaculture industry an unfettered right to pollute and of wrecking his greenhouse gas

targets by allowing further private sector coal-fired electricity generators to be built—all of which is untrue. I have gone to some pains to explain that there is no truth in any of this and that all of these issues are being handled in a constructive, consultative fashion to ensure their resolution does not leave a trail of shattered, broken lives in its wake. As sure as day follows night, that is what Senator Hill's policies would produce.

But it is not for me to make this judgment about environmental credentials—far from it. As honourable members all know, I am far too humble a person for such self-aggrandisement. It is far better that a third party runs its ruler over my performance and the performance of my Government in the environmental area. And I am delighted to be able to inform honourable members that just that has in fact occurred. Just last Saturday night, the Sunshine Coast Environment Council saw fit to present me with a special award for outstanding environmental achievement. I happen to have it here. It carries the subtitle "RFA—Policy Vision". I prefer to call it the "Silver Frog Award". For the information of all members, I show that to the House. I should also add that the Queensland Timber Board and the Rainforest Conservation Society received similar awards in the same category. I point out to the Deputy Premier and the Minister for the Environment the significance of the RFA agreement. I thank my colleague Rod Welford for accepting the award on my behalf.

Mr Cooper: The timber industry doesn't agree; you sold them down the drain.

Mr BEATTIE: The timber industry is on it. It says that the award is presented to me, Keith Scott, Rod McInnes and Aila Keto. It shows what can be done when people are brought together in a consensus model.

Mr Cooper: A total sell-out.

Mr BEATTIE: Here we go—now he is trying to undermine the RFA.

I am happy to leave judgment of my environmental performance to those best qualified to make that judgment—the environmentalists. Perhaps Senator Hill might care to table his Jabiluka, RFA and greenhouse awards from the Australian Wilderness Society. I will not hold my breath waiting. And I will not hold my breath waiting for him to cough up his fair share of the cost of introducing responsible tree-clearing controls. This refusal really intrigues me, particularly when one considers that Senator Hill has three clear wins on offer here for the one price of \$100m. These wins are greenhouse, salinity

and biodiversity. I have already covered the greenhouse possibilities on offer, but to recap they are—

Firstly, he starts to meet his 8% Kyoto commitment.

Secondly, he meets his \$400m pledge to the Australian Democrats in return for their Senate support for his Government's goods and services tax.

Thirdly, he finds a worthwhile outlet for the \$180m he has squirreled away in his Budget as part of the National Greenhouse Strategy.

On biodiversity, he has a clear commitment to deliver to the people of Australia based on his Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Bill, which was passed by the Federal Parliament in June 1999 and is due to be proclaimed in the middle of next year. In order to achieve its objective, this Act—

"... enhances Australia's capacity to ensure the conservation of its biodiversity by including provisions to protect native species and in particular prevent the extinction and promote the recovery of threatened species and ensure the conservation of migratory species."

I can assure Senator Hill that there is a tonne of biodiversity on offer in the seven biogeographic regions in which tree clearing is currently occurring in Queensland. He could start with the brigalow belt, move to the mulga lands, up to the Mitchell grasslands, over to the desert uplands, down to the central Mackay coast ending up in south-east Queensland and on to the New England Tableland. He would get heaps of value for this same \$100m.

Finally, I turn to the issue of salinity. It was the Prime Minister himself who recently launched his Science, Engineering and Immigration Council's report on dryland salinity and its impact on rural industries and the landscape. This report clearly states that—

"... a sharp increase in salt loads and salinity levels is predicted for the Condamine, Balonne, Border and Warrego Rivers with estimated impacts by the year 2020."

Once the rising ground water trend has intercepted the land surface, then a uniform rate of salt discharge will enter the river system. To step in well before 2020 and save the long-suffering Queensland taxpayer a rehabilitation bill seems to me a fine way for Senator Hill to spend his \$100m. I stress that I am talking about the same \$100m on all three

of these issues, not a different \$100m for each. In short, Senator Hill gets three birds with one stone, and he could not ask for better value for money. As I said earlier, I am not going to hold my breath waiting for the Prime Minister's trophyless environmental minion to grasp the opportunity.

As members in this House would know, there have been a number of exchanges between Senator Hill and me over the last few weeks initiated by Senator Hill, but nevertheless I have responded. I do think it is important that we resolve these issues in the interests of Queensland. Today I will be writing to the Prime Minister. In my letter to the Prime Minister, I will be saying this—

"My dear Prime Minister

There are a number of pressing issues for the Commonwealth and Queensland which would benefit from discussions between our two governments.

These include areas in which resolution seems close, such as funding for a Forest Agreement for South East Queensland. As you know, Queensland officials have worked closely with their counterparts in your Department to conclude negotiations about Commonwealth support for our innovative agreement between the State, timber industry and conservationists. I would be concerned therefore if resolution of this issue was compromised by being linked to other matters presently under discussion.

There are also issues on which we await a decision from the Commonwealth. These include support for the Goodwill Games, to be held in Brisbane in 2001, and support for a more cooperative approach on aquaculture regulation and delivery on Cape York Peninsula Land Use Study.

Additionally, I await the Commonwealth's final approval of Queensland's Native Title mining legislation. I am of course pleased by preliminary indications from the Federal Attorney-General that Queensland legislation complies with the Commonwealth Native Title Act. Queensland is seeking a speedy resolution to this matter following the conclusion of consultation.

Unfortunately, there remain some outstanding issues in which agreement with the Commonwealth has not yet been possible. Two of the most complex and

important are vegetation management and a plan for the East Coast Trawl Fishery. On both issues I have established a consultative process which embraces all stakeholders. As with the forestry agreement, my government is working hard to reach a resolution which produces a fair and balanced outcome for the many competing interests. However, the cooperation and financial support of the Commonwealth is crucial.

On these issues, as on all aspects of Commonwealth State relations, I am keen to work closely with your government. Both levels of government have a vital interest in the environmental and economic health of the nation's third most populous state. I believe that both our governments have a unique opportunity, and indeed a responsibility, to set aside political differences and act decisively on these issues in the overall interests of the nation.

Given the importance of these issues, I therefore seek an urgent discussion to resolve outstanding differences."

I am prepared to work with the Federal Government in the interests of Queensland. I seek the cooperation of the Federal Government to resolve these issues. I look forward to a meeting with the Prime Minister and Senator Hill to resolve these issues.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before calling the Attorney-General, I recognise in the public gallery a former member of this House, Naomi Wilson.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Electoral Redistribution

Hon. M. J. FOLEY (Yeronga—ALP)
(Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts) (9.44 a.m.), by leave: While yesterday we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the first Labor Government in Queensland in 32 years, an incident which occurred in this House on the eve of that celebration shows the fight against the forces which led to the Fitzgerald inquiry and an end to corruption must go on. In the dark old days of the Bjelke-Petersen era, Queenslanders saw the most valuable tool in their democratic arsenal short-circuited— their vote— when the coalition shamelessly rigged the electoral system to keep themselves in power. But that rigging of the electoral system ultimately backfired when the corruption which inevitably

followed was exposed and that regime was repudiated by the public.

Electoral reform was one of the most important reforms resulting from the changes started 10 years ago. But on Wednesday night, the eve of the 10th anniversary of that historic occasion, we saw members of the National Party advocating a radical change to the electoral system. During debate on the Electoral Amendment Bill, the member for Toowoomba South and the member for Gregory both proposed a reduction in size of the larger electorates in Queensland. The member for Toowoomba South, Mr Horan, said the alternative he proposed was—

"... to reduce the size of these electorates so that members can give people personal representation instead of making the electorates bigger and bigger and bigger."

This can only mean more politicians or a return to the zonal malapportionment which propped up the Bjelke-Petersen regime. The member for Gregory, Mr Johnson, said he hoped his proposal would be treated favourably—

"... so that we can once again have more equitable electoral boundaries so that members can represent their constituents fairly."

Mr Johnson: Yeah, that's right.

Mr FOLEY: He endorses that by saying, "Yes, that's right." I take the interjection from the member for Gregory. This is code for a radical change in the electoral system. There are only two ways of implementing the Horan/Johnson plan. One is increasing the number of politicians. The other is a return to the zonal electoral system. To suggest such a thing on the eve of the anniversary of the election of a Labor Government charged by Queenslanders to stamp out electoral rotting was flabbergasting. To hear such a proposal from the two major contenders for the Opposition leader's job shows how vigilant we must all be, particularly when we consider how shaky the member for Surfers Paradise's hold is on the position. Is this why he has not publicly distanced himself from those reckless remarks? Will he maintain his silence in the face of those remarks, even though the Nationals—

Mr JOHNSON: I rise to a point of order. I wonder whether the member has consulted with the member for Mount Isa and the member for Cook.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr FOLEY: Absolutely unrepentant is the member for Gregory, which is all the more

reason for some leadership to be shown by the Leader of the Opposition. Will he maintain his silence in the face of those remarks, even though the Nationals supposedly support the current fair electoral system recommended by EARC? I can assure those Queenslanders who suffered the consequences of the corruption which the Joh gerrymander allowed to flourish that this Government will not countenance such a proposal.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Reports

Mr ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (9.48 a.m.): I table Public Works Committee Report No. 62 on the construction of additional female and male correctional centres in south-east Queensland, and Report No. 63 on the capital maintenance program for the Queensland Cultural Centre. I commend the reports to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Funerals for Indigent Persons

Mr SPRINGBORG (9.48 a.m.): My question is to the Honourable the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Arts. I refer the Minister to Justice Department contracts for the transport and subsequent disposal of the bodies of indigent persons, that is, needy and poor persons, by burial or cremation and to the fact that these contracts expired on 30 November and the new contracts have yet to be entered into. Given that the tenders closed on 1 November, I ask: why has the Minister failed to enter into any new contracts? If interim measures have been implemented, what are the details of any such arrangements? What has the Minister done to ensure that this situation will not recur?

Mr FOLEY: From time to time persons who are indigent die, and provision is made for the Justice Department to arrange for their burials. Those are done in accordance with contracts which are let by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to contractors, and those contracts are changed from time to time to ensure that the best possible value for money is obtained by the Justice Department. That is precisely what is happening on this occasion.

I thank the honourable member for his question, because it reminds me of just how silent he has been with respect to the great issue confronting this State in its dealings with the Commonwealth Government at the

moment, namely, the negotiation of our legal aid funding to provide funds to indigent persons who need access to justice.

Mr SPRINGBORG: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question is simply: why will the Attorney-General not bury the dead?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order.

Mr FOLEY: We can see how sensitive the honourable member is, because his silence has been exposed. He simply refuses to stand up for Queensland on the issue of why Daryl Williams and the Commonwealth Government have ripped \$2.5m out of Queensland's legal aid. If the member is concerned about justice and a fair go for those Queenslanders who need access to justice, let his voice be heard—instead of the skulking silence we have witnessed from the Opposition in regard to the ripping off of Queenslanders' fair entitlement to Commonwealth funds for legal aid.

Mr Springborg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Warwick will cease interjecting. That is my final warning.

Native Title

Mr SULLIVAN: I refer the Premier to the State Government's native title legislation, and I ask: has the Premier held discussions with the Federal Attorney-General, Daryl Williams, about whether the Commonwealth will support this legislation and is he aware of comments on this legislation by Aboriginal activist Les Malezer?

Mr BEATTIE: The answer to both questions is yes. Yesterday I had a meeting with Daryl Williams. Queensland's native title legislation is well on track. Mr Williams issued a media release critical of some aspects of what we have done in Queensland, but that was before I had a meeting with him yesterday. I requested a meeting and we had a meeting. The meeting with Mr Williams was very positive. I explained the detailed consultations we as a Government had undertaken with indigenous groups, the mining industry and other stakeholders.

My Government is the first and only Government to consult with indigenous representatives about State alternative provisions. We undertook an extensive process of consultation, taking on board the vast majority of suggestions and comments that indigenous representatives put forward. This started in July 1998, continued for four intensive months to November of that year

and has continued since with the various Bills introduced into this House.

There have been hundreds of hours of discussion, consultation and negotiation with Mr Malezer, Terry O'Shane and others and with other members of the Queensland Indigenous Working Group. At no stage during the process did Mr Malezer or anyone else describe the regime as racist. The Queensland Indigenous Working Group may not fully agree with the outcome, but I maintain that its fundamental rights have been protected by the regime. Yes, it had some criticism of it, but so did the miners. This was a balanced and fair outcome.

I reject absolutely the assertion by Mr Malezer that native title has been nullified. Nothing in my legislation discriminates against indigenous people and I reject totally any suggestion that it is racist. In fact, many aspects of the regime provide special rights to recognise the unique nature of native title which was, after all, recognised in the High Court decision. It is not racist legislation. I disagree with that view completely and absolutely. QIWG was at the table for the whole of this process when this legislation was put together. This is the first time it has raised those views. This is a fair and balanced outcome which can get the mining sector moving again, create jobs and allow indigenous people to benefit.

The Federal Minister is obliged to consult before he makes a final decision. The statements made yesterday are part of the theatre of that consultation process—nothing more, nothing less. I call upon all parties to maintain a balanced perspective in their comments.

Unless there is mining exploration as a result of this State-based regime, there will be no benefits to the mining industry and no benefits to indigenous Queenslanders. Since my Government has been in office we have made significant advances in relation to native title in this State, including a number of agreements covering Marlborough Nickel, the gem miners at Winton and so on. Yesterday's comments are not only untrue; they are unhelpful to a sensible resolution. I remind QIWG that we need a sensible outcome.

Law Reform Commission Funding

Mr BORBIDGE: I refer the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to comments by the chairman of the Law Reform Commission in its annual report. In relation to proposals to improve our courts to handle the

evidence of abused children and other child witnesses, Justice Muir said—

"The commission had hoped to undertake extensive regional consultations in this reference but unfortunately, because of budget constraints, it will not be able to do so."

Will the Minister now give a guarantee to ensure adequate funding will be provided to the commission to ensure proper community consultation is undertaken in this vital area?

Mr FOLEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. The position of child witnesses before the courts is of great importance. That is why, for example, a package of \$710,000 was made available in the budget to implement the Child Protection Act. It is one of the reasons this House passed the Government's legislation for audiovisual and audio links to enable people in remote areas to make those submissions.

Indeed, since the preparation of that report a number of matters have been of assistance to the Law Reform Commission, including the appointment of a full-time member of the commission, about which the honourable the chair of the commission made representations in his report. The Government has indeed appointed a full-time member of that commission in accordance with the request set out by the Law Reform Commission.

The commission raised a concern in relation to resources. That was responded to. Indeed, it is part of a larger response. An extra \$1.5m was made available in technology upgrade to ensure that our courts could make better use of available communications technology. The availability of that is important if we are to ensure that child witnesses and other persons who are vulnerable are dealt with before the courts.

It is interesting that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition maintains his silence with regard to whether he is backing the Horan/Johnson plan for extra politicians or a return to the zonal system. He has been silent on it since Wednesday night, when in this Chamber we saw the main contenders for the Opposition Leader's position advocating an end to the consensus on the EARC-based electoral reform and the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr Beattie: He doesn't want one vote, one value.

Mr FOLEY: As the Premier says, the Leader of the Opposition has been caught out and exposed because his silence is motivated

by one simple thing: he does not want to bring on a fight with Mr Horan and Mr Johnson because he does not know whether he has the numbers.

Mr Schwarten: He needs the zonal system to protect him.

Mr FOLEY: As the honourable member says, he needs the zonal system to protect him—perhaps one that gives added weight to the Gold Coast. It will be very interesting to see whether the honourable member takes a stand or whether he simply tries to duck it.

Mr Johnson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Gregory will cease interjecting. That is my final warning.

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Mr BORBIDGE: I am tempted to move for an extension of time for the Minister who will not bury the dead. I refer the Attorney-General to his claim that the ongoing problems within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions have been addressed. I also refer him to a personal plea to the Premier by a senior prosecutor, which I will table, to step in and resolve problems within the DPP's office. The senior prosecutor states—

"Recent experience has shown that there is little point in approaching the honourable, the Attorney-General about this matter."

I ask: has the Premier taken any action? Has he issued the Attorney-General any instructions or has he, as has the Minister, simply done nothing while this Minister recites poetry and appears in plays about failed Labor Governments while the criminal justice system collapses around him?

Mr FOLEY: I thank the honourable member for the question, because it gives me a chance to correct some of the brazen falsehoods which Opposition members have been putting out in regard to the Director of Public Prosecutions Office. The first falsehood has been this allegation, broadcast by the member for Warwick, that there had been a reduction in the funding for the office by \$1m.

Mr Beattie: Not true?

Mr FOLEY: It is simply not true. It is a false statement. It stands in a tradition of false statements about the budget by the member for Warwick. He falsely claimed that the funding for counselling and support for victims of crime in the budget had been slashed by over \$1m. That was false, and he has yet to apologise.

But let not the Honourable Leader of the Opposition—the temporary Leader of the Opposition—be reliant upon merely my say-so. No doubt he wishes to rely upon sources within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. I will give him a leak. Here is another document from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is an "Important Statement to All Staff" from the Director of Public Prosecutions, Royce Miller, in which he said—

"You may have seen/heard press reports that funding for this Office was reduced by \$1 million.

This erroneous conclusion appears to have been drawn by a comparison of the 1998/99 Annual Report of the Department with its previous year's report."

He goes on to say—

"Had I not been satisfied that funding was available to continue with the Office's staffing plans, I would have raised the issue in my Annual Report."

I table that document. Indeed, one of the other documents that has recently been tabled was the annual report of the Director of Public Prosecutions, in which he confirmed that, contrary to the mischief put about by the Opposition, there has been no political interference.

Let me deal with one other falsehood, that is, the claim that the Cairns office's accommodation was unacceptable to the Director of Public Prosecutions. I table the relevant document, signed by Royce Miller, to the director-general, in which it is stated—

"I regard this plan as offering fair and adequate accommodation for the Cairns staff of the DPP."

These are the falsehoods—

Mr BORBIDGE: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr FOLEY:—on which the honourable member—

Mr BORBIDGE: The document that I tabled was from the director of the Cairns office.

Mr FOLEY:—bases his spurious claims.

Mr BORBIDGE: The document that I tabled was from the director of the Cairns office.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat.

Mr FOLEY: What we are seeing is a new low in Queensland politics. What we are seeing is a concerted attempt by the Opposition Leader and the Deputy Opposition Leader to politicise the administration of justice, instead of doing their duty as a loyal Opposition.

Time expired.

Centenary of Labour Government

Mr PURCELL: I refer the Premier to his ministerial statement on Tuesday which marked the centenary of the world's first Labour Government, and I ask: can he advise the House if the occasion was also noted in the British Parliament?

Mr BEATTIE: I thank the honourable member for the question, because this is a matter of some historical importance. I am pleased to inform the House that this historic occasion—the centenary of the formation of the first Labour Government in Queensland and, indeed, the world—was noted in the British House of Commons. I am advised that an early day motion was moved and was signed by 44 members of the British Parliament. I am advised also that these motions are not usually debated. The motion read—

"That this House celebrates the centenary of the world's first Labour Government: and notes that on 1st December 1899, Anderson Dawson MP was sworn in as Labour Premier of Queensland, Australia, thereby giving confidence to emerging Labour Parties throughout the globe and beginning the process for a century of social advancement, dignity and justice for hundreds of millions of working people, delivered upon by future Labour Government."

I thank those British members of Parliament who supported that motion.

This is an anniversary that is worthy of acknowledgment and celebration around the world, because it heralded great and longstanding changes in society. Here in Queensland, the celebrations continue. Tonight is the opening night of the play that tells the story of the short-lived Dawson Government, featuring star turns by some of my ministerial colleagues, whom I know will perform well. As I have already told the House, Anderson Dawson's special place in history, and especially Labor history, will be honoured at our Community Cabinet meeting in Charters Towers this weekend. I know that everyone

looks forward to that meeting in Charters Towers.

I am also happy to report that there was a significant occasion last night, when the Labor movement honoured former Premier Wayne Goss. It was a great night.

Mr Purcell: A resounding success.

Mr BEATTIE: It was an outstanding success. There were more people there than attended John Howard's dinner in Sydney—I observe for the parliamentary record. And the calibre of the people there was significantly improved, as well. It was a great night. It is important that, on this occasion, I pay tribute to the Goss Government, because it brought light and honesty to this State.

Mr Veivers interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Southport!

Mr BEATTIE: It peeled back the dishonesty and corruption of the National Party days and gave to this State an honesty and integrity of which we can all be proud. That will be the lasting legacy of the Goss Government: honesty, integrity, dignity and the fact that we can be proud again to be Queenslanders. I pay a special tribute today to Wayne Goss and that Government for the significant contribution that it made to this State. Well done, Wayne!

Evidence of Child Witnesses

Mr BEANLAND: I refer the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General to this week's annual report of the Law Reform Commission, wherein the chairman has stated that a final report on proposals to improve our courts to take the evidence of abused children and other child witnesses will now not be finalised until mid 2000. Considering that his 1998-99 budget had indicated that this report would be completed last financial year, I ask: why have there been delays? And given the recent Forde inquiry, why is the Minister ignoring the plight of abused children?

Mr FOLEY: Indeed, contrary to the honourable member's assertion, this Government has taken a series of positive actions to address those issues. In terms of the implementation of the Child Protection Act, we have assigned funds right across a number of portfolios, including my own—\$710,000—to implement those provisions, which are designed to ensure, among other things, that child witnesses get treated better in court. As I indicated previously, we have made the appointment of a full-time person to the Law Reform Commission.

I must say that it is ironic to hear the honourable member speak of the allocation of resources within the Justice portfolio. This is the honourable member who gave us the Connolly/Ryan inquiry—the spending machine out of control. Far from showing any concern for the real priorities—child witnesses, vulnerable witnesses—the honourable member, aided and abetted by the current Leader of the Opposition, was happy to squander millions and millions of dollars simply to get the member for Surfers Paradise and the member for Crows Nest off the hook and to scuttle the Carruthers inquiry. We do not adopt that course, because—

Mr BEANLAND: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BEANLAND: I rise to a point of order. I find that remark offensive and ask that it be withdrawn. I asked the Minister about child abuse.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will withdraw.

Mr FOLEY: Mr Speaker, in accordance with your ruling, I withdraw. Indeed, I welcome the new-found interest in the institution of the Parliament shown by the member who refused to give up ministerial office when there was a vote of no confidence in him.

Mr BORBIDGE: I rise to a point of order. That is a bit rich coming from a Minister who misled an Estimates committee when he was bankrupting the Workers Compensation Fund.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr FOLEY: That is untrue.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Again, that was a frivolous point of order.

Mr Veivers interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Southport under Standing Order 123A, and I warn the Leader of the Opposition that, if he takes any more frivolous points of order, I shall also be warning him under Standing Order 124, which relates to disregarding the authority of the Chair. I now call the Attorney-General.

Mr FOLEY: Mr Speaker, I found the honourable member's remark offensive. It was grossly untrue, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr BORBIDGE: Mr Speaker, if the honourable member finds it offensive, I withdraw and refer him to the Hansard.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Honourable the Attorney-General.

Mr FOLEY: Mr Speaker, what we are seeing is honourable members opposite taking frivolous points of order to frustrate the operation of the House.

Regional Forest Agreement

Mrs ATTWOOD: I ask the Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade: can he tell the House of the level of support within both the timber industry and those towns which depend on timber for the Government's proposed regional forest agreement?

Mr ELDER: I thank the member for the question, because there needs to be a correction to the record. I have heard the mantra of those opposite, making the claim that the RFA was signed by one representative of the Timber Board—the whole implication being that, obviously, we walked in there and we got the cleaner or someone who was around at the time to sign the agreement.

Let me just remind members of the facts. The person from the Timber Board who signed the agreement was the president. He signed the proposal after it was ratified unanimously by the hardwood division of the Queensland Timber Board.

Mr Hobbs: He's since resigned.

Mr ELDER: He is no rogue signer; he was the president of the Timber Board. The fact of the matter was that he signed the proposal, and I again stress, after it was unanimously endorsed by the hardwood section of the Queensland Timber Board.

Mr Beattie: Unanimously.

Mr ELDER: Unanimously endorsed. Let me make this clear: the hardwood section of the Timber Board—those members who voted—harvest 90% of the Crown sawlog volume in south-east Queensland.

However, it gets a little better. The RFA proposal has been made public and the hardwood section of the Queensland Timber Board has supported the proposal, and I again stress, unanimously. I take the member's interjection, because he said that it was the previous president who had signed it. That president's term had expired and there was a new president. Just after the RFA, it was announced by Skene Finlayson, a member of a third-generation milling family in the Brisbane Valley—the sort of person whom the members opposite keep saying that we are dudding—that this was—

"The best possible outcome for the industry."

That is his view, which he stated publicly. Guess who is the new president of the Timber Board? Skene Finlayson! So a third-generation miller, who is on record as strongly supporting the State Government's proposal for an RFA, was democratically elected by his peers to be

president of the Queensland Timber Board. That gives members a bit of an indication of the view of timber millers in this area in relation to the RFA.

Mr HOBBS: I rise to a point of order. There are 21 local authorities in that region. The other day, 16 of them met and they are all opposed to what the Government is doing. So what the Minister is saying is wrong.

Mr SPEAKER: That is not a point of order; it is debating the issue. Again, it is a frivolous point of order.

Mr ELDER: I take the member's frivolous point of order. He referred to the endorsement from shire councils. In that regard, I will correct the record. In the Fraser Coast Chronicle on Friday, 17 September under the headline, "Mayors happy", it stated—

"Regional mayors and the timber industry in Wide Bay welcome the RFA."

It was supported by the mayors of Kingaroy and South Burnett. The best part is that on Friday, 17 September in the Gympie Times, Mick Venardos, the Mayor of Gympie stated—

"There are more positives than negatives in this for our area."

I say to those Mayors to not get embroiled in National Party politics and One Nation politics.

Destruction of Documents, Hervey Bay Office of Department of Families

Mr FELDMAN: I direct a question to the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services. In light of the Premier's statement just a moment ago about the Goss administration bringing honesty and integrity to Queensland Parliament, I refer the Minister to the document from her department, which was the subject of the question without notice to the Premier yesterday, and his statement to the House this morning, and I ask: as this document is or was a public record under section 5(2) of the Libraries and Archives Act 1988, did the Minister, as she was required to do under this law, seek and receive permission from the State Archivist prior to issuing her instruction to destroy all copies of that document?

Ms BLIGH: Thank you, Dorothy. I am very pleased to have an opportunity to put some facts on the record. There is a document circulating in central Queensland in which members of One Nation seem to have a very avid interest. The member for Hervey Bay has sought it through a question on notice and the member for Caboolture is seeking an

assurance that it will be protected from destruction.

This document was not prepared by the department. This document was prepared by an employee of a non-Government organisation in Maryborough. It was a report of a meeting that he attended as a representative on a ministerial advisory committee. At a meeting of the central Queensland region of SAAP representatives, he circulated a document, which was called "Items of Interest to SAAP Services in the Central Region from the Ministerial Advisory Arrangement". The report bears the Queensland Government crest and the logo of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. However, let me assure members that it was not prepared by my department and it is not a document of my agency.

It is a large document, the majority of which is factual material of relevance to those attending.

Mr FELDMAN: I rise to a point of order. If it is not a document from the Minister's department and she is having nothing to do with it, how come she is causing it to be destroyed?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order. The member will resume his seat.

Ms BLIGH: The member should just wait, I will get there. However, the final 18 pages of the document reprint material emailed to the author of the document. The material comprises a series of offensive, vulgar material masquerading as jokes, which I suspect is what some members here might be interested in.

This matter was brought to my attention when I received a formal complaint from a very large and well-respected service provider in central Queensland. On viewing the material, I shared the complainant's concern, and I suggest that all members of this House would have shared the concern. The author of the report has apologised unreservedly to all representatives who have received a copy of the document. He has also indicated that he will not be seeking reappointment to the ministerial advisory council.

In view of the concerns that have been expressed by other service providers, the offensive nature of the material and the use of the department's logo, I believed that it was important to clarify to all members of the sector in the central Queensland region that my department and the Government in no way endorses or condones this material. I became

aware that it had been circulated to other people and to other organisations. Therefore, if the member looks at the memo that he tabled yesterday, he would see that I have asked, not directed, funded services to destroy the offensive material—not the whole report—to prevent further distress or misunderstanding about the role of my department in this unfortunate matter.

Obviously, a copy of the full report, including the offensive material, along with the correspondence pertaining to it, will be retained on the files of my department. I can assure members opposite that I will not be providing it to members of One Nation. I am not in the business of procuring this kind of filth for them or anybody else. I suggest that if they are interested in it they should look elsewhere for it.

Destruction of Documents, Hervey Bay Office of Department of Families

Ms STRUTHERS: I ask the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care: can she inform the House of the status of the document referred to yesterday by the member for Caboolture, who alleged that the Minister has instructed it to be destroyed?

Ms BLIGH: I thank the honourable member for the question, because it allows me to put some further facts about this matter on the record.

It is true that I have expressed my view to funded services in receipt of this material that it really ought to be destroyed. I do not care how they destroy it. I have not suggested that they shred it. Frankly, I would prefer that they burnt it. I was astounded to see the member for Hervey Bay seeking this material in a question on notice and I am shocked to see the member for Caboolture attempting to ensure the further distribution of this material.

Let me make it very clear to the House: the material in this document is not merely a matter of taste. For example, these are not risque blond jokes; the jokes in this material are too unspeakably vulgar for me to repeat in this House. However, let me say that they relate to matters such as masturbation, sodomy, menstruation, and referring to people with intellectual disability as "retards". To see the self-appointed moral guardian of the Parliament, the so-called champion of family values, who is always ready to invoke the lessons of Jesus Christ in this place—

Mr FELDMAN: I rise to a point of order. I find the remarks from the Minister highly offensive and I ask them to be withdrawn.

Ms BLIGH: I withdraw anything that the member finds offensive. This is nothing short of blatant hypocrisy. The electorate deserves better than the claptrap on this matter from that corner of the Chamber. The source of the memo that the member tabled in this House yesterday is the same organisation from Hervey Bay that has made a series of bizarre and baseless allegations that my department recruits witches and supports witchcraft. My department funds organisations, such as the source of this material and all of the others who received it, to provide necessary services to homeless people in our community, and I expect them to pay attention to what they are funded to do. They are not funded to be involved in this sort of wacky, offensive and vulgar behaviour. They certainly should not have put the logo of my department or the crest of the Queensland Government on this material when they distributed it. I advise the member for Caboolture and the member for Hervey Bay to get off the wacky train and talk to the real service providers in their electorates.

Wivenhoe, Power Station

Dr WATSON: I refer the Minister for Mines and Energy to the Government's plan to build a 700 megawatt gas-fired power station at Wivenhoe and his assurance to this House that "there will be a full public EIS"—environmental impact study—before the final approval is given, and I ask: can he inform the House when that EIS will be started, when it will be finished and when it will be made public?

Mr McGRADY: I thank the Leader of the Liberal Party for the question. I honestly believed that Dr Watson was a man of some ability.

Dr Watson: Answer the question.

Mr McGRADY: I will answer the question. Ten years ago, the former member for Mount Isa, Peter Beard, told me that he was looking forward to coming back after 1989 to join up with Dr Watson, because he was a man of tremendous intellect. Every single day this week the good doctor has come into this place and asked questions about the Wivenhoe proposal. I will do him a favour and get my department to give him a full briefing on this proposal some time next week.

Mr Bredhauer: So he can stop embarrassing himself.

Mr McGRADY: He should stop embarrassing himself.

As the honourable member for Moggill knows, this project is still in the early stages of

planning. I have told him that at least a dozen times. He knows full well that it is the subject of a feasibility study by the corporation. We cannot give him the time frame until we get the results of the feasibility study. As soon as we get those details, I will be more than happy to pass them on to him.

Today, South Australia is in absolute chaos because of errors made by its Government. This morning, it is appropriate that I tell the people of Queensland that, while South Australia—which is under a Liberal administration—is in absolute chaos, this very day Queensland has some 7,159 megawatts of available power. We anticipate a peak demand of 5,350 megawatts, which gives us a reserve capacity of some 1,800 megawatts of power.

Dr Watson: What's this got to do with Wivenhoe?

Mr McGRADY: This has a lot to do with it. It proves that this State Government has an energy program. The people of Queensland understand that the energy policy and plan of this State is in safe hands. I wish the honourable member would come up with some realistic, sensible and relevant questions.

Fireworks

Mr PITT: I also have a question for the Minister for Mines and Energy. Given the fact that this year's new year celebrations are likely to be bigger than ever, can the Minister inform the House of any restrictions on the use of fireworks?

Mr McGRADY: I thank the honourable member for the question, because this is an issue that is very pertinent in the lead-up to the festive season and in particular in the lead-up to New Year's Eve and the start of a new century, when almost everybody will be celebrating in one way or another.

Fireworks do provide great entertainment. However, they can also be very dangerous. They can cause injury to people and damage to property if they are not handled safely. Doctors could give us examples of how people have lost eyes and limbs because they did not understand how to handle fireworks safely. That is why back in 1972 the use of fireworks by the general public was prohibited under the Explosives Act, which comes under my portfolio, as honourable members would know. Since then the use of fireworks has been restricted to licensed operators carrying out displays for entertainment purposes. That position has not changed.

Unfortunately, sometimes fireworks become available illegally and people are tempted to buy them from backyard dealers at cracker nights and so on. These illegal fireworks generally come from interstate sources and they can present a real problem not only in Queensland but also in other States. The police are well aware of the issue. Several successful prosecutions have been made in this State and in others for selling fireworks illegally. More importantly from the community's point of view, in addition to being sold at exorbitant prices, the illegal fireworks are generally of very poor quality and most of them are imported. They can be very dangerous and cause injuries such as burns, eye injuries and the loss of fingers. These types of tragedies and the high potential for danger should make people think twice before being tempted to buy these illegal products.

Apart from novelty items such as sparklers, it is an offence for any unlicensed person to possess or use fireworks. The penalty for such an offence can be significant—a fine of up to \$30,000 or six months' imprisonment. Although there are very stiff penalties for being in possession of or using fireworks illegally, an amnesty is in place which allows people to hand them over to police voluntarily or to the explosives section of the Department of Mines and Energy. The law prohibiting fireworks has been in place for many years and the reasons for it are still valid. Approved courses are available for people to gain a level of competency in the use of fireworks. But it is not as simple as just doing a course; people also have to be registered with the Department of Mines and Energy.

Special Education

Mr QUINN: I ask the Minister for Education: can he inform the House how many special schools will suffer staff cuts under the new "allocative" model released to schools this week? Can he inform the House why these cuts are necessary when the overall budget for special education has been increased significantly by successive Governments in recent years? Can he also inform the House how the staffing cuts in those schools will improve the education of students with physical and intellectual disabilities?

Mr WELLS: At the outset, I acknowledge the honourable member's expertise in the area of special schools—which, of course, derives from his extensive experience in closing them. The honourable member's supporters in

Mackay, Toowoomba and Eight Mile Plains still speak of his extensive experience in that area.

The staffing cuts to which the honourable member referred are figments of his imagination. Since the start of this year, there has been an increase in the number of special education teachers of more than 80. The significance of that is that we have provided more teachers than ever before in the area of special education. Since 1 January there has been an ascertainment system, which operates like this: a child is ascertained as having a certain level of disability. Then the resources are applied to a school in accordance with that level of disability. The ascertainment level travels with the child. For example, if the child moves from one school to another, that will lead to an adjustment between the schools as to the resources available from one school to the next.

As a result of the honourable member's reallocation of the State from a series of regions into a series of districts, some schools received more favourable treatment in terms of resources in special schools and special education units than others. The shift from the regions to districts has worked comparatively well, but there were some factors that the honourable member did not consider when he was doing the reallocation, one of which was its consequences for the allocation of special education resources. There was a certain amount of malapportionment.

Ms Bligh interjected.

Mr WELLS: I said "malapportionment".

Mr Schwarten: Say it again.

Mr WELLS: Say it again?

Mr Schwarten: Yes.

Mr WELLS: Malapportionment—the Minister is very easily satisfied on these points.

Is there any member in the House who would like to see a system whereby some schools are treated more favourably than others in respect of the allocation of special education resources? Let the Hansard record show that no member objected to the staffing/resource allocation system being used.

Time expired.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The time for question has expired.

PROSTITUTION BILL

Resumption of Committee

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) in charge of the Bill.

Resumed from 2 December (see p. 5853).

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Before debate on the clauses commences, I remind honourable members that there has been far too much repetition in debate on this Committee stage.

Clause 101, as read, agreed to.

Clause 102—

Mr BEANLAND (10.31 a.m.): I notice that this clause relates to the membership of the authority, but there is no membership of the authority of—

Mr BEATTIE: I rise to a point of order. I am having difficulty hearing the honourable Opposition spokesperson.

Mr BEANLAND: I will talk louder.

Mr BEATTIE: I am just trying to get some quiet at the back, if I could please.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr BEANLAND: I think that is the first time that nobody in the Chamber has been able to hear me. I notice there are no representatives of the general public on this authority, nor is there a representative of a church group or a regional representative etc. It does say that the chairman is to be an independent, respected member of the community nominated by the Premier and, of course, there is the Police Commissioner or a police officer, the Crime Commissioner or assistant crime commissioner etc., a doctor, a lawyer and a senior representative of local government. I accept that all those categories are there for good reasons. Members of the authority are to be appointed by the Governor in Council etc., but there is no-one there representing the general public as such—the churches or anyone of that nature—nor any stipulation in relation to regional representation. I ask the Premier: what is the reasoning for that, and has consideration been given to that?

Mr BEATTIE: The shadow Attorney-General I think is the best way to describe the member.

Mr Beanland: Shadow Minister for Families.

Mr BEATTIE: That is right, he is not the shadow Attorney, he is the shadow Minister for Families. We have had a bit of a change in the guard this morning in debate on this legislation. I just draw the attention of the honourable member to clause 115, which deals with the membership of the council. It states—

"The Council consists of the number of members appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the ministerial committee ..."

They include—

- "(a) a person who represents prostitutes in Queensland; and
- (b) a person who has experience as a sexual health care doctor ...
- (c) a person who has knowledge of relevant issues for marginalised or disadvantaged young people; and
- (d) a person who is representative of religious or community interests."

I just say to the shadow Minister that that council is where the community input will have its say, including the churches and other religious or community groups. The actual authority itself is designed to have a clear administrative role, if I can use that broad term. That is why the two functions are different. The answer to the honourable member's question really lies in clause 115. As he can see from clause 102, those people are to carry out a specific role. It is very much that supervisory overview role which does, in fact, require particular expertise.

I indicate to the honourable member that, in terms of the chairperson, it would obviously be a prominent member of the community. If the member adds that last comment in relation to clause 102 and the comment in relation to clause 115, I think that answers the honourable member's question.

Mr BEANLAND: I listened carefully to what the Premier indicated. The one point I raise is that the functions of the council—and I will not take time to go through them—are vastly different from those of the authority. The authority, of course, has certain specific powers in relation to monitoring, deciding applications and that sort of thing. Reflecting upon it because of the difference in roles that the authority and the council play, I still believe that it would have been appropriate to have someone representing the community or the general public and perhaps someone with an emphasis on regions.

Mr BEATTIE: I should mention that the functions of the council are set out in clause 114. The membership is set out in clause 115, which is what I was referring to. In terms of the question the honourable member raises, under clause 102(1)(a), the chairperson is an independent, respected member of the community. I give an assurance to the honourable member that, since obviously I will be the person nominating that person, it will be

a representative of the community who can represent the sort of concerns and views that the honourable member has raised here. I give him that assurance on the record.

Clause 102, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 103 to 110, as read, agreed to.

Clause 111—

Mr BEATTIE (10.36 a.m.): I move the following amendment—

"At page 61, after line 16—

insert—

'(aa)the name of each holder of a licence or certificate;'. "

The reason this has been done is that we believe it was inherent in the Bill as drafted that the name of each holder of a licence or certificate would be on the certified register. To remove any doubt whatsoever that the licence holder would, in fact, be available to the community, this amendment is designed to put that beyond any doubt in anyone's mind. As I said, we believed it was inherent in the clause as drafted, but by adding the name of each holder of a licence or certificate to be on the register and, therefore, available to public scrutiny, we remove any doubt.

I understand that some comments were made by various people at the time that they were confused about whether it was clear or not. By inserting this amendment, we are removing any doubt whatsoever. I just highlight that this means that, on the payment of a fee prescribed under the regulation—and, obviously, that will be designed to cover just the administrative costs so that there is some return there—the community at large will be able to get access to that information, and that will be freely available. So what would be on the record would be each licence holder so the world will know who owns these places, and obviously the address is already set out in the rest of the clause. This is opency and transparency.

Mr BEANLAND: Thanks, Mr Chairman. I think the amendment moved by—

Mr Beattie: I was just wondering whether there is a word "opency". I said "opency". English is a living language.

Mr BEANLAND: It is a new one, I think, for the dictionary. I accept the Premier's amendment. I think it is a good amendment and does tidy up a loose end there, but I have just a couple of other points which relate to clause 111(1)(e). The clause states—

"The registrar must enter in a register kept for the purpose full particulars of the following—

...

(e) all entries into licensed brothels by police officers."

Should details of entry by members of the Prostitution Licensing Authority also be listed? I would have thought that it would be appropriate to have those recorded also. One could argue about local government representatives. I am not trying to catch all. However, we have to keep in mind that the licensing authority, the council and local governments play a very important role in that process. It is not only police officers who are involved. I accept that there are valid reasons why police officers are recorded. However, I think there is justification for the details of the licensing authority being recorded also.

Clause 111(4) and (5) refer to correcting mistakes. Clause 111(4)(b) states—

"... may make a correction on the registrar's own initiative, or on the application of any person."

Clause 111(5) states—

"If the registrar makes a correction, the registrar must record in the register the date on which it was made."

Perhaps some people might feel happier if there were notification of any changes made to the licensing authority when those corrections are made. I hope that all the changes that are made are quite justified and that proper notations will be kept. It could reach a farcical situation. I am not trying to be difficult, but I can see the register ending up a bit of a fowl-house operation. Changes to the register must be made carefully and not made willy-nilly for any reason. They are valid concerns. In the scheme of things, the register is a very important document. I think we would all agree with that.

Mr BEATTIE: I will deal with the second question first. There is no reason why there cannot be an administrative arrangement for notification. I do not think that that is an unreasonable point for the honourable member to make. That can be covered by way of regulation or in some other administrative way. By noting that for the record, we will take that into account.

In terms of the issue raised about the police and whether the register should also show the authority or any other Government department—because other Government departments will, from time to time, seek

access—there is nothing that prevents that being recorded on the register. The reason that police were cited is clearly the history of these matters. We wanted to be absolutely clear that there was a mandatory requirement that all entries into licensed brothels by police officers were on the register. As can be seen from clause 111(2), access is available to that register by any other person. Opposition members and members of the media will be able to assess the access by police. That is a history issue. In terms of the other parties, there is no reason why that cannot be done. That is a matter that we can pursue. That is something to be done at an administrative level.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 111, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 112—

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM (10.43 a.m.): I would like clarified what consideration has been given to the impact of this new legislation on the budgets of Queensland Health and the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. It is an issue that has not been discussed. Prior to this Bill, the majority of the cost was borne by the Police Service. This appears to be a cost transfer in great measure to the Health Department. I am seeking clarification of what consideration has been given to allocations to Queensland Health and the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care in light of those new responsibilities.

Mr BEATTIE: I thank the honourable member for Gladstone for that point. From time to time, when we establish mechanisms or bodies, the Government carefully examines what are the cost transfers or the new costs. Having spent 17 months on our Cabinet Budget Review Committee, I can assure the honourable member that that is a matter of considerable and constant review. Whenever one makes a change, in a sense it is like a balloon: if one makes a change here, it breaks out over there in terms of cost. I give the member this assurance: this is a matter that we will keep a very careful eye on. As the member said, most of those costs have been borne by the Police Service. In terms of Queensland Health and the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, there is already a considerable cost involved in terms of human damage and the need for human repair for those involved in a number of those activities.

In terms of Queensland Health, any costs associated with health will be ongoing. Currently, prostitution is legal. There are a

number of costs associated with that. In terms of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, the costs of support services are currently being incurred. It is very hard to measure exactly what will happen and whether or not there will be significant extra costs. It may turn out to be cost neutral. I can assure the member that we have considered it. We will keep it under constant review.

Clause 112, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 113 and 114, as read, agreed to.

Clause 115—

Mr BEANLAND (10.45 a.m.): In relation to membership of the council, I note that there is no reference to regional, country or rural parts of Queensland. I emphasise that, because this is a large State. I think it is important for us not to be blinkered and deal only with south-east Queensland in relation to this issue. It is very important to deal with the range of issues that relate to those parts of Queensland which are, as I am sure the Premier would agree, vastly different from the issues and problems relating to south-east Queensland. Nevertheless, I think there is a very pertinent point to be raised. No reference has been made to the inclusion of someone from other parts of Queensland. I hope that the Premier can provide an assurance that at least recognition will be given to this point and that at least someone from regional Queensland will be appointed.

Mr BEATTIE: The point made by the honourable member is a very good one. I give an undertaking that we will include a regional representative. There is nothing that prevents us from expanding it. If it goes through as it is, there is nothing that prevents us from expanding that to include a regional representative. I give an undertaking on the record that we will include a regional representative on the council. I think the member's argument is well based.

Clause 115, as read, agreed to.

Clause 116, as read, agreed to.

Clause 117—

Mr BEANLAND (10.47 a.m.): Clause 117 does not include someone who has been involved in or associated with a brothel. This clause relates to disqualifications for appointment to the council. It discusses people being insolvent and convicted. We understand that. Owing to the role and importance of that council, obviously there could be some grave conflicts of interest if people were appointed to that council who have previously had some association with brothels or are planning to be associated with

brothels. I think there is some cause for concern.

Clause 117(2)(c) states—

"... becomes incapable of discharging the duties of a member because of physical or mental incapacity."

I accept that. They are the usual circumstances that pertain to those matters. However, I raise the point in relation to someone who has been involved, is involved or is planning to become involved in brothels in some way. I believe that there is a potential for a conflict of interest. I would like to hear from the Premier in relation to that. It would defeat the purpose of the council if people on the council had those conflicts of interest.

Mr BEATTIE: What we are trying to do here is get a council that can advise on how to handle these issues. We do need to have a prostitution representative.

Mr Beanland interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: They will be knocked out on the conviction part in terms of the future.

Mr Beanland: They may not be.

Mr BEATTIE: As it turns out, this is quite a technical legal point. This is a Lord Denning performance here today. The member should go back to being shadow Attorney-General. The answer to the member's question is basically this: we will not be appointing anyone who has convictions for running an illegal brothel. The way to do that is by Government discretion, bearing in mind that the problem we have is that we will want to have someone who has some experience in prostitution to give that sort of advice. They may well have some conviction of a simple offence, for example. We would not want to exclude them on that basis because we would want to have that advice.

In relation to the issue that the member raised about a conviction for running a brothel or something like that, I can assure the member that any appointment of a person who has been convicted of running a brothel will not be considered. That then still enables us to get someone on the council who has had experience as a prostitute who can give that advice relating to the running of the council. It is an advisory council; that is the point.

Mr BEANLAND: I thank the Premier, but that was not quite the point I was making. I understand that from the clauses. What I am concerned about is someone who is running a brothel. The way I read it, it does not say that a brothel owner is excluded, and the Premier

can correct me. I accept that there has to be a representative of prostitutes on the council.

Mr Beattie: You mean running one now?

Mr BEANLAND: Yes.

Mr BEATTIE: What would happen then is that anyone who runs a brothel, if we are talking about an illegal brothel, would be committing an offence under this Act and therefore they would not be eligible.

Mr Beanland: I understand that, but how about a legal brothel?

Mr BEATTIE: We would not exclude them, no. The member is quite right. The reason for that is that, again, it is an advisory position. That experience would actually be useful in assisting the Minister in considering and making decisions on these matters. In essence, the member's point is right. If it is illegal, then they are out. If it is a legal one, then their advice would be helpful. I think that is the answer. We actually solved another problem while we were at it. So there you go. You got two resolutions for the price of one.

Mr Beanland: Thank you.

Clause 117, as read, agreed to.

Clause 118, as read, agreed to.

Clause 119—

Mr BEANLAND (10.53 a.m.): In relation to clause 119, I just want some indication of what fees and allowances are going to be decided by the Governor in Council in relation to this matter. As Mr Chairman would appreciate, there are a range of fees that the State pays which can be anything from a couple of hundred dollars per meeting into many, many tens of thousands of dollars. I just want some indication.

Mr BEATTIE: We have had a system to standardise fees in terms of representation on Government bodies. This was something that I did when we came into Government because, as the member says, there has been traditionally—and I am not being political when I say this—different levels of fees across all Governments. We have actually standardised it. It will be whatever the standard fee is. I cannot tell the member what that is off the top of my head, but there will be a standard fee. As is consistent with my Government, they will be modest.

Clause 119, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 120 and 121, as read, agreed to.

Clause 122—

Mr BEANLAND (10.54 a.m.): Clause 122 deals with the annual report. It states—

"The Council must, as soon as practicable after the end of each year, but within 4 months after the end of the year, prepare and give to the ministerial committee a report on its operations during the year."

I raise the issue of why that report is not proposed to be tabled in the Parliament. I understand why the council is giving it to the Minister. There is no problem with it, and that is appropriate. But I would have thought that this issue is a very important issue. The role of the council is very specific. That is set out; that is fine. If we are going to have this annual report and people start chasing around after FOI, although some matters are excluded under FOI, etc., this of course raises this issue. If it is going to be a prepared annual report, I see no reason why it should not be tabled in the Parliament.

Mr BEATTIE: It is not in the legislation; the honourable member is right. But, as I understand it, the Minister yesterday gave a commitment that it would be.

Clause 122, as read, agreed to.

Clause 123—

Mr BEANLAND (10.55 a.m.): Clause 123, "Establishment of fund", states—

"The Prostitution Licensing Authority Fund is established."

Is this authority to be financially independent? If not, where are the funds going to come from? What sort of cost is the Premier expecting to run this particular authority during the year? I think these are fairly relevant issues as to the funding and the cost of running the operation. Clause 124 deals with receiving payments into the fund. That is fair enough. Clause 125 deals with payments out of the fund, which is another issue that relates to this. So they are interrelated. But, to save time, could the Premier give us some indication of how this is going to operate?

Mr BEATTIE: Basically, if we look at the purposes of the fund—and I think the honourable member pointed this out himself—they are covered in clauses 124 and 126. Clause 124 states that the fund consists of the following: fees paid under the Act, so they go into the fund; amounts payable under sections 29(e) or 55, and that relates to the footnote, which says that section 29 relates to the disciplinary powers of the authority—that is, amounts payable under that—or 55, which is disciplinary powers of the authority. They are both the same thing. Any amounts payable under the disciplinary parts will go into the fund

as well, as will other amounts received by the authority under the Act.

It is basically a fund designed to receive those amounts of money. That is what it is there for. Payments out of the fund are covered in clause 125, and that relates to the refund of fees, costs and expenses. It is a fund where these amounts of money for those particular purposes would go under clause 124. They would be paid out under clause 125. Clause 126 states—

"The Minister may give the Authority written directions about—

- (a) the purposes for which the Authority may pay amounts out of the fund in exercising its functions under this Act; and
- (b) the extent to which the Authority may pay an amount for any particular purpose."

Getting to the issue that is not covered in that, which is do we want it to be self-funding—I would love it to be self-funding, but it is too early to make a judgment on that. Clearly, there is always a cost, as there is now, in monitoring, controlling and regulating prostitution.

The fund within this section is specifically designed to put those amounts of money in it which are to be paid out under the particular circumstances. It is not a fund that the Government is going to pour huge amounts of money into. It is not for that. It is just for these fees. That is what it is there for. As to the broader question of whether this will all be self-funding—I would love it to be. I would love to do that. That would be our preferred position, but whether it is in the long run remains to be seen.

Clause 123, as read, agreed to.

Clause 124, as read, agreed to.

Clause 125—

Mr BEANLAND (10.58 a.m.): Briefly, I notice that 125(1)(c) mentions "contributions to philanthropic causes". I would have thought that having "philanthropic causes" in a Bill such as this would be a little unusual, but there may be a very good reason for it that I have not come across. Could the Premier give us some indication of what is proposed by this particular clause? It is quite unusual for a piece of legislation to have that clause contained within it.

Mr BEATTIE: It is a good question. The very clear desire through the whole legislation—we have said this before—is to actually get people out of prostitution. There

will be a strategy to actually encourage people out of prostitution, to do something else. This clause is there to run particular programs in various circumstances to try to encourage people out. It is an exit program.

Mr BEANLAND: I thank the Premier. I would have thought the Bill would have referred to community organisations or something like that. I accept what the Premier says.

Mr BEATTIE: Obviously there will be more money for that exit program, but we just wanted to set out in the legislation that if there is money left over we will take some of that and use it for the exit program. That is basically it.

Clause 125, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 126—

Mr BEANLAND (11 a.m.): I note in this clause that the Minister may give the authority written directions about a range of issues. I take it that, if the Minister is going to do that, there will be some sort of indication in the annual report to this effect. I think this is particularly important if the Minister is going to issue written instructions and directions. That may be contained elsewhere within the Bill, although I have not sighted it. As we have with some other legislation, there should be a clear indication by the Minister in the annual report that he has given instructions to that effect and that is why that has occurred.

Mr BEATTIE: As I understand, yesterday the Minister indicated to the Chamber that in the annual report there would be a breakdown of how the money has been spent and any directions the Minister gave as to how the money is to be spent. So the answer to the member's question is yes.

Clause 126, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 127 to 134, as read, agreed to.

Clause 135—

Mr BEANLAND (11.01 a.m.): Clause 135(1) states—

"A health service provider is entitled to refuse to give any document or information, or answer any question, in relation to an investigation of, or prosecution for, an offence against this Act on the ground that it would disclose information gained in providing a health service."

That, of course, is health confidentiality. What if the prostitute has a serious sexually transmitted disease, for example? What will be the situation in relation to that? There could be a range of issues such as that. What

consideration has been given to the reporting of such serious health situations?

Mr BEATTIE: This provision is currently in the Criminal Code. It is the normal health protection that people have. There are certain protocols in place on how to deal with the issue that the member has raised, and they would apply here. I think the concern the member raises is a legitimate one, but it is dealt with by the normal health protocols.

Clause 135, as read, agreed to.

Clause 136, as read, agreed to.

Clause 137—

Mr BEANLAND (11.03 a.m.): Clause 137 relates to the application of the Freedom of Information Act. It states—

"The Freedom of Information Act 1992 does not apply to a document given to or produced by the Authority for this Act."

I went through these issues in my brief speech yesterday, so we will save time here. This is an exemption from FOI. I do not believe the Government has really explained what this exemption is all about and why the Premier has included this exemption within the legislation.

Mr BEATTIE: I am happy to try. As he knows, I share the honourable member's passion for supporting FOI. I am sure we both have the same commitment to it. I have always been committed to it and I know that the honourable member is.

The bottom line is that the regulatory authority will have to consider all sorts of circumstances and all sorts of information when it makes decisions. Because we are dealing with a very tough edge of human behaviour, it is important that the regulatory authority is able to take advice which will influence its decision, but that there be some protection. There should be some protection for the source of the information which is provided, otherwise people may be less likely to come forward with information in these particular circumstances.

These are tough laws. Let us say that, for example, X has no criminal convictions at all and on the surface of it is a very decent person. But X may well be a close friend of, say, Warren Armstrong who, as we know, has a range of convictions on a number of issues involving that place he runs in Spring Hill. I know the place; it is in my electorate. I have been trying to get rid of him for years. He is not someone with whom I have any close affinity. He is one person who will be absolutely

excluded by this legislation and will never be anywhere near the operation of these small boutique brothels in industrial areas. Let me just take this example out of the Warren Armstrong context. If X happens to be a person without a criminal conviction but is a close and known associate of a criminal person, then under the provisions of this legislation that person would be deemed to be unfit to hold a licence.

We will expect the authority to act on intelligence reports. Basically, this enables the authority to act on intelligence reports that may establish a link between X, who on the face of it has no criminal conviction, and known associates who are criminals. We need intelligence reports to determine that. This is basically allowing for intelligence reports to be used to determine whether people are fit and proper people. That has to be done. I think this point has been made by the Opposition along the way: we have to make certain that there are no front people involved. That is what this legislation does. It stops front people being involved. It stops pimps being involved. It stops the sleazy element being involved. We have to have harsh, direct, strong, enforceable measures to make that work.

In my view, if freedom of information were available on intelligence reports we would seriously erode the work that needs to be done here. It is right to suggest that this is tough. It is right to suggest that in some circumstances this may even be a bit unfair. But if we are going to have the tough laws that we set out to achieve here then I am afraid that, yes, it will be tough and, yes, in some circumstances it may well prevent access to information which would normally be available in different circumstances. Another important aspect is that it also protects sex workers who come forward with information about any bad operations.

The regulatory authority is made up of impeccable people—people who are in reputable positions in society. Therefore, they will have a heavy onus and responsibility on them. I know that this will be a contestable point. Presumably this will be the basis of a division. I simply say: if those opposite take away this right to have access to intelligence reports to make a determination as to whether the sleazy element is kept out, then they undermine a significant part of this Bill. I know that the civil libertarians will argue against it and that they will not like it, but the fact of the matter is: if those opposite take this away they undermine a significant part of the Bill.

Mr BEANLAND: I have listened intently to the Premier's comments. I think he is using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. I accept that he wants intelligence reports to remain quite secret and so on, but there are other ways to exclude those and other such matters. There is a process already in place to cover those matters. There is the FOI Commissioner and the exemption process. All of those processes are in place.

The Government has not applied a great deal of mental vigour to this exercise. There is a catch-all phrase and it has been left at that. I am quite sure that what the Premier indicates the Government wants to exempt could have been much more explicit and much clearer. As I say, there is a whole range of processes in place to exclude matters—the FOI Commissioner and so on. I will not take more time to go down that path. Clearly the Government and the Opposition have a disagreement on this matter also.

Mr BEATTIE: I acknowledge that there is a difference between us, and I think we should vote on it.

Question—That clause 137, as read, stand part of the Bill—put; and the Committee divided—

AYES, 38—Attwood, Beattie, Bligh, Boyle, Braddy, Bredhauer, Briskey, Clark, Edmond, Elder, Fenlon, Foley, Hamill, Hayward, Hollis, Lavarch, Mackenroth, McGrady, Mickel, Mulherin, Musgrove, Nelson-Carr, Nuttall, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pitt, Reeves, Reynolds, Roberts, Rose, Schwarten, Spence, Struthers, Wolford, Wellington, Wells. Tellers: Sullivan, Purcell

NOES, 36—Beanland, Black, Borbidge, Connor, Cooper, Davidson, Feldman, Gamin, Goss, Healy, Hobbs, Johnson, Kingston, Knuth, Laming, Lester, Lingard, Littleproud, Malone, Mitchell, Paff, Pratt, Prenzler, Quinn, Rowell, Santoro, Seeney, Sheldon, Simpson, Slack, Stephan, Veivers, Watson, Wellington. Tellers: Baumann, Hegarty

Resolved in the **affirmative**.

Clause 138, as read, agreed to.

Clause 139—

Mr BEATTIE (11.16 a.m.): I move the following amendment—

"At page 73, after line 18—

insert—

'(2) However, the Authority may approve a form for section 93(3).².

² Section 93 (Advertising prostitution)."

Basically, this amendment changes 93(3) to 93(2). That is the change. However, the authority may approve a form under section 93(2).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 139, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 140, as read, agreed to.

Clause 141—

Mr BEATTIE (11.17 a.m.): I move the following amendment—

"At page 74, lines 8 to 13—

omit, insert—

'141.(1) The Criminal Justice Commission must, as soon as practicable after the end of 3 years after the commencement of this section, review the effectiveness of this Act and give a report on the review under the Criminal Justice Act 1989, section 26.³

'(2) The conduct of the review and the preparation of the report is taken to be a function of the commission for the Criminal Justice Act 1989.

'(3) In the course of preparing the report, the commission must consult with the Minister, the Authority and the Council.

'(4) The report is taken to be a report of the commission for the Criminal Justice Act 1989, section 26.'

³ Criminal Justice Act 1989, section 26 (Commission's reports)."

I do not know whether I need to go through the detail of this amendment. Because this legislation is difficult legislation, and it deals with a very difficult area of human activity, we do need to be consistently vigilant and we need to review it consistently to make certain that we get it right—or as right as we possibly can get matters of human activity.

There was a previous provision, prior to this amendment, that basically said that the report went to the Minister. That has been amended to enable the normal processes to follow; that means through the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee, tabled in this Parliament, open to the scrutiny of members. But because we need to ensure that there is appropriate consultation, subclause (3) talks about consultation with the Minister, the authority and the council.

I believe that this is a fairly straightforward amendment which, I think, would have the support of the Opposition, because I think that the Opposition spokesperson was arguing for this.

Dr CLARK: On behalf of the member for Lytton, who is the Chair of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee—and, indeed, all members of the parliamentary committee—I would like to put on record our appreciation to the Minister for bringing forward this amendment, which has just been described to

the Committee and which will ensure that the report of the CJC, following its three-year review of the operation of this legislation, will actually be able to be tabled in this Parliament, as is the case with other reports of the CJC. The parliamentary committee will then, of course, be able to exercise its powers to report to the Parliament on the CJC review to enable a debate to occur in this Chamber on this important issue.

Mr BEANLAND: This is something which the Opposition has raised in the Parliament because we were concerned previously about the proposed Bill, which simply said that the confidential report would be to the Minister and to no-one else. That is obviously why we would be concerned about that. This makes it quite clear that the report will be the normal CJC report, that is, a report tabled in the Parliament for the information of the public of Queensland. I thank the Premier for the amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 141, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 142 to 147, as read, agreed to.

Clause 148—

Mr HEALY (11.20 a.m.): I wish to raise some concerns in relation to a few of these clauses, particularly because of the fact that they are making some significant amendments to the Liquor Act. I am hoping that the Premier may be able to allay some of my fears. Because these amendments are quite significant, why did the Liquor Act not go through a separate legislative process, rather than provisions being incorporated in this particular Prostitution Bill?

Clause 148 deals with adult entertainment and the adult entertainment code. I have some concerns about this. So, too, did the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee in its Alert Digest No. 15, wherein it was noted that this clause provided for the making of an adult entertainment code by the chief executive and the Commissioner of the Police Service, and although not effective unless approved by a regulation, the code itself is not subordinate legislation and, accordingly, is not subject to the tabling and disallowance provisions of Part 6 of the Statutory Instruments Act.

The committee then sought information from the Minister as to why he thought it appropriate to deal with the relevant matters in a code rather than in subordinate legislation. The Minister's response was that that code would be descriptive and prescriptive of the type of behaviour that will or will not be permitted when providing sexually explicit adult

entertainment and that this information will be of a sensitive nature and may be more appropriately kept out of regulations. The response goes on to say further that it is also expected that, initially, what is prescribed will be subject to ongoing change and the code will provide the degree of flexibility designed to allow changes.

The committee accepted that response from the Minister. I still have some concerns in relation to the code itself. Will it be a public document? Who will be provided with a copy of the code? A couple of things in relation to how it pertains to this legislation leave a little bit to be desired. The legislation itself talks about adult entertainment. New section 103E(3) states that it does not include the performance of the acts described as (a), (b) and (c). I am just wondering whether that goes far enough.

I realise that, in the past, the problem with adult entertainment in terms of lap dancing and table dancing has been that patrons have been subjected to charges of prostitution because of the actual act that was being performed. I am wondering why the words "indecent act" or "other indecent act" were not included in this clause, because I think that it is fairly important that there could still be patrons—

Mr Beattie: Just on that, they will be in the code, by the way. I will go through a detailed answer to your point, but they are in the code.

Mr HEALY: That is fine. Basically, those are the queries and concerns that I have about the code itself. I notice that the Minister said, in response to the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee, that once the code has been formulated, it will be available to the committee. Again, I ask: what form will the code take and will it be published? If that is the case, why could not the code have been included as a regulation?

Mr BEATTIE: The answer is that the code will be made public. However, let me explain in a nutshell how this works. We are trying to have a definition of prostitution that means that people will be able to, under all the strict provisions in place, apply to run a small boutique brothel in industrial areas. We then want them to not be able to apply for approval to run one of these institutions that does lap dancing. We cannot have both licences or approvals.

The definition of prostitution is set out in new section 229E as sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex and so on. Basically, that new section talks about physical contact.

Since I am on the record and these statements are taken into account, I need to say that the definition is broader than that. However, in essence, it is physical contact. So that is regulated under this legislation.

In terms of what is being required under the Licensing Act as part of the code to regulate lap dancing, obviously it will not involve physical contact. If it does, then the person has breached the code, loses their licence and, in fact, could be charged under this legislation for a prostitution offence if there is certain physical contact or an indecent act. That is the way it is meant to operate, because section 227 of the Criminal Code talks about indecent acts.

So we have these two regimes that are designed to stop a smartie who runs lap dancing taking it a little bit past lap dancing into the prostitution area and avoid the provisions of this prostitution legislation. That is why it is contained in this legislation, because we want the people who run these licensed premises that have the lap dancing, or whatever they call it, to be in that category and the brothels over in a different category, and never the twain shall meet.

We have to be careful because, if we look at the history of what has happened in this State and the history of prostitution around the world, we know that people who run licensed premises and who put on lap dancing keep blurring the borders. That is where we run into problems. So adult entertainment will be in the code. There may be some physical contact, but it is not going to be sexual physical contact, which is covered in the definition of prostitution.

The other point that I want to make is that this is being done because we did not want to leave a gap between the definitions of "prostitution" and "lap dancing". We did not want to see lap dancing flourish, so we needed to make certain that there were strict rules in place. If it is not governed by a prostitution offence—and it is always marginal in those circumstances—unless we have a code, we run into problems.

If I can be presumptuous, I contend that this is actually a fairly astute measure to control adult entertainment and also to control prostitution. That is why it has been done this way. I am not trying to be political about this, but we all know what happened in the 1970s and the 1980s where massage parlours were not providing the sort of massage that some of us may be interested in, which is a soothing, therapeutic way to recover from stress; they provided prostitution services. We want to

avoid the hedging at the borders. That is why it has been done this way.

We spent a lot of time talking about this and trying to get it right. I understand why the Opposition spokesman would raise these issues. However, that is why it is contained in this Bill. The code will be available publicly, but it will deal with all sorts of definitions which, as the member can understand in these sorts of areas, will have to be prescriptive. I think that answers all of the member's points.

Mr HEALY: I accept the explanation from the Premier. However, when one talks about no contact and whether or not that is covered in the code, there is a very fine line between what are acts of an explicit sexual nature. The Premier has said to me that it is covered because acts of an indecent nature are covered in the code. I accept what the Premier has said.

I notice on page 79 of the Bill that new section 103H(b), which is still part of clause 148, relates to an approved area that must conform with the requirements. That subclause states—

"The area must not contain, for the private use of persons attending the entertainment, a lounge, booth, compartment or cubicle (other than a toilet cubicle)."

I assume that is a lounge suite and not a lounge room. Does that mean that the only approved area would in fact be a—

Mr Beattie: A chair.

Mr HEALY: Yes, a lounge chair.

Can I assume that the only approved area would be an auditorium-style area in an established licensed premises, and is that the only approved area where adult entertainment can be performed?

Mr BEATTIE: I think the honourable member is concerned about whether there could be a shaded-type area. The answer to that is: no. I think we can allay the honourable member's concern in relation to that.

Clause 148, as read, agreed to.

Clause 149—

Mr HEALY (11.30 a.m.): I seek clarification from the Premier in relation to the provision for additional time for consumption or removal of liquor. I would like the Premier to expand on this proposed section, which states—

"... under a licence or permit for the sale of, consumption of, or removal from, liquor on a part of premises that is an

approved area where adult entertainment is being provided ends when the adult entertainment ends."

Does this apply specifically to an approved area where adult entertainment is taking place? Once the adult entertainment ends in that particular area, must the patrons go elsewhere in the licensed premises to obtain alcohol?

Mr BEATTIE: The answer to the honourable member's question is: yes. The 30 minutes grace period does not apply.

Clause 149, as read, agreed to.

Clause 150—

Mr HEALY (11.31 a.m.): I seek some clarification of this clause, which prescribes who may apply for a licence or permit. Clause 150(2) states—

"Also, an adult may apply for a licence or permit for or on behalf of an unincorporated association."

Why is that specific provision in the Bill? Could the Premier give some examples?

Mr BEATTIE: This relates to any, to use the term, mum or dad associations that want to apply for a permit to run a fete or something like that—a non-profit organisation.

Clause 150, as read, agreed to.

Clause 151, as read, agreed to.

Clause 152—

Mr HEALY (11.33 a.m.): Clause 152 is headed "Restriction on grant of adult entertainment permit". I wish to raise some issues about the granting of a permit for adult entertainment. The Premier mentioned, quite rightly, that some legislation has already been passed to try to prevent the actions of certain individuals who have caused problems in the past. Under the guidelines that will be formulated, can a person, such as the individual who has been referred to in the Parliament before, be granted a licence in respect of a premises that already has a liquor licence under the name of an associate of that particular person, and could they then be granted a permit for adult entertainment? Is there a loophole? I think there might be.

Mr BEATTIE: The answer to that is: no. It comes down to the definition of "associate". If the honourable member for Toowoomba North turns to page 76, he will see that the meaning of "associate" is defined. It states—

"For an adult entertainment permit, a person is an 'associate' of an individual if the person—

- (a) is a member of the individual's family; or ..."

This covers the point raised by the honourable member. In those circumstances, an associate would be knocked out. This is one of the core issues. We have to knock out the problem in respect of associates; otherwise we will end up with situations that the honourable member was describing. The definition of 'associate' has been drafted in that way to overcome the point the honourable member raised. The point is a valid one. We were aware of the issue raised by the honourable member, and that is why it is covered in that definition of "associate".

Mr HEALY: I thank the Premier for his explanation. In relation to permits, is any form of public objection process available to members of the general community who may have objections, similar to that which exists in respect of a liquor licence application? This issue was raised by the member for Maroochydore in her speech during the second-reading debate. I would like the Premier to outline what that process is. I am not aware of whether at the moment premises that have adult entertainment are subject to a public objection process. This is a fairly important issue. For example, if members of the public know that there is a licensed premises not far down the road, they should be able to have recourse to a process for objections.

Mr BEATTIE: As the honourable member knows, the objection period is normally when the licence itself is being issued. That is when the public input would occur. In terms of the permit, because it is within the actual licence—once it has been issued, the permit can be applied for—there would have to be notification of the local government representative and the assistant commissioner for the area, and there would be a call for their comment. Local government would obviously be aware of community objections and concerns, as would the assistant commissioner. That is how the community input would take place. This is a permit within the licence.

Mr HEALY: I realise that. I think that is where the problem is. We have to be sure that the public can be confident about this. I realise that there would have been a public objection process with respect to the original liquor licence. But an established licensed premises that has gone through the process for public objections could be awarded a permit for adult entertainment, which would represent a fairly serious change to the original liquor licence. I

am not confident that the public will be given the chance to object through the normal process to that permit being granted. The Premier said that some of these issues would be raised with local government. What happens under that process now? Will the existing formal public objection process apply?

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM: I think most people in the community who object to a liquor licence and who are overruled would have a significant objection to an extension of that licence to adult entertainment. They would see it as a significant change in use and would expect an opportunity to comment on a proposal to extend that licence, even if it is only for a short period. I believe that, unless we have a two-tiered advertising and objection period, we would be doing our community a disservice. There was a push to try to get more smaller hotels into the suburbs so that people could walk to the pub and walk home; this would stop them driving their cars. If some licensed premises are being given the opportunity to have an adult entertainment permit layered on top of their licence, we would be doing an injustice to our community if we did not give it an opportunity to object to something that could be seen as being anti-family.

Mr BEATTIE: As we all know, I take the issues raised in here very seriously. I think there is some merit to what has been raised and I am looking at the issue. We have to be careful about ensuring that there is community consultation. We also have to be careful to make sure that the system works. This legislation does not come into operation immediately. I am prepared to examine the current measures and if there needs to be changes we will be prepared to make them. It may well be that we do not need to come back in here and do it; we may be able to do it by way of regulation in terms of advertising. We need to check and balance all these things.

I think there is some merit in the point that the member is making and I am prepared, therefore, to examine it. It may well be that we look at it in terms of some regulation involving advertising. We may be able to do it with the local council. As I said before, there needs to be consultation with the local authority and assistant commissioner. We may be able to do it with the local authority as part of their feedback. I have to look at the legality of all that. I am simply saying that we will see what mechanisms are required. If we need to come back here, we will. If not, we will try to do it by regulation. I am indicating to the member that I will seriously take that on board.

Mr BEANLAND: Just briefly, I thank the Premier for that. I think this is a very important clause. I am sure that there would be community concerns out there. Again, this is taking a different step to simply having a liquor licence and there are a range of ways in which this could be implemented. At the end of the day it is important that the public do have the opportunity to have their voice heard, and clearly heard. Whatever process the Premier comes up with, that is the important thing.

It is all very well for people to be able to object to the local authority or whatever, but if it is the Licensing Commission that is actually approving this, at the end of the day the objections have to go to the Licensing Commission. Otherwise, clearly people will see that they are being duded—and I would say they are—because the local authority is not making that decision. The local authority, after all, is made up of elected people in common with us and they might have a different view to that of the people in that particular community. Those people in that community need to have their voice heard. The only way we can be sure of that is that they have that right of objection to the Licensing Commission.

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM: At the risk of carrying the debate on longer than necessary, on behalf of local authorities—and I do this without any authority to make this statement—the Premier has indicated that this may be able to be done through local authorities. They are not going to be the licensing administrator. I would be concerned to see another layer of responsibility given to them. They have no real jurisdiction in the area. If there is going to be a licensing authority, if it could be even by regulation incorporated into the process, that has to be done.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr BEATTIE: I wonder if I could clarify something that may help the member for Gladstone. I am sorry; I may not have described well what I had in mind. I am not suggesting that the local authority would be required to be the determiner; that is the appropriate thing for the Liquor Licensing Division to do. I was simply talking in terms of feedback because the local authority and the assistant commissioner will have to feed back. I am just simply saying that that may have been one avenue where they could feed back from the community; and we might have been able to do that. If that is not possible, we will look at some other means to do it. I am not passing the responsibility to them. It is a

matter for the Liquor Licensing Division. That is what they get paid to do. I would not pass the burden on. I am sorry if I did not describe that well.

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM: I did not interpret it that way, but if the Premier is putting the responsibility onto the local authorities to gather community perspectives on the licence, I am saying that that may more properly be the responsibility of the licensing authority rather than asking local authorities to advertise as well.

Mr BEATTIE: This is not a new role for them in the sense that they already have that role to feed back. They are consulted as part of the liquor licensing arrangements. So we are not giving them anything new. It would be part of their responsibility, anyway, because there is a consultation. What happens is that—and I know this from when I represented Paddington, which was in my former electorate—whenever complaints are made about late night hotels and so on, they go to the local council or the local police, and that is why they are consulted. So they would not be given an extra responsibility.

Mr BEANLAND: There is one other point I want to make in relation to this. I think it is important that we also consider that there has to be a base for these objections—grounds for objections. That is another reason why I indicate that they have to be made to the Licensing Commission and there has to be a range of grounds—and people have to have grounds—on which they want to object. I think it is terribly important that there be a proper process in place so that those grounds are spelt out.

Clause 152, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 153 to 165, as read, agreed to.

Clause 166—

Mr BEATTIE (11.45 a.m.): I move the following amendment—

"At page 90, after line 20—

insert—

'(1A) A person must not publish an advertisement for adult entertainment that is not in the form approved by the chief executive either generally or for a particular advertisement.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

'(1B) A person must not publish any advertisement for adult entertainment through radio or television or by film or video recording.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.'."

This is about having a very strict regime for advertising. This is about controlling advertising. I know in the hurly-burly of this debate—and I am not going to get into the politics of all of this; this is the clauses where we do the work—a number of people have raised the possibility of red-light areas and so on, none of which can happen under this Bill. One of the ways of ensuring that there is no possibility of that—and there are many provisions in this Bill to do this—is to control advertising, control signs, control the public perception and face of it. Paragraph (1B) of this amendment states—

"A person must not publish any advertisement for adult entertainment through radio or television or by film or video recording."

So TV and radio advertising is out—gone, not possible. In terms of an advertisement for adult entertainment that is not in the form approved by the chief executive, that will not happen either. In other words, a standard advertisement will be produced for the Courier-Mail or other press that is very discreet and very small, and if people follow that model, then that model will be the one that they can follow. This is about controlling advertising. This is very, very strict indeed, but we need these measures in place to ensure that we control the public face of entertainment.

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM: I was going to make these comments yesterday when the amendment to clause 93 was discussed, but people were very conscious of time so I determined to leave it until this amendment. Currently in our local media that circulates in the Gladstone region there are adult entertainment ads. Melinda, Becky, Lulu and all sorts of people advertise. I would have to say that overwhelmingly the people in my community are offended by those ads. We have one paper that circulates in the area that has a novel approach of putting the Salvation Army's free advertisement for the Red Shield Appeal on the same page as the adult entertainment ads because nobody else wants to advertise on that page. So they stick the Salvos' ad there. It is novel, it gets attention and the Salvos cannot do anything about it because the ad is put in for free.

Already people are offended by the ads for companions, for friendship, for whatever is being offered. This is for adult entertainment and I acknowledge that, but the amendment to clause 93 was for advertisements for prostitution, for brothels, and they purported to be discreet. I have to register here that I believe they will draw a higher level of

objection from the community. I understand what the Premier is saying, that they are going to be controlled and discreet. But generally, the media outlets are in it for the buck. They will not discriminate. They will take every ad. I think the Government will find that the community will object to these changes, albeit controlled changes—only advertising in the paper is allowed, not on videos or TV, although there are some really grotty ads on the TV late at night. I acknowledge the constraints that the Premier is attempting to impose. I am registering here, though, that I expect the community to respond negatively to those because they are already responding with objection and offence to the adult advertisements that are in the paper now.

Mr BEATTIE: I will make two points, which may help the member for Toowoomba North also. Phone sex advertisements are federally controlled. As usual, they are more offensive. We do not have the jurisdiction to control them. This amendment will impose a much stricter and higher standard on the advertisements that the member for Gladstone referred to. This amendment may clean up the existing advertisements. We certainly hope so. This amendment is being moved because I am very strong on regulating and controlling those advertisements. Some of the advertisements that are shown around the world are offensive. In common with most honourable members, I travel. I do not go looking for such advertisements, but inevitably one will see them. These are very strict controls. I am moving this amendment to deal with, as much as we possibly can, the issues raised by the member for Gladstone.

Mr HEALY: In relation to the amendment that has been moved, the Premier may like to clarify why the proposed new subsection (1B) states—

"A person must not publish any advertisement for adult entertainment through radio or television or by film or video recording."

when that is already stated in the Bill in relation to radio, television, film or video recording under the definition of "publish" on page 91.

Mr BEATTIE: One is a restriction, the other is a total ban. This provision is tougher. Yesterday we considered this issue again. We have been listening to what people have been saying about this. As the member knows, we do not totally ignore members of the Opposition and other members of this Assembly. We think this is a more appropriate way to go. We listen to members opposite all

the time. That is the warm, cuddly Government that we are.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 166, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 167 and 168, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—

Mr BEATTIE (11.51 a.m.): I move the following amendment—

"At page 91, after line 20—

insert—

'Amendment of s 235 (Regulations)

'168A. Section 235(2)—

insert—

'(j) advertising in relation to adult entertainment;'

New clause 168A, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 169 to 178, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, with amendments.

Third Reading

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (11.53 a.m.), by leave: I move—

"That the Bill be now read a third time."

Question—That the Bill be read a third time—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 37—Attwood, Beattie, Bligh, Boyle, Braddy, Bredhauer, Briskey, Clark, D'Arcy, Edmond, Elder, Fenlon, Foley, Hamill, Hayward, Lavarch, Mackenroth, McGrady, Mickel, Mulherin, Nelson-Carr, Nuttall, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pitt, Reeves, Reynolds, Roberts, Rose, Schwarten, Spence, Struthers, Welford, Wells, Wilson. Tellers: Sullivan, Purcell

NOES, 37—Beanland, Black, Borbidge, Connor, Cooper, E. Cunningham, Davidson, Feldman, Gamin, Goss, Healy, Hobbs, Johnson, Kingston, Knuth, Laming, Lester, Lingard, Littleproud, Malone, Mitchell, Paff, Pratt, Prenzler, Quinn, Rowell, Santoro, Seeney, Sheldon, Simpson, Slack, Stephan, Veivers, Watson, Wellington. Tellers: Baumann, Hegarty

The numbers being equal, Mr Speaker cast his vote with the Ayes.

Resolved in the **affirmative**.

FORESTRY AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 30 November (see p. 5660).

Mr HOBBS (Warrego—NPA) (11.49 a.m.):

The objectives of this Bill are to amend the Forestry Act 1959 specifically to implement part of the Queensland Government's plan, which includes 25-year agreements, for the South-East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement and to extend the legislative exemption from the provisions of the Commonwealth's Trade Practices Act 1974. The intention of the RFA was to remove uncertainty from the industry. Year after year, we saw annual protests in the forest. The industry had difficulty managing the ongoing uncertainty, so a measure had to be put in place. That is the reason the RFA was put together. The funding was provided on a shared basis by the Federal and State Governments. The industry was very suspicious, but willing. It went into consultations with a genuine and willing attitude to try to resolve the ongoing problem of uncertainty. Only 2.5% of Queensland is reserved for forestry purposes. Queensland imports 35% of its timber requirements. That is \$200m worth of wood and wood products. Including paper products, the figure is \$500m. Those figures represent a huge expenditure on resources—which we presently import from overseas—that can be sourced from within Queensland.

As Minister in the very early stages of the RFA process, I took the opportunity to go overseas to look at sustainable forest management, forest allocation, certification and labelling. I went with a group which consisted of people from the Timber Board and other individuals who had a lot of expertise in the forest industry, including Aila Keto. We looked at places in Canada, such as Vancouver Island, and Sweden. We tried to find world's best practice and the best forest management strategy around the world so we could use some of those ideas in Queensland. An interesting person we met on the trip was a man called Patrick Moore, who was in fact one of the founders of Greenpeace. His view was that logging in Canada in those days was not sustainable. He felt that there needed to be huge changes to the attitudes of millers and loggers; hence, Greenpeace was formed.

Greenpeace conducted its activities for a number of years—I do not know how long it was, perhaps 10 years. Eventually, Patrick Moore said to his troops, "Guess what? We have achieved what we wanted to do. They are now logging in a sustainable manner. We need to scale down our operation and wind the whole thing back because, as far as I can see, we have achieved what we set out to do." At that time, Greenpeace was getting a head

of steam up because it was receiving money from Europe. Its members were on the uranium bandwagon; they were sailing the seven seas in Warrior and Warrior II and so on. It seemed as if they were on a high and they felt that they should keep going, so they did.

Patrick Moore is a very knowledgeable person of the forest industry, and he still works in that industry. We looked at a lot of examples overseas, particularly in Canada, of what were considered to be disaster areas many years before. We looked to see what damage had been done to the ecosystems and to the landscape and what erosion and geological and ecological changes may have occurred. The interesting thing was that most of that country had rejuvenated very well. In fact, it was pointed out to us that phenomena like this are fairly natural in a lot of ways. There are glacial movements over the centuries and huge fires. Also, Canada has a huge storm once every 100 years which wipes out 90 miles of coastline and whole mountain sides. That is not dissimilar to clear felling in some areas.

We found out that clear felling can occur in many areas but not on a large scale. I am not saying for one minute that people can go out and clear fell the whole lot, but certainly clear felling in some areas is an option. For instance, some ecosystems require light. While those ecosystems are there all the time, some of them cannot get going and thrive because they need light. After the area has been clear felled and the light comes in, they flourish. As the forest grows, they slowly move on to the next area, and on it goes. At the end of the day, it is a revolving cycle that involves all sorts of ecosystems. We looked at all sorts of forests on that trip. It had been said that 50% of species are extinct in some of those areas. Patrick Moore challenged anyone to name the ecosystems that have disappeared because of logging and other actions of the timber industry under the sort of sustainable activity we in Australia have. He believes there is none.

The other interesting point made on that trip related to old-growth forests. I am not suggesting for one minute that we should get rid of all the old growth. Somebody else we met on that trip said that there were some realities relating to old growth. They said—

"Old growth is not a snapshot in time of botanical utopia. It is a dynamic state which can be managed. Our challenge is to convince the population it can be done."

That person was saying that the first 30 or 40 years of life of a forest is very good. The next 20 or 30 years are not as good. Consequently, it continues until such time as the cycle is completed again. While some of the older trees are magnificent and we would not want to get rid of them, the fact is that they grow old and in some cases, but not all, do more harm to the forest.

The other area we looked at was Sweden, which was also very interesting. The country was pretty well clear felled way before the turn of the century. It has since been replanted. I think it might have been in the 1920s, or even before that, that they went out and virtually replanted the whole of the country. Hence, there is very little of the original forests left. However, it is interesting to note the huge increase in standing volume of their forests. In the 1920s there was about 1,500 million cubic metres whereas in 1999 there is probably 3,000 cubic metres. They have virtually doubled their capacity in that time. The industry is really quite huge.

The other interesting thing about Sweden is that there is no problem with people working in the forest and hunting and gathering in the forest. In fact, it is encouraged. People hunt moose, roe deer, red deer, hare, rabbit, fox, bear and grouse. This hunting occurs on a regular basis; people are allowed to do that. They manage human activity and the animals in the forest, as well as the forest itself. That is something that we need to look at, because we tend to want to lock everything up and leave it. Forests are not managed; they are locked up.

Investment in the Swedish forest industry in 1996 totalled 15 billion krona—the highest level ever. Between 1995 and 1997, approximately 45 billion krona was invested. That is almost a quarter of the total investment made by industry in Sweden. So it is a huge area. Those people do know what they are talking about. It was very interesting to see that. Experience there also shows that it is possible to combine rational forestry with good nature conservation, however, certain endangered species demand that larger areas of associated land are completely set aside for forestry. Some 3% of the Swedish forest land has been set aside voluntarily. In addition, some 4% has been set aside as part of nature preservation measures at felling time. In overall terms they do not put aside a lot, but they are able to manage the systems they have. We seem to have an attitude that we have to lock up everything. It is just not practical or sensible.

It is obvious that in the south-east region the stakeholders—the councils and the mill workers—are waking up to the lack of substance in the RFA for the south-east corner. Obviously a deal was done between the four greens and the Timber Board—that is, the Australian Rainforest Society, the Queensland Conservation Council, the Wilderness Society, the Queensland Government and the Timber Board. There is one industry group and the rest are all a bunch of greenies. That is in the Bill.

Mr Borbidge: One is the husband of one of the others.

Mr HOBBS: One is the husband of one of the others, as the Leader of the Opposition says. What is being done is not even credible. What about the rest of the people? Does anybody else exist in this game?

Mr Seeney: What about local government?

Mr HOBBS: The Local Government Association has not even been consulted. Today in the House Mr Elder tried to justify it, talking about mill security and things like that. I understand that the chairman of the Timber Board—Mr McNamara, I think his name is—is no longer there. It is no wonder. I would not think he would be able to survive, quite frankly, after what has been done. This is one of the most unbelievable things I have seen an industry do. At the end of the day, Boral is the one that has come out with the sting. It has the dough and it is off. The Government is the sucker at the end of the day. It has paid the money over. It is quite unbelievable that a situation such as that could arise.

The lack of consultation is one of the very interesting aspects of this issue. The whole framework of the RFA process was based on consultation. Then, when we finally got close to a decision, there had to be more final consultation. In the end, the Government locked out the main stakeholders. There was no need to lock them out. It should have kept them in. If it had, there would have been a better result.

Twenty-five years is too short for hardwood. Those opposite cannot keep that promise. For a start, one needs to recommence after seeding. Trevor Perrett and I started working on getting another 30,000 hectares of plantation timber in place. It is an enormous job. In fact, in a couple of cases we had some forestry land that was not being used and which we wanted to try to utilise. It takes a long time to do it. We also had some sugarcane land that had been swapped around and we were working our way through

that. Even today, that land still has not been planted. Nothing has been done by the Government. The other day the Minister for Primary Industries mentioned that there is some plantation work under way, but it is minimal and a long way from where it has to be.

Mr Palaszczuk: A thousand hectares next year.

Mr HOBBS: That is what is proposed. We have to wait and see whether that happens. It takes a long time, and it may not get that far. The Government should have used people with experience. There are hundreds of years of knowledge in the forest industry out there and the Government really has not used it. The attitude of the Government seems to be that it knows best.

The social impact is important. The Forest Protection Society and the departmental people went out with a genuine desire to consult with people and to work through the impacts. At each one of those towns, they had to go through and say, "If this happens here, what will be the impact on you? Where do you shop?" They had to determine the impacts on business in those towns. Basically, that has been wasted because this Government came in over the top and locked it up. It did not have to lock it up at all. It was purely a sell-out.

It is quite clear what happened at the beginning, particularly with the factions within the Labor Party. It came out with various options to lock up between about 130,000 hectares and up to about 600,000 hectares. The Environment Department wanted to lock up the larger amount. The departments were all on different wavelengths in relation to the outcome.

Another issue that is important is the loss of rates income to councils. We have already seen councils lose out on funding from national parks. Out of all of that we ended up with an increase in road maintenance that usually comes back on councils. There is certainly a loss of income there that needs to be worked through. The most important thing is the lack of consultation with local government, which has a great resource and knowledge base. The annual conference unanimously rejected what the Government has done. It has locked them out of the negotiations. Those people do have the ability to communicate with their own areas and it is disappointing that the Government decided not to include them in those talks, particularly towards the end, when they would have been able to give the Government some valuable

advice and community support for an outcome that was suitable to the whole region.

I refer to the other RFAs, particularly in the western area—the cypress region. We do not want to have the same problems out there. I guarantee that there will be a third world war if the Government even tries to do the same type of a snow job out in those regions.

Mr Littleproud: Trevor Perrett and I funded that study, so we have scientific proof that we were right.

Mr HOBBS: Absolutely. A lot of work has been done in that cypress region. I think that can help short-circuit some of the long-term impacts in the cypress area.

Mr Palaszczuk: You could not deliver long-term security. We did.

Mr HOBBS: That is untrue. We were working through that. This Government only happened to come along. We did all the hard work; this Government did nothing. All it did was happen to fall into Government after we had done all the work with native title, the Trade Practices Act and so on. In fact, it was this Minister's department and the Government that tried to put up the rate that those millers would have to pay for their licences. This Government did that and we caught it out. We raised that matter in the House and then the Government back-pedalled and said that it would not do that. This Government got caught.

Mr Palaszczuk: You go and try to say that in your area.

Mr HOBBS: I have. Private land-holders in the region are going to be sold out also. The proposed vegetation management legislation will have some serious impact on the harvesting of timber on freehold land. We suspect that this Government will try to reach a compensation deal with a few of them, and that may take up most of the money it is going to try to get from the Federal Government and elsewhere.

At the end of the day, there are plenty of people out there on private land who have shown that they can in fact harvest much better resources from their land than the Government can from its land. I have forgotten the figures, but we saw one fellow who in his small area of around 2,000 acres was harvesting virtually as much as the whole region, but he was doing it on a sustainable basis. He would go out and make sure that the timber he had left had enough room to grow. He used to manage it. We may be able to get huge increases in volume from our own land as well.

All the matters I mentioned here were raised and carried unanimously by the 16 local authorities we met with the other day. It is a good example of where the Government has got it absolutely wrong. These councils are expressing the concerns of their constituency and are prepared to protest. They reckon they were sold down the river. It is as simple as that.

Mr Cooper: Sold a pup.

Mr HOBBS: Absolutely.

Mr Cooper: It is coming unstuck.

Mr HOBBS: It is all coming unstuck now. Time expired.

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.20 p.m.): In supporting the comments made by my colleagues on this side of the House, I think we saw a continuation of the Government's political dishonesty in this place this morning when the Minister for State Development, the Deputy Premier, the man who has presided over little else in this State except a 60% increase in his own budget, attempted to say that all the mayors supported this. Obviously, he decided to ignore the resolution of the Local Government Association's annual conference. Obviously, he decided to ignore the meeting of 21 mayors in Maryborough a couple of weeks ago. Obviously, he was not aware of the depth of feeling when 16 councils and many mayors met with the Opposition in Gympie last Monday. The fact is that the awareness is growing. They have been sold a pup. They have been deceived. They have been tricked. And now they are very angry.

This Bill represents the first legislative plank in one of the greatest furbies the people of Queensland have ever witnessed—the first legislative plank in what will go down in the history books as one of the greatest betrayals of rural and regional communities, of workers and of an industry that the State of Queensland has ever seen; and, in terms of the performance of the Deputy Premier, one of the greatest sell-outs of the interests of the Australian Workers Union by an AWU faction leader in a Labor Government.

This Bill uses the Parliament to try to give a modicum of credibility to another of the Beattie Government's PR stunts. We are being asked to support a Bill designed to give legislative support to a backroom deal between a couple of Green groups and the Beattie Labor Government in exchange for Green preferences at the last election—a shabby deal that traded the future of a viable

and valuable industry, the jobs of 1,200 timberworkers and thousands of others who depend on the industry and the future of dozens of rural and regional communities for a handful of Green preferences in marginal urban electorates.

The deal that this Bill represents is an insult to the Regional Forest Agreement process—the process that arose out of the National Forest Policy Statement, ironically introduced by a Labor Government, and a process that enjoyed bipartisan support; a process that was supported by all sides of politics and all in the industry, including both the former Keating and Goss Governments; a process designed to take the politics out of the timber industry and let it get on with the job of generating income and jobs; a process that was designed to base forest decisions on science rather than election campaigns; but a process that has been used by the Labor Party to further its own political agenda in a whatever-it-takes grab for power.

This Bill has been purported by the Minister to provide the timber industry with the long-term security it needs to invest and to create jobs. It purports to provide 25-year wood supply agreements to those millers, and a provision for compensation for any breach of those agreements. But while the State Labor Government is proclaiming its supposed intention to provide long-term security, the very same Labor Party is doing its level best to undermine that security in another bid to score political points and Green preferences.

Last week, we saw another classic example of the cynical levels to which Labor will stoop to compromise the very people it purports to represent and the very policy platform it purports to stand on. Despite signing off on the National Forest Policy Statement, the Labor Party reneged on that commitment and sought to provide the Senate with the power to review and reject Regional Forest Agreements signed by the States and the Commonwealth with the support of Queensland Labor Party senators. In doing so, it effectively bombed any chance of providing genuine legislative teeth to provide the timber industry security through RFAs, including that for south-east Queensland.

Labor sold out the timber millers, the communities that depend on those mills and the workers. My colleague the member for Crows Nest has already quoted the widespread condemnation of Labor's cheap politicking by the National Association of Forest Industries, the Forest Protection Society and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union.

But where was the Beattie Government while all this was happening? Where was the Premier—the same Premier who is so quick to blame his own multitude of failings on the Federal Government? He was nowhere to be found; missing in action; performing some other diversionary stunt to hide the fact that his can't do Government was once again failing to deliver on the part of Queensland and failing to even get his Federal Labor Party senators to protect the integrity of the RFA process which, in Government, they supported.

Why was the Premier not supporting legislation that would give the same security to the industry and to communities as he claims to want to provide through this Bill to south-east Queensland? Why did the Premier not heed my calls, made over a month ago, when his Labor mates in Canberra supported those amendments the first time around? There are only two possible reasons. Was it that he could not stand up to them? Or was it that he did not want to? The silence from the normally not silent Premier was deafening. It remains deafening on this issue to this very day.

Labor is not interested in tackling the issue. The Beattie Government has no interest in delivering a future for the timber industry and timberworkers. All the Beattie Government is interested in is a quick political fix to appease its Green allies and take the problem off the front page of the Courier-Mail.

This Bill does not represent a Regional Forest Agreement. It represents what was termed a heads of agreement, signed by the Beattie Government, a representative of the Wilderness Society, a representative of the Australian Rainforest Society, her husband—as a representative of the Queensland Conservation Council, and a representative of the Queensland Timber Board. Most of the stakeholders were locked out. The local authorities were shut out. The timberworkers, the contractors, the service industries and the communities affected were shut out. The Queensland taxpayers, who own the resource and who are expected to pay for this deal, did not get an invitation to the closed little Labor Party, either. That heads of agreement signed away the future of the Crown native hardwood industry on little more than a few sweeping commitments from the Premier. There was no detail, and there remains precious little detail.

The Minister stated in his second-reading speech—and we have heard it many times in this House—that the Beattie Government is committed to moving out of logging the Crown native forests and into a plantation-based industry. Yet while this Bill paves the way for

the Government to undertake part of that commitment and move out of logging the Crown native forest, we have not seen the same commitment to boosting the plantation resource. There has been plenty of rhetoric, but I still look forward to the grand announcement that the Beattie Government has planted its first tree under this deal—or perhaps the announcement that it will introduce right-to-harvest legislation and will not restrict the right of freehold landowners to harvest timber on their own properties. There remains no detail on how the remaining area of Crown forest, after 425,000 hectares have been set aside as reserve, will sustain the intensive logging necessary to maintain existing wood supply agreements—those agreements this Bill purports to protect.

While one of the principles of the Premier's heads of agreement was that there would be no clear-felling, the inevitable result of the reduction in minimum girth size of millable logs to only 40 centimetres diameter and the pressure on that remaining resource leaves little other description. How will this be sustainable without enhanced silviculture, without replanting programs? There has been no commitment to continued compensation for additional log haulage costs and no commitment to structural adjustment. Nor has there been any detail on how those mills that will be forced to seek wood supplies from other areas or utilise different species will continue to afford to do so in the absence of any such assistance.

The gloss of the big announcement of 16 September has worn off and the communities, the workers, the contractors, the service industries and the shire councils are not happy. They have seen through the spin, they have seen through the stunts and they have seen through the PR. They want answers and they are not getting them. They want the details on how this legislation is going to safeguard the jobs for the hundreds of years that the Premier claimed in his media release. In the same media release, he gave the commitment that any timberworker who wants a job in the timber industry will have a job in the timber industry. Where are the jobs for the 80 timberworkers at the Nandroya mill, who are to lose their jobs in October next year? Where are the jobs for the contractors and their staff, such as the 11 workers who used to work for timber contractor, Peter Carter, and had to be laid off because of the Beattie Government's deal?

In that same media release, the Premier proclaimed the deal as—

"Another triumph for my style of consultative Government."

What a triumph it is turning out to be! It is the Technomart of the trees. It is another con job. It is another failed effort by this failed Premier and his failed Government. There is no guarantee that the Federal Government will support it and there will be no Federal legislation to support it should they do so. Already, hundreds of jobs have gone. There has been not one new job created and not one tree planted. There has been no consultation with the stakeholders in the forest industries. Yet the Premier says that it is a triumph!

Those stakeholders—the workers, the contractors, service industries, and shire councils—can see this happening first-hand in their own communities. Just last week, 21 shires, including conservative mayors, Labor mayors and Independents, met and carried unanimously a resolution highlighting the failings of this deal. At another meeting on Monday, 16 shires from within the RFA area again endorsed those sentiments. They are concerned, and rightly so. They do not trust this Beattie Labor Government, which is long on rhetoric and short on action, and nor should they.

This is a mischievous piece of legislation. Although on the one hand the Beattie Government has proclaimed its supposed commitment to 25-year wood supply agreements, at the very core of this Bill are provisions to undermine that security by allowing the Government the first right of refusal to buy out viable businesses at fair market value within that period. What will happen to the jobs that those businesses provide? What will happen to the services, such as the schools, the shops, the churches and the hospitals that they support? What will happen to the industries those jobs support? What will happen to the shires that depend on the rates that all of those people pay to provide services to the community? How exactly will fair market value be determined when no-one in their right minds would bother wasting their time and money investigating the purchase of a business or a wood supply agreement knowing that the Government will inevitably acquire it, anyway?

Mr Seeney: And then shut it down.

Mr BORBIDGE: As my colleague says, and then shut it down. Such a provision can only jaundice the market, denying hardworking sawmillers, with potentially millions of dollars invested, a return on the true value of their investment.

Further undermining this Bill is the intention of the Beattie Government to introduce mandatory controls on the clearing of timber on freehold land and its mishandling of the entire issue. It is denying land-holders the right to manage their land as they see fit—to practice silviculture and generate alternative income. It is also denying them the viability of their properties. However, it is also denying the sawmills another source of wood supply, because many depend on timber from private land-holders for up to 60% of that supply. So although the Beattie Government claims to be giving with this Bill, with the other hand it is taking away.

In his second-reading speech, the Minister said that he expected wholehearted support for this Bill. How can this Parliament be reasonably expected to hand the Minister wholehearted support when there are so many gaping holes in his Government's administration of the timber industry and private land in this State? How can this Parliament be reasonably expected to hand the Minister wholehearted support when already we are witnessing job losses and the destruction of otherwise viable businesses throughout south-east Queensland because of his deal?

On the two issues of the regional forest agreement and tree-clearing controls alone, the Beattie Government has shown just how out of touch it is with rural and regional Queensland. The message is reverberating around the Local Government Association, the councils, the work force, the unions, the communities and the bush: the Beattie Government has not delivered, cannot deliver and will not deliver. There is no substance to this Bill. It is just another stunt of a stunt-ridden Premier.

Mr Seeney: Another con job.

Mr BORBIDGE: As the member for Callide says, it is another con job. This Bill is policy on the run from a can't do Government.

I wish to bring to the attention of the House information that I have received from the Institute of Foresters of Australia—Queensland Division. The Institute of Foresters comprises many people with enormous expertise in this field. It includes a large number of bureaucrats—experienced public servants from the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Natural Resources. I refer to what they have to say about this Bill—

"Not being included in the negotiations, the Division has not yet had time to fully consider the proposals."

So the Institute of Foresters was locked out. The bureaucrats from DPI and DNR, who could have made a contribution, were not involved. The institute states that they have the following concerns—

"The lack of professional input into final negotiations. The Departments of Primary Industries—DPI Forestry and Natural Resources—DNR Resource Management and the Parks & Wildlife Service as well as the Institute were excluded. The Department of State Development had carriage of negotiations over the last 4-6 months."

What a disgrace! What a mockery of the consultation process! The institute states the further concerns—

"The timeframe for hardwood plantations to produce sawlogs—25 years—in sufficient volumes to replace existing supplies from native forests.

The availability of land—both Crown & private—for the plantations. Little or no cleared Crown land is available in SE Qld.

Arrangements for those workers who lose their jobs."

These are not the comments of the Opposition, which the Minister is so quick to condemn and these are not the comments of inexperienced people. I am referring to the Institute of Foresters of Australia—Queensland Division, the membership of which is made up in large part by those bureaucrats in the Public Service who have experience and knowledge of forestry issues. They were locked out of the process by the Deputy Premier just as, I am sure, the Minister for Primary Industries was locked out of the process by the Deputy Premier. In respect of so many issues, the Deputy Premier treats him with absolute contempt.

The evidence is mounting that this is not an RFA; this is a cosy little backroom deal, where one of the people who signed the backroom deal could even bring their husband along to be part of the process. Yet we find the Institute of Foresters locked out, we find the local councils locked out, we find the local mayors locked out and we find the workers locked out. As each day goes by, this Government is being found out. People are realising what a shonky exercise this has been from day one—from the day Premier Beattie and the Labor Party traded in an industry for green preferences prior to the last election in terms of the formulation of policy.

The Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister might think that the PR exercise might

have worked. I am telling the Minister that it is coming unstuck at an absolutely amazing rate of knots. People do not like it when they are deceived. People do not like it when they have been lied to. People do not like it when their livelihoods have been eroded on the back of some backroom deal. People do not like it when a viable industry is being sacrificed at the altar of political expediency. People do not like it when an absolutely gutless Premier tries to blame everyone else.

Mr JOHNSON (Gregory—NPA) (12.39 p.m.): This afternoon I wish to put on record my opposition to the Forestry Amendment Bill. In speaking to this issue, the Leader of the Opposition referred to the people factor. This Government came to power on a platform of consultation. It boasted that that was one of the most important words in its vocabulary. However, under the Labor administration consultation is still dead and buried. We all saw how much consultation took place during the six years of the Goss Government. There was not much consultation at all. We saw what happened in relation to the railway lines. People were opposed to that. We saw what happened with respect to the south coast motorway. People were opposed to it, too.

Mr Cooper: This Government's scorched earth policy.

Mr JOHNSON: The honourable member is dead right. The Government should remember that people are able to communicate—something that this Government is not doing enough of. It is not acknowledging the concerns of the timber industry.

In 1991 we witnessed the debacle of the closure of the Ravenshoe mill in north Queensland. Forty-eight jobs were lost when the Government decided to close down the timber industry in north Queensland so that its forests could be put on the World Heritage List. Importantly, in the light of that experience, we know that the business people in the towns also suffer. As the Leader of the Opposition said, it was the people in those towns who ran businesses, and who had a lifetime commitment to them, who suffered. I was only new to the Parliament when that happened about nine years ago. The timber workers in that area—and some of those blokes were third and fourth generation timber cutters—made the point that this was the third time in the history of white settlement that the forests in that part of the world had been harvested. In other words, the forests had been harvested, replenished, harvested,

replenished, and harvested again. That industry was closed down.

This Government should remember that the people who derive a living from the land, be they graziers in western Queensland, farmers in central Queensland or the downs, be they miners, horticulturalists or timber workers, are responsible people. They are conservationists and environmentalists. If they were not upholding those traditions, they would not have survived for 150 years in this country. They care about their land, their communities, their families, the wider community and job creation.

Today we saw this debacle of an Attorney-General picking on Mike Horan and me over our stand on the size of electorates and the fair and equitable representation of the people of this State. Sadly, the Attorney-General and other Government members do not understand the big picture when it comes to rural and remote Queensland. We saw what happened at Ravenshoe. How many Government members have been to Ravenshoe since its timber industry closed down?

Mr Pitt: I have.

Mr JOHNSON: I have no doubt that the honourable member for Mulgrave has.

Mr Cooper: No activity there. It's shut down.

Mr JOHNSON: It is dead.

I will now quote from a magazine article which states—

"Grand conspiracies make interesting conversation, but at grass-roots level it's small-business economics which has people worried in Ravenshoe."

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr D'Arcy): Order! I am trying to listen to the member for Gregory.

Mr JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The article continues—

"Bill Manning's engineering workshop trading figures dropped \$6000 in the first three months after the World Heritage listing was announced."

It will not be any different for some of the businesses and towns in south-east Queensland. I cite places in the electorates of the honourable members for Crows Nest and Callide.

Mr Cooper: Esk.

Mr JOHNSON: All of those places—Esk, Theodore, Moura and elsewhere. The position

of those businesses will be no different from that of Mr Manning's engineering workshop in Ravenshoe. What would be the major business of an engineering workshop in those areas? It would probably be making blades and doing heavy engineering type work for sawmills. Those businesses are reliant on sawmills. This Government is not looking at the big picture.

Do honourable members remember Graham Richardson? Was he at the Labor Party's function at South Bank last night? Did he write the policy that is being introduced today? Honourable members should listen to this. The magazine article continues—

" 'Richardson said his government would help establish a tourist industry in Ravenshoe ... but 90 percent of all visitors come here to look through the sawmill ...' "

Why do they go there? To look at the majestic timber that was milled by those blokes, as I said, for three generations. The effects of the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement will be no different from the effects that World Heritage listing had on that part of Queensland.

This Government came to power on a platform of 5% unemployment. All honourable members on this side of the House support the Government in its objective. We want to see unemployment reduced to 5%. All this Government is doing is expediting the process, and we will see unemployment pushed up to 10%. Currently, unemployment is 8.7%. And it is not only unemployment that will go up as a result of this agreement; bankruptcies will also go up. We have seen what is happening in the South Burnett.

When I was the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, we put in place a joint venture operation between Boral and five or six south-east corner local authorities to create work and employment opportunities for council employees. That initiative was designed to create employment and help to alleviate the problems associated with the drought that has been experienced there for about 10 years. But what will this agreement do? It will expedite the process whereby that part of Queensland will be closed down.

Sadly, this all comes back to consultation. There has been no proper consultation. I feel for the Minister for Primary Industries. I know he is a man of integrity and great honesty. However, he has to take a harder stand when it comes to the Deputy Premier, Jim Elder, and these negotiations, which were carried out by the AWU. And I know that the Minister is a

member of the AWU faction. This is an unfortunate situation. It is a game. It is absolute evidence that it is bowing to the minority—the minority groups again. It is about time that the Government made those hard decisions of looking after the majority. Yes, I know there are minority groups that have to be looked after. The Government was talking in this Parliament last Friday week about minority groups. We come back here and again yesterday, the day before and much of this morning we have been talking about a minority issue. I know it is a controversial one, but at the end of the day I believe there are more important things that this Government should be making decisions about rather than some of those issues that are just there to prop up the social programs of a Socialist Labor administration. I have to say to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I know what a successful man you are in your own right. The point I make is that there are people on that side of the House—not too many of them—who are business people, unfortunately.

Mr Seeney: Union clones!

Mr JOHNSON: Union clones, as the honourable member for Callide said. It is about time—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr D'Arcy): Order! I think the language is colourful enough. The member should get on with his speech.

Mr JOHNSON: Are you saying, Mr Deputy Speaker, that I am being too colourful? If you really want me to start up, I will start up.

The Bush is the name of this little document I am quoting from. It was put in place in north Queensland. I just want to read the last paragraph. It states—

"As we drive out of Ravenshoe, one last sign catches my eye: 'Devastation of rainforest a fallacy; devastation of people, a fact.' "

That is exactly and precisely what we are going to witness again in relation to this. This is a situation that we cannot take lightly. How do we know that this is not going to be a continuation of other timber milling areas in the further west of the State? I know of the decision that the Minister for Primary Industries made in relation to the cypress industry, and I applaud him for that. But again, these people are conservationists; they are very, very professional in their field and they care about their forests.

I was out in Chinchilla recently with the local member. Those people who are milling cypress pine in the Condamine area are

gravely concerned about the infestation of the mother of millions plant. It is certainly a pest out there; it is a problem and it is going to go right through those forest areas. Again, all these noxious weeds and plants go against what this industry is about. This is proof of just how much these people care about the environment they are working in, the industry they are working in, the job creation they are involved in and, at the end of day, the businesses that are created in these places as a result of investment by these milling companies. We have seen exactly and precisely what has happened with Boral in relation to the RFA agreement. Where is Boral going to go? It is going to Tasmania. Tasmania is going to be—

Mr Cooper: All that good Queensland money is going to be spent in Tasmania.

Mr JOHNSON: Absolutely! As the honourable member for Crows Nest said, all that good Queensland money, all that good Queensland expertise, is lost to this State.

Mr Littleproud: And the jobs.

Mr JOHNSON: The jobs? They have gone; they are history. They have not even gone to heaven.

Mr Cooper interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I was not suggesting before that the honourable member for Gregory was that colourful, but some of his language is.

Mr JOHNSON: I do not know what I have said.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want to repeat it. I think Hansard would appreciate it if the member did watch his language.

Mr JOHNSON: They are nodding in agreement up there.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think they are nodding in agreement with me. Let us get on with the meat of the speech.

Mr JOHNSON: The one thing that we have to remember, as the honourable member for Western Downs has just alluded to, is the people factor. I have touched on the people factor. There is one bloke up at Ravenshoe who says that at 55 he is too old to relocate and start again. So he is caught on the downhill slide. This is a situation that we have to take account of. When we come back to job creation and preservation of jobs, we have to think of these people. These blokes in their fifties have another 10 or 15 years in them before they retire. Many of them still have to provide for their families and some of them are still paying off mortgages.

As I said a while ago in relation to the south-east Burnett country, everybody on that side of the House knows exactly and precisely how devastated the people there have been over the past 10 to 15 years because of an ongoing drought that is further compounded by low commodity prices for beef and not being able to put in crops. We know what happened at the Murgon meatworks: some 600 jobs have been lost as a result of the inevitable closure of that meatworks. The point I make again is in relation to the taxing of these areas where these people for so long have been able to derive a living by being responsible and understanding and by caring about the area they live in.

It was the former Labor Prime Minister of this country who, back in the early seventies, started this downhill slide: Gough Whitlam.

Mr Littleproud: Not Gough!

Mr JOHNSON: I bet he was at their function last night, was he?

Mr Fenlon: He was there last night.

Mr JOHNSON: I bet they had him on centre stage, too. He said that we do not need to grow anything in Australia; we can import it all. What are we going to do? We are going to close down all the farming industries and we are going to import it all! What happens to the farmers? What happens to the people who work in those industries? The AWU faction here today will go back to the shearing industry in western Queensland, which we know is on its knees. What do all its members think of this type of policy?

I return to the legislation again. Where is a lot of this timber going to be imported from now? Yes, probably Malaysia or somewhere up in south-east Asia.

Mr Cooper: That is where they are clear felling up there.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I know the honourable member is being rather provocative, but he should be heard in silence.

Mr JOHNSON: I thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your protection because I am a person who needs protection. Yes, what a fitting time it is to speak on the anniversary of 10 years of Labor coming to power.

Mr Cooper: Ten years of destruction!

Mr JOHNSON: As the honourable member for Crows Nest just said, 10 years of destruction. We saw what underlined the first six years of the administration and thank the good Lord that we had two and a quarter years of conservative administration to turn it around and put in place some high-powered

infrastructure developments to get creation of jobs going again. Now we have come back to the same. We saw what happened at Ravenshoe; we saw what happened at Fraser Island—the promises that were made there. I have a document full of lies and untruths told by Ros Kelly and Graham Richardson—the absolute fabricators of the truth. It is documented here, if members opposite want to see it. We know their track record. They broke the country. Thank God we have a conservative Government in Canberra that is turning that around. Thank God one came into power in Queensland for two and a quarter years to turn it around here.

The one thing that I want to emphasise before I close in three minutes' time is that it is absolutely paramount that the Minister recognises the importance of those milling projects that he put in place in western Queensland. It is absolutely paramount that he keep it away from this erosive policy that he has in relation to south-east RFA. He is closing down viable, profitable businesses that are creating development and creating jobs.

Mr Cooper: It's been there for 150 years and they're just going to wipe it out.

Mr JOHNSON: Absolutely, 150 years! Are we going to see a mass of that go through the cypress industry or the softwood industry or somewhere else? The Government gives its ear to the minority groups that come to it all the time. This is certainly not beneficial to the people of this State. It is not productive to this State. I say to the Deputy Premier that he should show some better leadership in relation to some of these decisions, rather than what he has shown today.

The other thing that we have to recognise—and it has not been highlighted at all—is the importance of the younger generations in these areas who rely on following in their dad's footsteps in the timber industry.

Mr Cooper: Follow proudly in their footsteps.

Mr JOHNSON: Follow proudly, as the honourable member for Crows Nest said.

That brings me back to that 5% unemployment target. Not everybody wants to be an academic, a doctor, a lawyer or a school teacher. There are people out there who want to be labourers and do the physical work, and we need those people. That is paramount to the ongoing viability of the country in which we live.

My colleague reminded me of that again this morning. The member for Southport, Mick

Veivers said to me, "Vaughan, again it highly emphasises just who represents the worker." It is the members on this side of the House—the coalition—who represent the workers in this State. The Government has sold them out time and time again. It sold them out at Ravenshoe, at Hervey Bay, in the railway workshops in Townsville, and now it is selling them out at Cooroy, Esk, Crows Nest and all the other places in between. It is a bit like what some people said in relation to the prostitution debate: the people are going to remind this Government when it comes to the next election exactly and precisely how it sold them out.

Time expired.

Sitting suspended from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Reeves): Order! Before calling the member for Western Downs, I recognise the presence in the gallery of the 1999 Queenslander of the Year, Margot Appleyard.

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Western Downs—NPA) (2.30 p.m.): When this Bill was being debated before the luncheon recess, I was intrigued to hear the Leader of the Opposition speaking about the Institute of Foresters. It took me back to my first few years in this House when I was serving on a committee with the then Minister responsible for forestry, Bill Glasson. I can remember the term "Conservator of Forests". The person who was in charge of the Forestry Department was called the Conservator of Forests. John Kelly comes to mind and so, too, does Tom Ryan. I have always felt rather sad that that term is not used so widely these days. The word getting more currency these days is "conservationist". Both come from the word "conservation". The expertise in and dedication to the profession of silviculture rested with the Conservator of Forests and the well-experienced people in the Department of Forestry. Unfortunately, too often these days conservationists are trying to influence policy, and not enough notice is being taken of the conservators of the forests.

I recall some of the issues of the day. I listened with intent to their wisdom. They had a record of sustainable harvesting. On one occasion during a Timber Week in Chinchilla, I took a group of school children to the Barakula forest, the biggest native forest in Queensland. There was a man there who was in his eighties. He was a second generation sawmiller. When he was a young boy, his family lived at Barakula. He was telling me about his experiences. He said that the Forestry Department of Queensland had been

managing our forests well. He said, "This is the third time that our family has been harvesting a certain block within the Barakula State Forest. We have cut more timber this time than we did the second time, and we cut more timber the second time than we did in the first harvest." Those people had a proven record.

What upset me was that, suddenly, that wisdom was not only ignored but also challenged absolutely when a bloke like Graham Richardson came in with a political agenda and virtually called those people liars. Down the track it was revealed that when he was visiting the Wet Tropics he remarked on the pristine forest. The Queensland foresters reminded him that the place had been harvested for generations. Two or three trees per hectare were being taken every 30 years and it was said that the forest had been raped. All the wisdom of people like John Kelly and Tom Ryan, former Conservators of Forests was ignored, put aside—

Mr Cooper: Just for politics.

Mr LITTLEPROUD: It was torn asunder for politics. The conservationists rather than the conservators held sway. I have a sense that history is repeating itself here today.

I suspect that the decision to bring this Bill and the regional forest agreement before us today have more to do with listening to conservationists than taking full notice of the conservators. The Institute of Foresters is another factor. The Leader of the Opposition has revealed that those people were not part of the loop when advice was sought.

Mr MICKEL: I rise to a point of order. The statement made by the member for Western Downs is untrue. They were part of the agreement. The member is inadvertently misleading the House.

Mr LITTLEPROUD: It does not reflect on him.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. I point out to the member for Western Downs that I will look after the matter.

Mr LITTLEPROUD: I get stirred up because the member for Logan has been in the chair and he should know better. Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for reminding me of my place.

I go back now to 1996, when it became obvious in Queensland that the decisions about how we looked after the State forests, their trees and their harvesting had to be made on a scientific basis. The member for Warrego was then the Minister for Natural Resources. I can recall the discussions around the Cabinet table about the scoping studies

that he put in place to determine the state of the forests. If the Institute of Foresters could give us information, I suspect it would confirm that the evidence coming forward from those responsible for sustainable harvesting of the State forests in the south-east corner of Queensland would show that they are in good shape. The timber areas have been reduced because of two factors. A lot of the land in the south-east corner of Queensland covered in forests is held privately. People have chosen to cut down the timber and use the land for other purposes. After 1990 when the Goss Government came to power and people saw the undue influence of the conservationists, I suspect some people said, "What's the good of us trying to grow out our timber? Just when it gets to be a handy sort of timber and we want to harvest it, along will come the Goss Government and say, 'You can't harvest that.' Even though it is private timber, they'll bring in legislation that comes over the top."

Mr Mickel: Tell us about the deal you did with Drew Hutton.

Mr LITTLEPROUD: I did not do any deals with Drew Hutton. He has probably been knocking on Labor's doors. The member for Logan raises an interesting issue. Rumour gets around the departments. When I became the Minister for the Environment and I moved into the new offices and was feeling my way and finding out what was going on, I noticed that there was a fair bit of space there. Officers said, "It is interesting to know, but you should know, that people like Aila Keto and Drew Hutton were camped in the back offices permanently." They were the ones who developed the policies that got members opposite chucked out of office. Now they are back in there again. They have a foot on the back of Labor's neck. Members opposite are listening to the conservationists again, rather than taking a bit of good advice from the department. They will be out on their ear again. Do you want some more?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Western Downs to speak through Chair.

Mr LITTLEPROUD: You are quite right, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I listened to the debate about tree clearing. We are discussing not just the trees in the State forests but all the trees across Queensland. The member for Warrego, Howard Hobbs, was discussing the scientific data that came to his attention when he was the Minister.

Mr Mickel: Didn't he fly off to Canada?

Mr LITTLEPROUD: I will get to Aila Keto in a few minutes. The member will love that, too.

The member for Warrego discussed the thickening of the forests. I refer again to Tom Holland, a sawmiller in the Barakula forest, north of Chinchilla. He was explaining to the children how the forest had changed. He is about 82 or 83. The man lived there well over 70 years ago. It was his job to bring in the house cows every night. He said, "Children, would you believe it? When I was a child, there was 80 acres of country there. I could look out in the morning and there wasn't a tree in sight. I could see exactly where the cows were in the paddock." I have been in this place for about 16 years, so that happened about 20 years ago. If members go to the Barakula forest today—

Mr Mickel: I've done that.

Mr LITTLEPROUD: It is a pity that the member did not get lost.

People who live in that part of the world will tell members that, when it was first settled, it was open forest country. In fact, the first person who had a pick of all the land in the Chinchilla district was Matthew Goggs, who also happened to own the house Wolston Park. He had the first choice of the land. He chose a place and called it Wongongera. His description of the land was: tall kangaroo grass, open pasture land with some large scattered trees. That land is smack bang in the middle of Barakula forest. He had first pick of all the land in the whole district. That is how things have changed. The personal experience of those people who lived there concords with the evidence coming from the scientists. The member for Warrego has said that the present Government is ignoring some of those facts. He was discussing thickening. I can tell honourable members of another personal experience about the road boundaries outside my property in the Chinchilla Shire. When I was a child I was told that when the roadways were cleared in the Depression years, gangs of men went through and ringbarked the roadways. It was quite possible to look from the roadway through the trees into people's properties. Those same roadways have not been burnt or dealt with for many years. I am fearful of some of my cattle getting out and my trying to drive them back along the roadway or even find them, because there is now an underscore of woody weeds and a thickening of all the timber. The scientific fact of thickening is a reality. I have seen it with my own eyes. It has been related to me by a man who has been a sawmiller for two

generations, yet those on the other side of the House are trying to ignore the fact that the forests of Queensland are thickening.

To return to the Bill, I make the point that not enough notice has been taken of the conservation of forests. Conservationists have had an unhealthy influence on things, which brings me to the next person I want to talk about, Dr Aila Keto. Dr Keto has had an enormous impact on the policies of Labor Governments. I had not been the Environment Minister for very long when Imogen Zethoven, the executive officer of the Queensland Conservation Council, requested a deputation, and she brought along Aila Keto.

I have a fair bit of respect for Aila Keto. She has had a lot of favourable press. At that particular time, I was embroiled in the whole process of trying to make some sense out of the management plan for the World Heritage area of the Wet Tropics. Aila Keto wanted to impress on me that there were some dreadful things going on. She started off by saying, "Do you know, Minister, that there are 1,100 kilometres of roadway through the World Heritage area of the Wet Tropics? Are you aware that that is impacting on 25% of the World Heritage area?" I said, "Are you sure about that?" She replied, "Yes, Minister, yes," and she kept on talking. By that time, I was adept enough at my mathematics to know that the World Heritage area was 400,000 hectares. On top of that, she said, "The roads impact for 250 metres either side into the World Heritage area." So I did my calculations. It came out at about 14%. I said, "Hang on, Aila. It is not 25%. It is 14%." She said, "Oh, it's a lot, at any rate."

I did not have the scientific knowledge to question her on the issue of how far a road impacts into a forest. She said 250 metres, but I was thinking just a moment ago about those people who were lost in the Lamington National Park. They were 100 metres off the road and they could not find it. Yet Aila Keto is coming up with scientific data which says that the mere fact a road goes through the Wet Tropics is impacting for 250 metres inside that area. That is another good example of too much notice being taken of conservationists and not much notice being taken of the conservation of forests.

Many previous speakers from this side of the House have made the point that poor policy making is going to impact enormously on the personal lives of the people. The people of Queensland have already been duped once during the Goss years by these sorts of arguments relating to the natural

resources of Queensland. I can remember giving a pretty heated speech in the House one day during those times. The present Minister for Primary Industries came up to me afterwards and said, "Good speech, Brian." I was ranting and letting those on the other side know just how deep the hurt is out there and how much the people were against the Government.

At the ballot box it turned out that I was right. I warn those opposite that the same thing is happening again because there was no consultation. There is good evidence coming forward that the expertise of the Institute of Foresters has been completely ignored. The Government has used the spin doctors and the press to try to make something happen. It has been pointed out that the mayors of 16 councils in south-east Queensland met with members of the Opposition just the other day. They realise that what they were forced into in only September this year is now being seen to be a sham.

I am totally against this present form of the regional forest agreement. I pay tribute to the member for Warrego for the job that he did when he was the Minister for Natural Resources. He went through the scoping studies. He was using the scientific data, not ignoring it. He did not allow himself to be unduly influenced by people like Aila Keto. In fact, I think he was changing the minds of people like Aila Keto because, for the first time ever, she was going to sawmills and seeing what was going on in a practical sense rather than reading it in textbooks. I support all of those in the Opposition who warned the people of Queensland that what has been signed and what is going to be pushed on them is not what it seems, and that they will regret it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Reeves): Order! Before I call the member for Keppel, I recognise in the gallery a group of lecturers and students from the Ferny Grove area who are undertaking a TAFE hospitality course at South Bank.

Hon. V. P. LESTER (Keppel—NPA) (2.43 p.m.): I might also say how pleased we are to see our students here. It is very good indeed.

I am grateful for the chance to speak on the Forestry Amendment Bill as it gives me the opportunity to relay to the Parliament some of the brewing concerns in regional south-east Queensland regarding the Beattie Government's proposed regional forest agreement. From the start, I should point out that it is erroneous to call it a regional forest

agreement, because it is really not. It is not an agreement that truly represents all of those people with a stake or an interest in south-east Queensland's Crown native forests. If honourable members think I am joking, they should have been in Gympie last Monday to see the concern of those shire chairmen, councillors, sawmillers and other interested community groups.

It is not an agreement because the vast majority of genuine stakeholders were not consulted and were not afforded the opportunity to contribute to it. This is a terrible shame. While it was officially termed a "heads of agreement" on its signing, in the stark light of day it is little more than a deal brokered by the Beattie Government to meet its political objective of closing down the Crown native forest. One only has to consider the agenda of so many in the green movement, the way they have carried on in recent times and some of the outrageous claims they have made. The signatories to that deal represent but a fraction of those who depend on the forest for their livelihood or who have a stake or interest in the forest and the manner in which it is managed. Those signatories included three conservation groups, only one industry group and the Beattie Government. What about the workers? What about the real people? What about the business people? What about the people who really count such as shire chairmen and so on? They have all been literally ignored.

The Beattie Government has made much of the fact—and the Premier laid it on thick again yesterday in the Parliament—that this was supposedly a remarkable compromise reached through skilled negotiation. Negotiation with what or with whom? When we shovel away the rhetoric, the egotistical chest beating, the froth and bubble, and take a clinical look at how this so-called agreement was reached, we find that it is a different story. The reality is that we had Labor's conservation and biological diversity policy, which provided for a quaintly termed "transition strategy" out of native forest harvesting—in short, closing the industry down. We had three green groups which the Beattie Government depends on for electoral support serving up their extremist demands. We had one industry group representing just one of the forest users with a gun held to its head as regards its future.

There was no community involvement, no Forest Protection Society involvement, no contractor involvement and no trail rider involvement. There was a huge showing of people at a rally that I addressed. I was surprised at the hundreds of people who turned up for that rally—trail bikers, forest

walkers and many others. All of them were very worried about their right to use the forest. Beekeepers were another group who were left out of the process. There was also no local government involvement—can members believe it—and no grazier involvement. What sort of a deal is that? It is certainly a one-sided, one way, awful, unrealistic, unsustainable deal.

There was no professional involvement in the final negotiations. The Department of Natural Resources, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Primary Industries were, believe it or not, excluded. The forestry industry's peak professional body, the Institute of Foresters of Australia, Queensland Division, was also left out. They are the leading body of professional resource managers and scientists with a membership of professionals working in forest growing, timber processing, forest management consultancies, forest planning, conservation and recreation groups. A group like this—an academic, intelligent group with practical experience—were left out. Much of that membership comprises officers from within DPI, DNR and the Parks and Wildlife Service. They forwarded a submission to the Government regarding the RFA, but it is obvious from reading it and comparing it with the final deal that was struck that the Premier and his deputy, who had carriage of this deal, ignored the advice of these experts. There was not even any worker involvement. Or was there? Did the AWU sell out its members like its faction leader in the Beattie Government, the Deputy Premier?

Aside from the fact that this proposal is based on a political deal rather than science, I find it appalling that none of these legitimate stakeholders were even afforded the opportunity to be involved in the process. The Premier and his Cabinet can crow all they like about the apparent support for this deal from its signatories, but that support does not extend to all those other legitimate stakeholders who were and remain shut out. One only has to spend some time travelling around regional south-east Queensland to work that out pretty quickly.

The people who depend on the forests are getting worried and they are getting angry. They are worried about their futures, and why should they not be? They are worried about their families and they are worried about their communities. They are very angry that they have not been included and are still not being included. They are angry because the Beattie Government has reduced their jobs and their lifestyle to something that can be gambled away in some sort of quick fix political stunt.

Mark my words: the Beattie Government has ignored these people at its peril. They can see through the glossy PR job. They can see that there is no substance to this deal.

Again, the experts—groups such as the Forest Protection Society and the Institute of Foresters—have criticised the inadequacy of the social impact assessments undertaken by the Beattie Government. They point out that other users of the forests, such as graziers, beekeepers and recreational users, have not been taken into account. In fact, the institute bluntly states that both the social assessment report and the directions report were flawed because they ignored these users. The institute draws the conclusion that—

"Consequently, the public has not been made aware of the full economic and social costs of the proposed scenarios. Before an RFA is reached, there is a clear need to recognise that the economic analysis underpinning the range of RFA scenarios presented in the directions report may significantly understate the social and economic flow-on impacts of the options proposed."

Needless to say, the Beattie Government did not follow that advice and recognise the social and economic impacts before the RFA deal was finalised. We are seeing the evidence of that in the regions now as the Beattie Government's deal starts to bite.

Aside from the social element, the Beattie Government's proposed RFA is also remiss on environmental grounds. The deal is based on the mistaken and extremist philosophy that human interaction with native forests is something that should be avoided. It is based on the premise that locking up the forests and throwing away the key will somehow improve the environmental value. It ignores the fact that the Crown native forest is essentially already under a reserve system. It ignores the fact that logging, grazing, beekeeping and trail riding are sustainable and can be conducted without destroying the forest.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Reeves): Order! Some people might not be as riveted as I am by this speech. I ask honourable members to extend courtesy to the member speaking.

Mr LESTER: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. It just shows how little interest members of the Labor Party have in these very important matters. They are unable to comprehend this well-researched speech full of fact, so they just carry on and have jokes between themselves.

Mr SCHWARTEN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My good friend over there doth defame me. It is his good friend from the National Party, who is sharing a joke with the Deputy Government Whip, who was making that laugh.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr LESTER: Actually, my National Party colleague was just trying to explain to these people just what this is about. The submission from the Queensland division of the Institute of Foresters of Australia states—

"While the IFA supports ecologically and sustainable forest management (ESFM) including a strategy of conservation in reserves supported by managed production forest, we consider the options development process has been significantly devalued due to a failure to recognise the conservation value of managed forests."

That submission goes on to refer to one of the State Government's own reports, entitled *Towards Reserve Options for Forest Taxa in South-East Queensland: Taxa at risk, threats, conservation requirements and recovery planning*. Members on the other side should listen to this, particularly the Minister, who I would hope has a more practical appreciation of these issues than some of his colleagues. That report states—

"Coincidentally, a major Government study of forest-related taxa at risk in SEQ found that the greatest threat to taxa is not posed by selective harvesting but by other factors not directly addressed in the RFA process."

The report gives examples such as fire, disease, roads, railways, chemical pollution, waste disposal, mining and quarrying. Under the proposal, 425,000 hectares will be set aside to existing locked up reserved areas. That is 425,000 hectares added to an already underresourced and inadequately managed national parks and reserve network. This is a massive boost to the parks and reserves network, but by no means has there been a commensurate boost to the budget of the Parks and Wildlife Service to manage it. In fact, \$28.4m has been cut from this year's budget. That is a disgrace. This is a Labor Budget that even the Greens were compelled to condemn for its short-sightedness and lack of commitment to the environment.

These 425,000 hectares are to be added to a parks and reserve network that, through

the neglect of the Beattie Government, has been allowed to run down and become infested with weeds and become a breeding ground for pests such as feral pigs. This is another 425,000 hectares that, through this neglect and the cessation of harvesting, which is often essential to maintaining the health of forest systems, will become a massive fire hazard waiting to happen—a fire hazard just like that facing Fraser Island as we speak. And we know what happened to former Senator Richardson. So massive has the neglect been that Noel Playford, chairman of the community advisory committee for the Fraser Island World Heritage area, has warned that the island might lose its World Heritage listing. He has warned that everything could be destroyed in the event of a bushfire. I hate to say it, but that is a distinct possibility. Again, the Institute of Foresters—the experts—supports those concerns in its submission, which states—

"Most potential disturbances can be effectively managed by informal reservation or management prescription and in reality, managed production forests are frequently able to offer superior protection to biodiversity through maintaining a management presence and funding superior infrastructure. For example, fire was often identified as a significant risk to taxa. In truth, severe wildfires are more likely in poorly managed reserves than in managed forests."

That is a fact. Based on the Beattie Government's track record of environmental mismanagement, that is the sort of situation we can look forward to when that 425,000 hectares is added to the reserves.

Once this 425,000 hectares of forest is set aside, there will be some 200,000 hectares available for logging. Boral has been bought out with Queensland taxpayers' money and sent away to invest that money in other States such as Tasmania. That State Government is actually trying to develop a timber industry to create jobs. Hyne & Son will be helped to invest in hoop pine, but there will be some 35 sawmillers and salvage operators left to secure a large portion or, for some, all of their wood supplies from the remaining 200,000 hectares.

In its heads of agreement the Beattie Government stated there would be no clear-felling of the Crown native hardwood forest, but in order to meet the resultant demand for sawlogs, the minimum girth size of millable logs has been reduced to only 40 centimetres—little more than that for clear-felling. For some forest species that intensity of harvest may in fact be beneficial, but for others

it could be catastrophic to the environmental attributes of the forest.

And knowing full well how some of the environmental groups operate—and some of those were signatories to the Beattie Government's deal—in a couple of years' time, after the harvesters have been through the forest in this manner, those groups will take a 60 Minutes crew in, survey the carnage, make all sorts of accusations and mount another campaign for the Government of the day to end this dreadful practice and close the forest down entirely, regardless of the cost to the community. The so-called 25-year wood supply agreements for which this Bill provides will not be worth a scrap. That is why people are so concerned about knowing what to do for the future. They do not know what is going to happen to them.

And while the Beattie Government expects this area of forest to support those millers for up to 25 years, it has ruled out enhanced silviculture for no scientific reason—no logical reason—other than that it is against the Greens' policy. I have seen silviculture, and it does work. If those areas of forest are to have any hope of sustaining the intensity of logging, enhanced silviculture will be absolutely essential.

At the same time, the Beattie Government has announced that plantations will take the place of the Crown resource. But as yet, the Beattie Government has not put one seedling in the ground. That is a disgrace. My friend the member for Crows Nest made this point quite succinctly when debate commenced on this Bill the other night. I noticed that it caused a flurry of defensive activity as the Minister tried to give the Parliament an explanation the following day that expressions of interest had been called for the propagation of up to half a million seedlings. That is a long way short of the 10 million trees required and does not get around the fact that not one tree has yet been planted. The Minister still has not provided any detail on exactly where are those 1,000 hectares on which those trees are to be planted, or the remaining 4,000 hectares that are needed at the very minimum.

Aside from the obvious shortcomings in detail on that issue, there remain other concerns about the feasibility of plantations—even if the trees were planted on the very day of the Minister's announcement—as to whether they could supply sufficient quantities of sawlogs to meet demand in 25 years. Those concerns have been raised with the Opposition by sawmillers, by forest experts and

by professional groups, such as the Institute of Foresters. Given those concerns, it is difficult—if not impossible—to offer support for the provisions in this Bill giving 25-year wood supply agreements. Any person with a shred of commonsense would err on the side of caution and allow more time to be sure that supply was going to be there.

I have touched on but a few of the mass of concerns, which the Opposition shares with other Queenslanders who depend on the forests for their livelihoods and their lifestyles, that the Beattie Government has created with its forest deal. The Deputy Premier was all very indignant this morning and cited old newspaper clippings and support from one industry group to defend his proposed RFA. He may not have caught up yet, but the facts are that the people have seen through the whole thing. They are concerned, they are unhappy, they are upset, and they are unsure.

I believe that we need to reconsider this whole issue. Why are groups of people at Gympie and everywhere else opposed to this? Why are members getting heaps of letters from very concerned people? The simple fact is that the Labor Government has duded the people of Queensland, the forestry workers and, indeed, everybody else involved in this whole industry—those people who continue to generate employment. I ask members to think about the huge amount of employment that the forestry industry creates. It is absolutely enormous. It involves trucks, fuel, machinery and workers.

Time expired.

Mr FELDMAN (Caboolture—ONP) (3.03 p.m.): I rise to speak to the Forestry Amendment Bill 1999. The agreement the Government refers to does not, despite the Government's contention, represent complete agreement on the part of all stakeholders in the industry. The agreement purports to provide for the grant of 25-year wood supply agreements with respect to Crown native forest hardwood sawlogs for most current sawlog allocation holders in south-east Queensland.

Clause 4(3)(a) states quite clearly that sales permits may be granted for a period of not more than 25 years. This clause fails to follow through on the Minister's statement that the legislation provides for the grant of 25-year wood supply agreements. What is the truth here? Are these permits to be for the full stated period of 25 years, or is the Government, by sleight of hand, intending to issue permits perhaps for some lesser period in some circumstances? I look forward to the Minister's response.

What this Bill most definitely does not do is provide access to suitable tracts of forest to ensure the continued supply of suitable sawlogs necessary to underpin the viability of hardwood millers and processors until such time as suitable size plantation logs become widely available.

Picking up on a point made by the member for Keppel in relation to that—I have already highlighted in this House on numerous occasions some of the industries that are going to be affected by this legislation. I refer in particular to Mr Les Torrens. I received some assurances from Mr Torrens the other day, but he has a permit that will last him for only about 50 trees. He already has orders for well in excess of 180 to 200 girders. He supplies girders for bridge construction to local shire councils throughout south-east Queensland, to Main Roads and Queensland Rail. That man has worked his business for some 11 to 15 years. He has worked in the timber industry all his life, and he knows virtually nothing else. What sort of compensation is he going to get when he cannot get those particular sawlogs that he requires? They are the ones that are locked up—the wet area timbers that are totally locked up by this.

Mr Cooper: They want to build bridges. That's all through the Brisbane Valley.

Mr FELDMAN: Too right! No local shire council can build its bridges out of steel and concrete.

Mr Cooper: They cannot afford it.

Mr FELDMAN: No, they cannot afford it—not at all. But where are they going to get this timber that they need—timber with the required strength for girders? Where is that man's business going to go? Right down the gurgler! And just as it has upset Mr Torrens, it has upset me. It has also upset something like 21 mayors and 16 shire councils. We met with some of them here the other night. Lyn Devereaux, Deputy Mayor of Caboolture, was the representative on the LGAQ for the RFAs. I have been told that she was not contacted once in the whole time that this was supposed to be done.

Mr Mickel: That's just not true.

Mr FELDMAN: I am only going on what I have been told.

Mr Davidson: You'd rather believe her than them.

Mr FELDMAN: I get on well with Lyn.

While the stated objective of the Bill appears laudable, it is simply a cruel hoax being played on the thousands of trusting

timber industry families who took this Government at its word when it said that it would provide security of supply for 25 years. What a cruel and heartless hoax! The fact is that this Beattie Government, in its indecent haste to appease a lunatic mouldy green fringe of the environmental movement, has sold the futures of each and every child of a timber industry family down the proverbial river. And it did not even have the charity to provide them with a barbed wire canoe—which probably would have been appropriate, because they could not have built one out of wood. What good is a 25-year supply guarantee—if, in fact, it really is a guarantee—when there are simply not enough decent sized sawlogs in those areas that have not been locked up to go around?

Mr Pearce: Does that mean the resource is running out?

Mr Cooper: No, you are shutting it up.

Mr FELDMAN: That is right. The Government is shutting them out of those areas. It has shut up every single area of wetland timber. It shut them out. This Government has made a calculated choice between the threat of greenie disapproval at the next election and the future stability of yet another endangered rural industry.

Mr Reynolds: What about the barbed wire canoe?

Mr FELDMAN: Perhaps if trees grew out of barbed wire, those people might still have an industry. As one would expect from a Government which owes its slender majority to a backroom deal with the greenies, the decision was never in doubt. Why would the Government worry about the futures of a few insignificant bush towns when, by crawling to the city greenies, it can improve its chance of re-election. I hope those chances are now significantly reduced, thanks to its prostitution legislation.

This Bill does not ensure ecologically sustainable development. In fact, it guarantees stagnation and decay in an industry that, if managed wisely, has the potential to strengthen the social fabric of many rural communities while contributing positively to the nation's balance of payments. This Bill will not achieve efficient production and wood distribution. How can timber cutters be efficient when they have to pick through poor-quality blocks, many of which have been harvested recently? It is almost like telling them that they have to go back and clear-fell, which is not what the timber getters did; they were environmentally conscious people who went about their work in the required fashion.

They did the firebreaks, cleaned up the undergrowth and prevented a lot of the devastation that we saw occur years and years ago. But no, that was not good enough: we have to lock up the areas. As I said, how can timber cutters be efficient when they have to pick through poor-quality blocks that have been harvested recently, looking for the few remaining trees of the size and quality that is able to be milled? How can millers be efficient when they have to pay increased haulage costs from distant blocks to obtain very ordinary, low-grade logs from which they struggle to cut half-decent sized timber?

I was told that, somewhere hidden in that RFA, is a landed log subsidy. I have placed a question on notice about that. I do not think that I have received an answer to that yet. I want to know, if millers are to be paid for the extra haulage costs, where is the money for that landed log subsidy coming from. Where in the budget was that allocation made? I did not see it. It might be another bit of devil hidden in the detail somewhere. I have not seen it.

This timber will then attract only low prices in a market supplied with high-quality imported timber from countries where indiscriminate clear-felling is still accepted. So we are going to accept timber from countries that clear-fell and that are not environmentally conscious. We in Australia are going to accept that with a clear conscience. We are not looking after an industry that is viable now and could have been viable in the future; instead we are destroying some Third World country by buying our timber from them.

This Bill will not promote the stability of the processing industry. How can we expect to have a stable processing industry when we must rely on attracting multimillion dollar investment and when, contrary to the Government's contention, there will be no guarantee of an ongoing supply of suitable logs? Secondary timber processors or value adding industries rely totally on an uninterrupted supply of quality feedstock to be able to produce a consistent, quality finished product that, in turn, must be capable of commanding a premium price in the market in order to remain viable. Instead, we are giving them rubbish timber to turn out a premium product. This Bill will not ensure security of supply.

Now that the industry has the opportunity to see some of the devil in the detail of the Government's cruel hoax, they realise that they have been sold out for short-term political gain. This Government has weighed the prospect of having greenie support in the next

election against the future existence and stability of many south-east Queensland timber towns and the livelihood of many thousands of people who live in or rely upon those towns. It is in the interests of every member of this House to remember one thing: greenies will never be satisfied. It is just like tipping sand: they will never be satisfied, they just keep on draining away. If they demand this pound of flesh for support now, one can just imagine what they are going to demand in return for support for Labor at future elections. Let there be no doubt, the ultimate aim of this lunatic Left element is the total destruction of the hardwood timber industry. They are a disgrace to the true conservationists. Their actions are economically and socially counterproductive.

Clause 4(3)(b) allows that a sales permit may—

"Provide for compensation payable to the permittee in stated circumstances."

What a wonderfully generous gesture on the part of this Government! The industry wants to know what the "stated circumstances" are. That is more devil in the detail. I think that this subclause was just designed to muffle the screams of the permittee who has just had his sales permit suspended or cancelled under Clause 5, which amends section 58 of the Act. What are the "particular circumstances" under which this suspension or cancellation may take place? I certainly, and the industry most assuredly, are waiting for an answer to those questions, and we need it.

The member for Keppel mentioned councils. The Caboolture Shire Council is but one of those councils. However, plenty of other councils are advocating that they have received a bad deal. They have been sold a pup; they are expected to sit by and watch their constituents get sold down the river. They know that that is not on.

To add insult to injury, at clause 4(3)(c), the Government is demanding that anybody who is awarded a sales permit must, by legislation, be required to give the State the first right of refusal to an assignment or transfer of the permit. Why does the Government want this clause?

Mr Cooper: To shut them down.

Mr FELDMAN: To shut them down and finish them off! At the end of the day, like cutting the head off a chook, the Government is putting them to the sword. The Government wants to further undermine the viability of this industry by buying back any allocations that come onto the market. Then we know what is

going to happen: they are going to get locked up, too, and it will be the end of the story.

How will this impact on the transfer of family businesses down the generations? What can those people's kids inherit if they do not get the first option? Will this interfere with the legitimate business of amalgamating two or more struggling allocations to make a single, viable business unit? These are just some of the questions that are just racing through the hearts and the minds of these people who are struggling every day. It is getting harder and harder for them. Some of those people were hardworking Labor people who have suddenly seen Labor come back and bite them.

How can the Minister expect the wholehearted support of all the members of this House when the Government has patently misled the constituency during the so-called consultancy process? If this regional forest agreement is so wonderful, if it is going to achieve all its stated aims, then why have the likes of Boral sold out to the Government? Is it because this large company could see the writing on the wall and decided to get out rather than ride a mortally wounded industry into the grave?

This Bill and the unfair RFA that it supports are yet further examples of the lack of compassion and understanding that this Government has shown consistently towards anybody in this State who happens to live outside the metropolitan area. Anybody who lives outside George Street is finished. In consequence of what I have said and in the interests of the south-east Queensland timber industry, One Nation is unable to support this Bill. We have reached that decision after considering everything that I have just said, the comments of the mayors of these affected towns, the comments of the people who have come to see us and the comments of the industries and the flow-on industries that can see themselves being wiped out and written off. They do not like it. They need an answer that they will be able to live with, an answer that their children will be able to live with, and that their children's children will be able to live with. They are looking to their future. That is one reason why One Nation cannot support the Bill.

Dr PRENZLER (Lockyer—ONP) (3.18 p.m.): On many occasions, members of One Nation and other members on this side have spoken about their disapproval of the regional forest agreement and its purpose. We do not speak against it lightly; we speak against it because hardworking industry people

are against it. They are very passionate about that, because their livelihoods and their communities are at stake. They have a right to be passionate about this issue. Rationality does not seem to prevail. Every time something like this happens, they seem to get the raw end of the deal.

In his second-reading speech, the Minister stated—

"The Queensland Government plan was underpinned by an agreement between the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society, the Queensland Conservation Council, the Wilderness Society, the Queensland Timber Board and the Queensland Government.

What sort of fair agreement is that? It is an agreement made between three conservation organisations, one industry body and the Government. One would not necessarily consider that to be a fair agreement.

This is especially so when the industry body, the Queensland Timber Board, is more representative of the big players and does not speak for a large number of mainly smaller timber industry participants. In short, the Queensland Timber Board is not the Queensland timber industry. Perhaps one of the reasons that we constantly disagree on the support or lack of support for the regional forestry agreements is because the workers in the industry may not be truly represented by the industry body. The fact of the matter is that regional forestry agreements will cause great devastation to many workers, whole timber communities and those involved in support industries.

While I agree that we must protect the environment and ensure a sustainable industry, we must not do so at the cost of closing down whole communities. If a sales permit agreement is to be made that would allow the continued harvest of the allocated areas for a definite period of 25 years, the Government must be certain that the allocated areas have enough resources so that industry participants can continue to sell their timber for 25 years, not for a part of it. However, this will not be the case. The areas agreed to are too small to meet logging demands, and it is inevitable that industry participants will suffer and be forced out of the industry. The evidence now coming forward from respected timber scientists, practical timbermen and experienced foresters within DPI Forestry is that the supply promise simply cannot be kept.

How many more times will Governments impose their distorted views on individuals? Education about environmental

consequences, the growth of the green movement and the increased world focus on environmental procedures have changed the way that people think so that they are more far more conscious of the environmental impacts of their actions than ever before. The people involved in the industry are no different. Do members think that the majority of farmers would choose to rape and pillage their own soil knowing that eventually it will no longer produce a crop? Absolutely not! It is crazy to think that way.

I am sick and tired of hearing rubbish about the level of tree clearing in Queensland. That is just misinformation being peddled as scare tactics by ill-informed environmental extremists who have no knowledge and are so near-sighted that they do not even realise that, if they wish to eat, farmers have to maintain—and I emphasise the word "maintain"—their agricultural areas. That is what they are doing, but it has been interpreted, either deliberately or through blissful ignorance, as land clearing. It is not land clearing; it is regrowth control. Regrowth is a phenomenon that is most prolific in Queensland. If it were not controlled, the farmers, the Greens and the rest of us would simply starve.

Farmers and timber industry workers are conservationists. How else could the condition of the forest on Fraser Island warrant World Heritage listing after 100 years of continuous, sustainable logging?

Mr Feldman: They built the whole of the London wharves out of Fraser Island timber.

Dr PRENZLER: They certainly did build the whole of the London wharves out of the turpentine timber that they extracted from Fraser Island. If one looked at that forest now, one would not even know that it had been logged.

Mr Feldman: They are going to lose the heritage rights out there because they are not doing anything with the land.

Dr PRENZLER: I thank the member for his interjection. Something is happening on Fraser Island that will happen everywhere else where vast tracts of land are locked up and deprived of the sensible and responsible stewardship of the forest industry workers. Access tracks and fire breaks are growing over. The risk is rapidly increasing of a forest fire that will have more devastating results than the tree huggers could ever imagine. Noxious weeds are proliferating. On the mainland, one can add feral animals, feral people and drug plantations to the litany of potential disastrous impacts. I point to what happened a couple of

years ago in the Blue Mountains because the area had been locked up and nothing was cleaned out. No fires were put through to clear out the rubbish in the undergrowth. The fire swept through, burning everything and killing even the large mature trees.

Is it not obvious that the majority of timber workers are going to ensure that the industry is sustainable, because they want job security and they want their communities to continue to thrive. They want to continue to feed their families. Nobody wants those people to be forced to move to the cities to find work. Nobody wants them to have to rely on the dole to feed their families. In Australia, over one-third of total Government outlays is now consumed by welfare. We must not add those people to the list. They do not want to be there and they have done nothing to deserve to be there.

Where does it all end? How many so-called efficient and green practices do we have to have? How many agreements, negotiations, regulations, guidelines and restrictions and how much red tape will be inflicted on these people? They just want to be left alone to do what it is that they do and have done quite successfully for many years, which is to harvest sustainable timber from the forests. Why do Governments always take things too far? I can answer that very easily. Governments always take things too far because they spend more time listening to the vote counters than they do to the people who will be most effected by some of their decisions. The Bill before us is a part of this highly damaging process.

The Bill also highlights the difference between what the Beattie Labor Government said it was going to do and what it is actually going to do. The Minister said that the 25-year agreements will provide long-term resource security to the forests and the timber industry. The Minister said that the agreements will promote economic and social stability in the industry, ensure job security and promote economic development in rural and regional communities. Why is it that the people in those communities do not feel secure? More to the point, why is it that the Bill does not stipulate that the sales agreements are actually for 25 years? Clause 4(3)(a) of the Bill states, "be granted for a period of not more than 25 years". It does not state, "for a stable, secure, definite period of 25 years". This is at odds with what the Minister stated quite clearly in his speech and what the agreement states quite clearly in clause 2(14).

Clause 4(3)(b) allows that a sales permit may "provide for compensation payable to the

permittee in stated circumstances". I would like to know what those stated circumstances are. Is this designed simply to enable the cancellation of somebody's permit? Under what circumstances can the permits be cancelled or taken away from people?

Clause 4(3)(c) demands that anybody who is awarded a sales permit must, by legislation, be required to give the State the first right of refusal to an assignment or transfer of that permit. I ask the Minister: why does the Government want this clause included in the legislation? Is it because it wishes to further undermine the viability of the industry by buying back any allocations that come onto the market and then locking them up?

I have great concerns about generational transfer, which is an issue that the member for Caboolture has just raised. One can no longer pass family businesses on to one's children. The Federal Government has a lot of laws to stop that. I cannot understand why that should be so. I would like the Minister to comment on the transgenerational transfer of family businesses such as mills. Will the legislation interfere with the legitimate business of amalgamating two or more struggling allocations to make a viable business unit?

As I have just stated, I have a lot of concerns with the clause that grants the State the first right of refusal to an assignment or transfer of a permit. Does the Government aim to control all permits one day? What else is the Government hoping to achieve by the inclusion of this clause in the legislation? When the Government exercises its right to take up an assignment in the event that a miller wishes to sell, the Government will obviously remove that assignment from the system. I am sure that that is what is intended by this clause. The mill owner is provided for, but has the Government given any thought to the mill workers, the follow-on workers and the communities that will be impacted by the loss of even more mills from the system?

I also have trouble with the fact that the Government keeps claiming that it went through a very in-depth consultative process in relation to the agreements. In view of that claim, I wonder why it is that 21 mayors have said that they have not been consulted at all? The other day, a meeting of 16 councils drew up an eight-point plan asking the Government to consult with them. Obviously, it does not want to do that.

In the interests of the timber workers, their families and communities and the economy of Queensland, I am afraid that we are unable to

support any legislation that facilitates the progression of these forestry agreements. The agreements provide few positives for the timber industry in the State and pose too many threats to the Queensland timber communities.

Mr DAVIDSON (Noosa—LP) (3.28 p.m.): In rising to speak to the Forestry Amendment Bill, I do so on behalf of the 54 workers at the Boral mill in Cooroy who face job losses in September of next year. Fifty-four workers and their families are heading into Christmas uncertain of their employment prospects for next year. They do not know whether they will have jobs after the closure of the Boral mill in September of next year. Those 54 workers are complimented by another 18 or 20 workers who are contracted to the Boral mill for the cutting and carting of timber to the Nandroya mill at Cooroy.

All of those families have been affected by the Premier's RFA announcement on 17 September. I wish to read into Hansard a submission that I sent to the Premier in October, following the announcement of the RFA on 16 September, on behalf of the Cooroy community and the workers affected by the RFA announcement. Heading into Christmas, those men and their families face uncertain employment prospects next year. The submission stated—

"On September 16th, The Premier The Hon Peter Beattie, in announcing the release of the long awaited Regional Forest Agreement, effectively spelt out the demise of the Boral Timber Mill, at Cooroy, as a working entity.

In his statement, The Premier, said, 'This is a win win for timber workers, the timber towns; the environment.'

'What we are doing is improving on the Regional Forest Agreement process by safeguarding the jobs not for 10 years, 20 years or 50 years—but for hundreds of years. Any timber worker who wants a job in the timber industry, will have a job in the timber industry.

The central elements of the plan are:-

at least 350 extra jobs.

an increase of 425,000 hectares in the amount of native forest protected from logging.

the planting of 10 million trees.

an end to all logging in native forests by the year 2024.

Mr. Beattie said the Government sought a balance between conservation for future generations and the preservation of jobs in rural communities now, and the end result achieved those ends.

The key parts to the agreement are:

all but three of the timber mills—Nandroya, Dingo and Yarraman—currently using Crown timber from South East Queensland to receive logging allocations at their current rate for the next 25 years.

Government buys out all the timber operations of Boral Ltd., in Queensland.

the planting of 10 million trees by the Government: active efforts to encourage plantings from the private sector.

\$10 million to encourage new investment in the value-adding side of the hardwood sector—measure such as retooling and kiln drying.

a transition to plantation forests over 25 years so that after that time, there will be no logging of crown forests in south-east Queensland.

'In the meantime, this decision also means that many of those rural communities which rely on timber will remain viable and keep their timber jobs in those towns, which means they also keep their other services such as their schools or ambulance services'.

Mr. Beattie went on to say; 'many new extra jobs would come from the timber industry having the confidence to invest in its long term future by having resource security for 25 years and beyond, which is far more stable than the current regime.'

He said new jobs would come from:

241 jobs proposed at Maryborough-based Hyne and Son through the expansion of its soft wood operation.

100 jobs in the management of the public and private sector plantations that will be planted to provide for the long term future of the industry.

100 jobs in the management of the expanded conservation reserve.

30 jobs in the Gympie region from the installation of a second line at the medium density fibreboard (MDF) Laminex factory.

'This total of 471 new jobs offsets potential job losses of 80 in Noosa's immediate hinterland' Mr. Beattie said.

But the timber employees and their families and the people of Cooroy question the validity of these claims.

New Jobs:

When will these proposed jobs become available and where precisely are they all locate?

If there are to be Jobs in Maryborough, which is 2 hours from Cooroy, when will they become available; what guarantees do Boral workers have that any new jobs at Hyne & Son will become available to Cooroy workers:

Because of the 2 hour distance from Cooroy, this will mean relocation by the Cooroy workers. Will there be relocation compensation available.

The proposed new softwood plant at Hyne & Son, if it does come to fruition, will be computer operated and thus have no need of 241 workers. What guarantees will the Premier give that these jobs will eventuate and when they eventuate.

They are advised that the Laminex factory does not and will not, have 30 new and extra jobs at their Gympie plant, as they propose to shut down one moulding line and any staff needs will come from their own current staff.

Will the State Government spell out in detail where the new prospects for jobs and where these new opportunities exist and when will these job opportunities be available.

100 New conservation management jobs have been promised. How many will be positioned at Cooroy. Where are these new jobs situated and where is the budget allocation for these alleged positions.

100 Plantation Jobs, Again where are these jobs to be situated, When will they become available. Where is the information on sites, availability and training for the jobs. Has any tenders been advertised, let or contracts signed to establish these plantations and if not when will this occur.

Some job opportunities may become available with Value Adding to timber products at the existing mill, before the close down date. But our belief is that this will depend very much on financial

support from the Government and will have minimal effect on job losses.

It is relevant that the Department of State Development, the Government department responsible for implementing this agreement, has set up a Shop Front at Cooroy to 'assist' Cooroy workers with the task of finding new work in the timber industry.

All that these people are providing is a service that takes details of the enquirer and then refers these Timber workers and their data, to Centrelink etc. a task they can do themselves.

The Cooroy timber workers have no confidence in this Office's ability or commitment, to find these Timber workers, the only timber millers effected by the Agreement, jobs, that have been promised in the timber or allied industry as proposed by Mr. Beattie and Mr. Elder, in their announcement statements.

The Major Issues For the Timber Workers are:

Future employment opportunities in the timber industry and where.

Boral's commitment to maintain work at their mill until September 2000.

Part of the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement be that workers be paid a redundancy rate of 2 weeks pay for every year of employment.

That there is currently no commitment from Boral that any employee who leaves the Mill before the termination of activities in September 2000, will receive any redundancy or other entitlements.

Thus any worker offered a new job and accepts, before the mill closes, could lose redundancy allowances. Thus it is imperative that this commitment be forth coming to all employees, so that jobs, if they become available may be taken, without penalty.

Employees are keen to receive all payouts when termination takes place so that they can get on with their life plans.

Ensure that in the event of any workers who are prime operators, who leave before the termination of the Mill closing date, does not effect the viability of the remaining jobs for current employees, by pre-empting the mill closure. Such closure action will have a drastic effect on the workers and their families who remain.

Currently there is a lack of confidence and certainty for the timber workers and their

families. They are concerned about home mortgages, schooling for their children the incomes from working wives that are a major part of the families' economic well being. What guarantees are these people offered by the Beattie proposals, and what if any, special packages are being proposed.

Redundancy Packages

When the Goss Labor Government closed down the milling industry on Fraser Island in 1991 the then State Government and the relevant Unions, provided redundancy packages to the Fraser Island workers.

On this occasion, neither the State government or the relevant unions, especially the Australian Workers Union, has made any mention of compensation packages to the Cooroy timber workers.

Indeed, both bodies have been particularly silent on this matter.

It is our contention, that a number of the mill workers, possibly up to half of the work force would consider accepting a just, yet substantial package, in company with the payout package negotiated with Boral Ltd.

This would sever their association with the timber industry and allow them to undertake new ventures for themselves, as well as considering the futures of people, with long service at the mill, who will find it difficult to be placed in the work force, in Cooroy or any where else.

Given that the average work service is about 14 years, if 30 men took the package as proposed below, the total payout to the State would be in the order of \$1.5 million.

This would relieve the pressure on the State Government to find the promised jobs and would further relieve the onus on the Community Working Task Force, to find replacement positions for the workers, by reducing the need to find jobs in the immediate vicinity to Cooroy, down to 30 Jobs, rather than the current 80 plus work positions.

If a package adjusted to today's dollar value was to be considered on the basis of that offered to the mill workers on Fraser Island and the Great Sandy region in 1991, then the following may be acceptable, and is worthy of strenuous consideration, by the State Government."

As the local member, my proposal on behalf of the workers at the Boral mills in Cooroy was: 10 to 15 years' service, a compensation package of \$40,000; 15 to 20 years' service, a compensation package of \$50,000; and 20-plus years' service, a compensation package of \$60,000. Such a package would not only be just and, in many cases, acceptable; it would recognise that those timberworkers in the industry on the Sunshine Coast were asked—indeed forced—to bear the brunt of the State Government's solution to the task of implementing a forest agreement. It should be pointed out and made abundantly clear that Boral Limited was placed in the position of having to make the decision to sell its operation to the Government because that Government had withdrawn the greater proportion of the timber allocations, thus making the company's future existence in the industry non-viable. Boral Limited had no choice. The timberworkers of Cooroy had no say in any agreement and thus are the lambs led to the slaughter. They are the victims of Government policy. As the innocent party to those agreements, they are now entitled to special consideration for their and their family's future needs.

I cannot believe that Government members have applauded the Premier's RFA announcement. They are fully aware that the timberworkers at Cooroy and their families are affected by that decision. Given the questions that we asked in this House in October and the motion that we debated at 6 o'clock involving the Premier, the Deputy Premier and other Government members, I cannot believe that they do not understand the impact that they have had on these people. These blokes have been working at the Cooroy mill for up to 25 years. They are long-serving employees of Boral. The timber industry is the only industry they know. They are skilled workers. They are committed and hardworking men. They are members of the Cooroy community and the wider community and they involve themselves in many community organisations and activities. They make a contribution to their community. In many cases, they are second and third generation timberworkers. These men are committed to their families. Many of their wives have jobs in the Cooroy area, and they will be impacted upon if they have to leave the Cooroy area. Many of them have children in schools in Cooroy, and these children will also be impacted on if they have to leave the Cooroy area and move to another school. Many of them have friends and sporting interests in Cooroy. The Government

has ignored these men throughout the whole process.

As well as that submission, I want to read into Hansard a letter I wrote to the Premier on 1 October after the announcement of the RFA. It said—

"Dear Premier

Re: Closure of Boral Timber Mill—
Cooroy.

In media reports and Press Releases from yourself and Deputy Premier, Hon. Jim Elder, about the imminent closure of the above Timber Milling operation, in October 2000, much has been made of the 'jobs' that will be available to the retrenched staff, of this company.

Specifically you and the Deputy Premier, have indicated that these staff members will find jobs in a number of places, specifically:-

Hyne and Son Maryborough 241

Laminex Industries Gympie 30

Private and Public Plantation
Management 100

Expanded Conservation Reserve
100"—

That totals 471 jobs. The letter continues—

"It has also been stated that 10 million trees will be planted in South East Queensland.

Premier, in the short time since your announcement regarding the Regional Forestry Agreement I have had a number of discussions and meetings with workers affected by the closure of Boral Mill in Cooroy.

There have been a number of statements by Trade Union representatives and local Councillors in regards to the future employment prospects of these effected workers. None of that has brought any certainty to these men as far as their futures are concerned.

I do appreciate that the Department of State Development has opened an office in Cooroy to identify future employment prospects; and I am advised there has been little success in this regard to date.

Therefore, it is of urgent importance to myself, the Mayor of Noosa, Cr. Bob Abbot and a deputation of the effected workers at this Mill that we meet with you to discuss these issues.

There is a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening the 5th October 1999 and it would be greatly appreciated if we could inform the workers at this meeting that you would be prepared to meet with them for this deputation.

I look forward to a response by the close of business on Tuesday, 5th October 1999."

That letter requesting a meeting with the Premier on behalf of the Mayor of Noosa Council, Bob Abbot, and on behalf of the workers who will lose their jobs at Boral mill was sent to the Premier on 1 October. I have not even had a response. That is how much the Premier cares about these men who will lose their jobs at Cooroy. He has not even bothered to respond. My office has rung his office, looking for a response and to date we have not been able to get a response or a commitment from the Premier to meet with these men who will lose their jobs or the Mayor of Noosa, who feels and understands the enormous pressure that these men are under going into Christmas. The Premier has not even bothered to respond to that letter requesting a meeting.

I cannot believe that the Premier stood in this House and made a grandstanding announcement on the RFA and totally neglected those men at Cooroy, their families and all the other people connected with them who will lose their jobs as a result of that announcement. There has been no commitment from this Government, the Premier or the Minister for State Development, the Honourable Jim Elder—no commitment from any Minister in this Government—to those men in Cooroy. Many of those men in Cooroy are members of the AWU; many have been members for 14 to 20 years; many of those blokes have marched for that union; many of those blokes believed in that union; and many of those blokes thought that the leader of the AWU in this House, Jim Elder, would have taken up the cause on behalf of them and their families.

There has been not one word from the Deputy Premier. He will not go to Cooroy. He has been invited to go to Cooroy and talk to those blokes, but there has been not one word out of him. He does not care. There are 54 members up there who are facing Christmas with the uncertainty of future employment prospects and we cannot even get a meeting with the Deputy Premier. We cannot get a meeting with the Premier. How the hell do they expect these blokes to go into Christmas with their families—their wives, kids, mothers,

fathers and friends—with the uncertainty of not knowing what the future holds for them?

I cannot believe that the members on that side of the House sit there, knowing the perils that these blokes are going to face, knowing the pressures they are under and knowing the impacts on their lives from not knowing where the next dollars are going to come from next year to pay their mortgages and to fulfil their life's dreams. It is time that the Premier and the Deputy Premier realised that these are real people—real, fair dinkum, hardworking Aussie blokes. All they want is a commitment from Government that they are going to have work in the future. They have worked all their lives. Many of them have worked as hard as any man I know. They are hardworking men. They want a commitment from the Government on their futures and those of their families.

Even the Noosa branch of the Labor Party sent me a letter on 18 November. It is from Mr Lourey, secretary of the Noosa district branch. The letter states—

"Dear Mr. Davidson,

In the Noosa News of 15th November 1999, you are reported as being 'highly sceptical that the jobs will be provided in the Maryborough operations which he (ie you) believes will be fully automated'.

The members of the Noosa District Branch ALP, are determined to keep the Queensland State Labor Government, to its word and provide the full number of jobs promised with the South East Regional Forestry Agreement. We are willing to follow up any breach or possible breach of the agreement and request you provide us with the substantial information upon which you base your belief.

We assure you we will act on any hard evidence that the government is not keeping its word to the workers and people of Cooroy, or that the promised jobs are not there and immediately will call the government to account.

We place the wellbeing of the workers of Cooroy first and will fight to ensure their security.

Your prompt reply would be appreciated as we wish immediately to act upon any such information."

That is a letter from Mr E. Lourey, the secretary of the Noosa district branch of the ALP. He understands the issue affecting these blokes at Cooroy. He understands my involvement in fighting for these blokes at Cooroy. He understands that the community is

so annoyed with the Government because of its inaction and lack of commitment. He understands the impact on these men's lives. He understands what their wives are going through. He understands what the kids are going through—the uncertainty of their schooling and sporting involvement—and he himself cannot get an answer or commitment from the ALP.

In response to Mr Lourey's letter, a Mr Russell Shipp, who is the President of the Cooroy branch of the Forestry Protection Society wrote in response to Mr Lourey's letter that was published in the paper. He said—

"Accolades for Davo.

I would like to respond to E. Lourey's letter dated November 22, Noosa News. Yes, it's time to put the people first which is exactly what Bruce Davidson has done.

As our local member it is his job to respond to our needs.

Should we vote for a member who isn't willing to stand up for our rights and needs, he is the only one who has shown respect to us by asking what it is we want and need.

Sure the state government may have full time staff floating around, but not one of them has approached me and asked me what I need.

If we visit the shop front in Cooroy we are asked to fill in a form and go on a list, so I'm not sure what full time staff are actually employed for other than preaching the same tired dialect for the past two months concerning jobs.

So I applaud Mr Davidson for his help and recognition of our needs.

The ALP has been approached many times via letters, meetings etc and still we await any response.

So I see no 'smart alec politics' just smart politics with our member doing his job."

Mr Russell Shipp, the President of the Forest Protection Society in Cooroy, worked at the Boral mill for 14 years. He was a member of the AWU. He cannot even get any answers from the Government or his rep on the AWU. He is uncertain as to what he can tell those other men as the union rep in that mill in relation to what the Government is going to do. He cannot give any commitments on job prospects or on the prospects of future wealth for those families. He cannot advise them what their wives or kids are going to be doing next year. He cannot get a meeting with anyone

from the Government. He cannot get a meeting with Jim Elder, the number cruncher in this House for the AWU.

When is this Government going to listen to these blokes at Cooroy? When is the Premier and the head number cruncher for the AWU, the Deputy Premier, going to listen to these blokes? They should go up there and talk to them. Rob Borbidge, the Leader of the Opposition, went up there. We spent two hours talking over issues and what we could do—raising these issues in Parliament, writing letters to the paper, attracting interest in the media—to ensure that the Government is brought to account on behalf of these men and their wives, kids and futures.

It is about time that the Premier stopped grandstanding on the announcement of the RFA and started considering the personal and human factor in this issue. These blokes, as I have said, have worked at that mill for 14, 15, 20 and 25 years. These are blokes who go to work at 5 o'clock in the morning, work their guts out all day, sweat like pigs and work as hard as they possibly can to maintain the competitiveness of that mill, to keep it viable and to make sure that their jobs are safe. They have been doing that for 10, 15, 25 and 30 years, and what has this Government done in two months? It will not grant them a meeting; it will not answer their letters; it will not answer my letters; and it will not respond to my requests for an invitation for the Mayor of Noosa to attend a deputation for those men because it does not care. It does not care about the workers.

It is out there celebrating its RFA announcement and all that that will embrace with the Greens. I am saying to the Government, "What about the blokes? What about their families? What about their wives? What about their futures? What about their houses? What about their own aspirations in life?" These blokes, in common with other honourable members and me, aspire to a better life. They aspire to have a holiday, pay off their mortgage and make a contribution to their community. For the people opposite to sit over there and not respond to their needs is a disgrace. It is an absolute disgrace! I will circulate this speech to every member of that mill in Cooroy.

Time expired.

Mr BLACK (Whitsunday—ONP) (3.48 p.m.): That is a very hard act to follow. I rise to speak to the Forestry Amendment Bill. This Bill is yet another example of the treachery of the Minister and this Government towards the people and businesses of the

south-east Queensland forestry towns. The Government used the promise of 25 years' guaranteed supply to coerce industry into signing off on the agreement before all the fine detail was available. After several years of uncertainty with the threat of the RFA process hanging over their heads and being unable to make decisions to invest and to grow, the sawmillers grasped at this promise as drowning men clutch at a straw.

Unfortunately the promise is a fraud. The Government cannot keep that promise. Independent expert scientific opinion is that the supply is not there. Even officers within the Government's own DPI Forestry are convinced that the supply cannot be maintained. Having now been able to assess the maps and the fine print, the millers know that the supply promise is shaky. Add to this the facts that many follow-on enterprises have not received due consideration and the full flow-on ramifications to local communities have been inadequately assessed and there is no wonder that such enormous depth of concern exists. The concern is so great that mayors from almost every shire in south-east Queensland have seen the need to seek the answers.

This Bill is about the death by a thousand cuts of those hardworking towns that are the heart of this country. Those are the towns that give Australia its unique character that makes this country recognised as one of the greatest societies of the world in which to live. Those towns have been struggling to survive for years. No rich people live there. No rich workers and no rich local businessmen reside in those communities. Those are not rich towns. Those are the salt of the earth towns. The big cities of this country are essential to our way of life, but they cannot and will not survive without the bush. The bush is largely self-sufficient and has previously survived quite happily for many years without big cities. It is time the big city Government woke up to itself and started representing the entire State and not just the high population density city areas.

This part of our State is dying. Does anybody on the other side of the House understand what that means? It means the smell of death when one walks down the streets of those little towns. Most members of this Government probably do not know how that feels.

Mr Pearce: I can take you around a few towns.

Mr BLACK: I said "most".

The only time they see those little towns is when they drive through with the windows up and the airconditioning on. Every so often, Mr

Beattie and his pampered cronies flit into some politically sensitive regional town, swan around, shake a few hard, callous hands, have a nice lunch, hold a short, fake Cabinet meeting and then flit back to the comfort of George Street leather—but I digress. I return to the distasteful subject of dying. When one walks along the main street of a little town that is dying, one can smell it. One can see it in every deserted, dusty, neglected shopfront. One can sense it in the attitude of people who are close to giving up the fight—people who have fought all their lives for the right to raise their families in dignity and safety in the community that is so much a part of their lives. I would say that the member for Fitzroy would see it now. Their despair and sense of hopelessness are not because they are quitters. If they were quitters, they would have moved to the city and gone on the dole years ago. No, the reason that those hardworking men and women of the bush are close to giving up is that they are running out of hope.

The Government does not give a damn about the bushies. To them bushies are just a nuisance, particularly around election time when they have to try to convince them to vote the right way. Imagine how galling it must be for those soft handed, lily livered, big city lawyers and accountants to have to stoop to talking first-hand to whingeing bushies just so that they can be assured of a return to Government. After all, are they not born to rule? Is it not their right? It is not their right. How dare they assume their condescending and imperious stance towards timber workers for demanding the right to a decent living from a renewable environmentally sustainable resource such as native timber, a resource that now contains more timber than it did in 1770 when Captain Cook paid us a visit. There is no desire for those responsible custodians of that resource to live in the lap of luxury. Not for them the trappings of wealth—just a decent living and a sufficiency to raise their families in the hope that they would continue their tradition. What a proud tradition it was! What a tragedy it is that this limp-wristed and gullible Government is totally under the influence of a handful of lunatic extremists in the environmental squad. I see the Minister for Environment laugh, but he knows that he is prepared not only to allow but also to assist in the dismantling of such a proud tradition.

I would like to reject this Bill, just like the member for Caboolture. I know the member for Caboolture, the Leader of One Nation, stated that he would be opposing this Bill. He intended to say that we are opposing aspects of the Bill. We are considering seriously the

amendments to be introduced at the Committee stages by the shadow Minister, the member for Crows Nest, on behalf of the coalition. I know from speaking with members of the community who are affected—industry workers, flow-on industry workers, millers and town businesses as well as the 21 mayors and 16 councils—that they would like the Bill opposed totally. But we will examine the details of the coalition's amendments, because, on this issue, we need a united front to beat the devil in the detail of this Bill and the RFA.

Mrs PRATT (Barambah—IND) (3.55 p.m.): In speaking against the Forestry Amendment Bill, I intend to address the Minister's second-reading speech. I am assuming that that speech is the Minister's summation of the Bill and thus collates his reasons why he thinks that members sensitive to the emotions within their electorates and the timber industry should vote for it. While doing so, I record that I am aware that the Premier and the Deputy Premier led the activity up to the signing of the so-called RFA agreement and that sawmillers are currently still trying to consult with the Deputy Premier.

For me, the Minister's speech serves to highlight the reasons why I cannot vote for the Bill. It identifies the reasons that this process is causing so much angst in the South-East Queensland RFA area. I can assure the Minister that opposition to this Bill is just starting, but it is growing very rapidly. Angst is changing to anger. I believe that this Minister has been left holding the baby. This Bill and the vegetation legislation may light a bushfire in the bush that will be very hard to put out. I say that, yet I acknowledge that this Minister does try to listen. However, on this issue the intense consultation on the ground never occurred. It is still not occurring.

Why are timber industry members not more vocal? They are not more vocal because industry participants are scared of retaliation. An agreement has been signed by one representative of the timber industry. This morning the Premier stated that the industry was satisfied with the agreement signed by the Queensland Timber Board. With your permission, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to read extracts from one member of the QTB circulated to all members of the QTB. The wording of these extracts has been changed somewhat to conceal the identity of the writer, for fear of retribution. In essence the letter says—

Mr Hayward: If you have changed it, how can you say it was written by one person?

Mrs PRATT: I did not say that it was a quote. I said that the extract was changed to protect his identity. In essence it states—

We feel that a special meeting should have been called to discuss the Government's proposal. Further an industry wide vote on the proposal should have taken place. The invitation to the meeting on the 15/9/99 only suggested a briefing and that feedback would be provided. A short meeting is not adequate. There are many questions to be asked and answered. We are very disappointed in the way the QTB handled this problem.

I ask the Minister: does he truly believe that that lone signature is now truly representative of the desires of the whole industry? Now that all industry members have had time to consider the consequences of that agreement that was signed on their behalf by their industry body, the situation has changed. Judging by the avalanche of phone calls that members in the South-East Queensland RFA area are receiving from industry participants, I suggest it is not truly representative and that the industry is in a state of paralytic shock.

I will start with the Minister's conclusions and work my way forward to his premises. Incorrect premises can lead only to faulty conclusions. Faulty conclusions result in unachievable aims, objectives, and promises. Information that we are currently receiving regarding recent QDPI studies suggests strongly that the assumptions regarding security of supply for 25 years are now in severe doubt and are forcing responsible QDPI foresters into decisions that are not in the best interests of this State. I raise the question that if industry members undertake development and expenditure based on the Government's guarantee of supply and that supply is not forthcoming, is the Government exposed to a class action?

The Minister concluded with the statement—

"In view of the lengthy consultation with the various industry bodies that has preceded the development of this Bill, I expect wholehearted support from all members of this House for this Bill."

Time involved in consultation does not guarantee representative opinion. A truly representative opinion can be achieved only by a truly statistically significant sampling process. I challenge this unfortunate Minister, who has been left holding the baby, to prove to me that he is supporting a decision which is truly representative of the industry. It is obvious

that this Bill does not enjoy the wholehearted support of all members of this House. More importantly, the opposition to this Bill by the people on whom it impacts is accelerating and intensifying very rapidly. On Monday of this week the shire chairmen and councillors from 16 shires in south-east Queensland met in Gympie with industry participants and parliamentarians. There were 50 people in all, and only opposition for this Bill was evident—just a growing list of concerns and anger, and I stress "anger".

The Minister is on record as saying that his extensive consultation process involved a steering committee, a stakeholder reference panel and eight subcommittees involving 97 selected representatives from a range of organisations. The question is: to whom did he or the Premier listen? Such a structure does not guarantee adequate and representative consultation. The member for Maryborough has been heavily involved in the sustained and unsuccessful efforts of responsible silviculturists and SGP holders to be heard. He advises me that the results to date have been very disappointing. The plethora of reports—which we are told cost \$11m—are largely the result of desk studies, not studies in the field and talking with industry operators. Herein lies their inherent weakness, and this weakness explains the unrealistic conclusions and the omissions which are now steadily emerging.

These unrealistic conclusions are now forcing some professional foresters to make recommendations which I am sure they would not make in a non-political arena. The Minister or the Premier compounded this methodological weakness by suddenly concluding an agreement with a timber industry representative, who has since resigned, and three Greens. This agreement does not flow logically from the \$11m worth of reports or from the statements during the industry road show led by Rod McInnis and Selena Walters with the support of the AWU. Thus, I am not surprised that the first motion supported unanimously by 16 shires at the meeting last Monday was that "consultation at the local level was inadequate, particularly immediately prior to signing the current Queensland agreement". This cannot be called a representative agreement.

The member for Maryborough again expressed concern with the process in this House on 27 May 1999. Cooloola Shire modelling by MaCarthur Consultants had demonstrated that, if access to 60% of the State hardwood forest was denied to Cooloola, then employment would fall from 229 to 42

and annual gross income would fall from \$9.5m to \$2.2m—very significant figures within the Cooloola economy. The Minister should go to Cooloola and talk to those involved in the industry now or delay a decision on this Bill. Considering the range over which Cooloola Shire contractors work, it already appears that they have lost more than 60% access under this non-representative agreement because of the prohibition on logging in the productive wet sclerophyll forest area south of Cooloola. Thus, Cooloola Shire could be facing the loss of 180 jobs and \$7m annual income from next year onwards. So much for jobs, jobs, jobs.

There was not enough consultation with practical timber industry people to identify the real impacts of closing the wet sclerophyll area—an area that is more resilient than most. Recent QDPI calculations regarding the ability to supply sawlogs for the next 25 years, as guaranteed, have raised severe concerns within QDPI, so much so that they are considering the sale of poles as sawlogs, and that is resource misuse. The Deputy Premier and Mr Chris Braggs from the QDPI know that there is already a shortage of poles, especially long poles. Hynes and Dale & Meyers supply over 90% of the poles used in this State. Those two companies and Energex have told the Deputy Premier that there will be supply problems. Wooden bridge girders are already a problem, as mentioned earlier.

A cement pole generally costs five times what a timber pole costs. Currently, Energex are looking for \$2m worth of power poles. If cement has to be used, that will mean a budget blow-out to \$10m, not considering the additional costs of insulators on cement poles, and that will cause some discomfort to another Minister from Mount Isa. The Minister claims—

"This Bill is designed to provide for critical long term security to the forest and timber industry, and for rural and regional communities."

The probable loss of 187 jobs within the Cooloola Shire is not making that shire feel very secure. That was very evident on Monday last and at another meeting within this building this week. The Minister states that sawlog access has been guaranteed for 25 years, and the fact that a mill which wants to sell out has to give this Government first offer helps underwrite this guarantee. As I have said already, the QDPI currently has severe doubts. Many experienced timber managers are not convinced. In fact, the supply graph has been re-drawn by a very experienced operator and shows a significant shortfall in supply in the year 2020.

But what about round products? The suppliers of poles and other round products, and for that matter sleepers, have no security. Most of the long poles come from the wet sclerophyll area. Contractors are—or were—allowed to cut seven poles per hectare within areas where the tree density averages around 100 per hectare. It is difficult to see where harvesters have been. The Minister claims that the public benefits outweigh the costs. He claims that forestry reserves will be used in a manner to ensure efficient production and utilisation of the national estate. Well, let us look at the comparative value of poles and sawlogs. A 14 metre, 12 kilonewton tree without a pipe cut as a sawlog is worth about \$15, but cut as a pole it is worth around \$100. In general, a tree cut as a pole is worth about five times its value as a sawlog. I ask members: is recommending the sale of poles as sawlogs likely to maximise the value of the resource? By denying round product suppliers access, the value of sound trees suitable for use as poles decreases by a factor of five. The Queensland market takes 25,000 poles a year. A long pole can be worth as much as \$700 in the paddock.

The Government's rationale for locking up 1,000,000 acres of State forest and causing more pain and hardship in the bush is the claim that the current rate of sawlog harvesting cannot be maintained. What a defeatist attitude from the Smart State. This rationale flies in the face of an increasing body of scientific evidence. The QDPIF manages the State forests at a cost of \$20 per hectare per year. It is well known that both staff numbers and budget for the forestry department have been steadily decreased during recent years. QDPIF used to practice silviculture and thus improve the yield of State forests and maintain the value of the national estate, but not now.

We know that south-east Queensland hardwood forests are slow growing, but slow growing hardwood is high quality hardwood. Now, about 35% of the 338,000 hectares controlled by the QDPIF have a mean annual increment of less than 0.1 cubic metres per hectare per year and a low growing capacity, generally from two to five cubic metres of standing sawlog per hectare. The sustainable yield from equivalent forests in similar environments in northern New South Wales is three times as much under their silvicultural practices. Surely the Premier is not content to see New South Wales outperform Queensland by so much.

Silvipastoralists—people who sustainably nurture and harvest both cattle and trees from

the same land—near Maryborough are currently outproducing neighbouring forestry land by a factor of five—that is, the forestry produces one cube from 20 acres and a silviculturist next door sustainably produces one cube from four acres. This man and others like him know every tree in the same way as they know their family. They maintain habitat trees. It is grossly insulting to imply that such people are environmentally irresponsible. Only the Greens who are city based could draw such inferences.

About 62% of south-east Queensland native timber sawlogs come from private land, generally land owned by graziers who often plant grasses and, more importantly, legumes and lower the canopy density so that the pasture and the trees thrive. Many such graziers now use a CSIRO designed computer program to calculate the optimum density of the trees. Such an optimum density of trees and pasture is the best deterrent to soil loss. Would the Greens disapprove of this? I think not. Did the RFA backbench committee inspect any such properties? I think not. Can they believe that such people get immense pleasure out of their trees and their property? I think not.

The threat of the vegetation legislation has panicked some silvipastoralists into cutting trees that they normally would not cut. Can we in all fairness blame them? Does the Minister realise that many graziers have nurtured trees for years? These trees are their superannuation and often their insurance against unexpected family crises. One grazier has nurtured mill timber currently worth \$60,000 on 900 acres of poor soil. When a grazier purchases freehold land he purchases the timber and the right to harvest that timber. How does a Government fairly compensate such people? South Australia tried different formulas and eventually gave up. Does the Minister have the answer? Has he thought that far or is he being rushed into this?

It is assumed that the Government has been heavily influenced by the Greens in the framing of this agreement and this Bill. The thrust of this Bill is to eventually ensure supply by plantations only. The study *Global Outlook for Plantations*, written for ABARE in 1999, states—

"The level of present information on plantations means that any projections of future supply should be considered with caution."

It also states—

"The transformation ... to plantations can result in simplified ecosystems, given that most plantations are of a single species.

...

Further, any exotic plantation species may not support the understorey of native vegetation, fauna and soil micro-organisms"—that are commonly endemic and essential, resulting in decrease of biodiversity. It goes on to say that poor decisions concerning site and plantation design and management can result in significant environmental damage. It continues—

"Most tropical soils, as well as being highly erodible, are intrinsically poor in nutrients and rely on a rapidly decomposing humus layer to supply nutrients and to protect the soil from erosion."

Heavy machinery disturbance can be rapidly detrimental. Insecticides, essential for eucalypts in Queensland, herbicides and fertilisers required to achieve good yields can affect the quality of local water supply and aquatic life. It goes on—

"Plantations can also increase the risk of disease and pest infestation."

These can easily spread to neighbouring native forest. And further—

"Exotic plantation species have also been known to spread into surrounding areas of natural forest, where they may compete with local vegetation or hybridise it. Such hybridisation may result in the loss of valuable and unique adaptive features among native local species."

This includes suitability as native fauna habitat. I will finish my contribution to this debate, having identified the above risks to the Minister and the greens. For the Minister's sake, I hope the Treasurer increases his budget to allow him to have the qualified and experienced staff necessary to assist and supervise the Queensland hardwood plantation.

This is an issue that covers an enormous area and an enormous number of people, and many shires will be affected. The Premier says that he has the support of the all of the mayors. I ask that he be brought up to date on the true situation. There is a saying: you can fool some of the people some of the time but you cannot fool all of the people all the time. The Premier has been misled on this issue. The mayors have read through the documentation and found it wanting. This is not an agreement acceptable to those who

are supposedly the beneficiaries of the RFA. I ask the Premier to proceed with extreme caution on this issue. This is one of those times when discretion will be far more beneficial than valour.

Mr SLACK (Burnett—NPA) (4.12 p.m.): It is quite obvious from the debate so far that the Forestry Amendment Bill does not have the support that the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister claim that it has. It is claimed that it has wide community, conservation movement, timberworkers and timber industry support, but that is not correct. The Premier has heard that in the contributions made by members who have spoken before me. Particularly the members for Noosa and Barambah made it very clear that there are many people within the community—respectable people who understand the timber industry—who do not see this as a balanced outcome from fair negotiations between all the parties. That is very obvious by the contributions made so far.

In other words, the Bill before the House is flawed. The outcome of those negotiations is flawed. For that reason it is being rejected by a significant part of our community. The main reason the Bill is flawed—I speak from experience because I have properties and have been involved in selling timber to sawmills and in sawmills harvesting timber from those properties, particularly spotted gum, ironbark and the common hardwoods that we speak of, the sought-after timber—is that the proposal to provide the timber that will not be available from the forestry by way of plantation timber 25 years out is just not achievable. There are several reasons for that.

Hardwood timber takes a long time to grow. It has to have an environment that satisfies it. As members will appreciate, the Queensland climate is very varied. That is the nature of our climate. I cannot see that we will be able to plant the hardwood species that the sawmills require to replace the timber that they would obtain from the forests and get that timber to a millable stage within 25 years.

The Government has acquired some land but, as the member for Keppel correctly said, not one tree has been planted. There is a purchase time and a lead time. Sure, there has been talk about plantations for a long period of time. I and the Opposition have for a long time supported the need to increase the plantation estate within Queensland. It is the way to go, but the outcome of the negotiations is, from my own experience, not achievable.

We were selling timber from our property each 20 years. There were periods when the

timber was prolific and we had good timber. There was a period of thinning that timber by cordoning or ringbarking and poisoning and leaving the better trees for harvesting. When we went through and did that, the remaining trees were four or five years old at least. It would take 20 years in that situation before they even got to a pole size, let alone mill size. The Government is proposing to get them to a mill size and not waste the potential of the timber itself. As the member for Barambah said, harvesting them at pole size would be a scandalous waste of a good product and not conservation minded.

This outcome was a political outcome. Honourable members should make no mistake about it. The Queensland Government initially proposed a scenario that would mean the loss of many jobs and the loss of economies within our smaller and larger country towns. It was horrific for those towns and workers. The Australian Workers Union was violently opposed to it, as was amply demonstrated to the Government.

Then the Premier was able to come from a position of saying, "This is what you are faced with. Now let us see what we can evolve out of that." From the point of view of many timber people, and I guess the timber board, the Government had a gun to their heads. An outcome that was better than the one that was being proposed was a plus for them. So it was a compromise arrangement, but not a fair arrangement. It was an arrangement that was arrived at from a basis of "you'll do this or else". They could have been faced with something far worse. So I guess at the end of the day they capitulated, but it was not what the industry wanted. The Government will have realised that when it listened to the contribution of the member for Noosa.

The reality with plantation timber is that there is no guarantee it will be ready in 25 years. If everything were going correctly for it, I doubt it would. If we look at the coast of Queensland we will see that in the last few years there has been a long period of drought in many areas which, of course, naturally diminishes the ability of the timber to grow and mature.

We also have to contend with fires, which is a big threat in the Queensland environment. It is wrong to suggest that fires can be protected against because, at the end of the day, fires can be caused by many things. They can be caused by human intervention—by people deliberately or accidentally lighting fires—or by lightning. If an area of grassland or timberland has not been managed properly

over a period of time, by recurrent burning to protect the timberland or the grassland from intensive heat for instance, at some stage or other a fire will occur.

There are thousands of acres that from time to time have experienced the devastation of uncontrolled fires. I can speak from experience with my own property. Lightning started a fire and 12 months later, in the same area, lightning started a fire there again. It was way out in the bush; there was no human intervention. I went through it on a motorbike and saw that the area was burnt. There was no way the fire could have been started other than by lightning. If we do not manage this properly—and this is happening already with the cutback in funding for forestry management—timber tracks will get run down and overgrown. And if a fire goes through an area like that, which was previously being milled and had some protection, that can cause terrific damage.

There is no doubt that, when milling is taking place and there are scars on the horizon, it can look very unsightly. But forests have an amazing way of healing. One can drive or walk through a forest that has been logged 20 years previously and hardly notice any trace of where it has been logged. There may be some old stumps, but they have usually become overgrown, and one does not see the scars or the broken and dying branches. Of course, many people who do not understand the workings of nature are horrified when they see clear-felling on television, and it does raise their emotions. Unfortunately, in this particular instance, the Premier has convinced many in the public that he has achieved a balanced outcome that everybody supports, but that is simply not the case, as members have heard.

Sure, in the past there was some indiscriminate logging. Some of our forefathers did things that they should not have done, and that has led to the perception that there has been an abuse of our forests. But let me say quite plainly that it should never be implied that loggers and timberworkers are environmental vandals. Over the century of settlement in Queensland, they did a job that they believed was in the interests of the community and was not hurting the forests in the long term. It was a sustainable industry.

In many country areas, particularly along the coast east of the Great Divide, there were many small sawmills. In my electorate, around Gayndah, there were sawmills at Pile Gully and Eli Creek. But over the years, because of the economics of the industry, they have had to

close down. Those areas are now just as timbered as they ever were, because the forests have healed through regrowth.

In my time as a member of Parliament, and prior to the Goss Government in the nineties, there has been no doubt that our forestry management program was recognised as one of the world's best. So it is unfair for members to say that there has been indiscriminate clear-felling. Sure, there will always be small-scale indiscriminate abuses of conservation, despite all the rules and regulations. But it is unfair to imply that there has been indiscriminate clear-felling of timber within this State, particularly in the last few years.

Unfortunately, through the actions of this Government—not only in relation to this particular Bill and this particular forest management thrust but also in relation to people's perceptions of the tree-clearing issue—many people are panicking. They are clearing timber that they would not normally have cleared. They were beginning to understand conservation, and a natural evolution was occurring in the management of their properties. I realise that I am getting away from the issue of forestry as it relates to State forests, but this is relevant. Those people would not normally do some of the things that their forebears did out of ignorance years and years ago. I have seen that with my own neighbours and in my own approach to the management of forestry and timber on our properties. We know perfectly well that timber is a very valuable resource. It provides part of our income, and it is in our interests to preserve it for our own viability. That situation also applies to sawmills that process forestry timber. In the long term, they need that timber for a sustainable industry and to survive. So to say that there has been widespread indiscriminate logging in forests in the past few years is just garbage, and it cannot be substantiated.

There is no doubt that many communities throughout country Queensland are feeling insecure about this Bill. The workers are feeling insecure and uncertain about their future—and with every justification. Many well-meaning plans have been formulated, particularly where conservationists have been involved. This Government has a responsibility to conservationists—as we do as an Opposition. We all have a responsibility to conservation. No-one wants to see the increasing effects of greenhouse gases, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and raising temperatures. However, this must be done on

a scientific and balanced basis. Reacting to emotion is not the way for a stable, well-meaning and intelligent Government to act, particularly when it affects workers in this State.

This Government talks about jobs, jobs, jobs, but I can assure it that it is not giving confidence to the people in the timber industry over its approach to jobs, jobs, jobs in the timber industry. As I said earlier, this has been a political solution to what needed to be a better outcome for the social interests of country Queensland, and a better outcome for the social interests of many of the larger provisional cities that depend greatly on the flow-on effect from the sawmill industry.

Unfortunately, three conservation groups, the Government and the Timber Board made this decision to arrive at a compromise. But as people start to see through it and realise its implications, they will know that the compromise will be to their disadvantage. This Government has a major public relations problem to overcome, because when it was announced by the Premier—with the involvement of the Timber Board—the general public believed that it was a good outcome from the Premier, and they gave him full credit for the fact that he had resolved a very difficult issue. But he did not really resolve a very difficult issue at all when one starts to analyse it, read the small print, see the effects of it and notice the flaws in the 25-year plantation objectives of this particular legislation. It is critical that this legislation protects those jobs in the future. And if that does not stack up, then the whole Bill itself does not stack up, and the outcome of the negotiations does not stack up.

Sure, we would all like to see some of our forests protected to ensure the development of plantation timber. But when we think about forests, we have to remember that there is a significant amount of natural forestry—our heritage—locked up in national parks. This Government claims that about 5% of our national parks are locked up. So if we add the forestry component to the national park component, that increases the area that is unable to be accessed by the timber industry and by the people of Queensland.

And all that we will get out of this, through a pending shortage of timber in the longer term, is having to import timber from interstate or overseas. And if we have to do that, we will be shifting an environmental problem that needs to be managed here to overseas or to another State where perhaps the forests have not been nearly as well managed as they have been here. Remember that Queensland was

once recognised as having one of the best forestry management systems in the world.

That is without dispute. During the 1990s, when the members opposite were in Opposition and when they were in Government previously, I did not hear any of them challenge our forestry management, which was developed through many years of research in managing the State's forestry estate. This Bill is not an answer to the environmental problems that are facing the world. It is not an answer to the greenhouse effect. It is not an answer to ensuring that we preserve the forestry estate throughout the world.

We need timber and we need to recognise that it is a renewable resource. Forests do regrow after the timber is harvested. As I said, after a forest has been harvested, it can appear a little ugly, but it heals, and it heals very quickly. With those few words, members could understand why the Opposition has serious reservations about this Bill and why it says that, in many respects, it is flawed.

Debate, on motion of Dr Kingston, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**522. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department**

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

During the first nine months of his administration, from 1 July 1998 to 1 April, what has been the net increase or decrease in the number of (a) full-time, permanent departmental staff, (b) part-time departmental staff, (c) contract staff and (d) casual staff?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): (Supplementary to answer tabled on 28/5/99. See Hansard, 8 June 1999, p.2116.) From 1 July 1998 to 1 April 1999, the net increase or decrease in the staff numbers in each of the following categories and subcategories is:

Assuming "number" is Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

523. TAFE

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 265—

- (1) Will he now indicate, for each Institute and for each category of staff, the number of permanent full-time staff who left TAFE in the same period?
- (2) As the figures he has provided for Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE (SQIT) vary significantly from the 24 teachers, 4 tutors and 32 staff (other than trainees and those on higher duties) indicated in SQIT's March Newsletter as new appointments, does this variation indicate that the additional appointees on the SQIT list are part-time or casual appointments, rather than permanent, full-time?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): (Supplementary to answer tabled on 28/5/99. See Hansard, 8 June 1999, p.2116.)

(1) Refer to Table 1 on the following page. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The SQIT newsletter reported on all movements of employees who are temporary, casual, permanent and who are both part-time and full-time. Therefore no comparison can be made between the data in the SQIT newsletter and that supplied in the original QON265, which reported on permanent full-time staff.

531. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

Will he give an undertaking to provide within a fortnight of the end of this financial year a complete list of grants, in-kind support (costed), projects (costed) made available to various unions, union-

supported agencies and the ACTU by his department during this financial year (in-kind support would include items such as access to the Government's phone network, salaries of departmental staff seconded to undertake union duties or projects, departmental full or part subsidisation of salary costs of union staff, etc)?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): (Supplementary to answer tabled on 28/5/99. See Hansard, 8 June 1999, p.2118) See attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

538. TAFE

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/4/99)—

During the first nine months of his administration, from 1 July 1998 to 1 April 1999, what has been the net increase or decrease in the number of TAFE staff in each of the following categories and subcategories (a) teachers (i) full-time, permanent, (ii) on contract, fixed term, (iii) part-time and (iv) casual, (b) tutors, (i) full-time, permanent, (ii) on contract, fixed term, (iii) part-time and (iv) casual, (c) administration, (i) full-time, permanent, (ii) on contract, fixed term, (iii) part-time and (iv) casual and (d) ancillary and support, (i) full-time, permanent, (ii) on contract, fixed term, (iii) part-time and (iv) casual?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): (Supplementary to answer tabled on 28/5/99. See Hansard, 8 June 1999, p.2120) The figures in the attached table represent snapshots at particular points in time and give a misleading indication of staffing levels in TAFE Queensland. If the same comparison was done between 1 July 1998 and 3 December 1999, the figures would reflect a positive net increase: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1383. TAFE Teachers

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/9/99)—

- (1) What was the equivalent full-time number of permanent TAFE teachers on the departmental payroll at (a) 30 June 1998 and (b) 30 June 1999?
- (2) What is the projected increase or decrease in teacher numbers between 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2000?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): (Supplementary to answer tabled on 28/5/99. See Hansard, 9 November 1999, p.4694)

(1) Please refer to table below: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) An accurate prediction of the number of teachers will depend on the level of business that TAFE is able to win in the competitive environment which was largely created by your government.

1408. Natural Disaster Relief; Mr F. Roberts

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Primary Industries (26/10/99)—

With reference to his decision to offer up to \$100,000 at 4 per cent interest to assist fruit growers in the Stanthorpe district who suffered losses in a recent hail storm and as a melon grower at Chinchilla, Mr Fergus Roberts, had a 100 per cent loss of his 50ha rock melon crop in a hail storm on Friday, 15 October and was uninsured and as this represents an enormous loss to Mr Roberts—

Will he offer Mr Roberts similar assistance?

Mr PALASZCZUK (25/11/99): I am advised that Mr Fergus Roberts, of Chinchilla has lodged an application seeking assistance under the "Natural Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme—Instantaneous for Primary Producers", and that this application is currently being assessed.

Mr Robert's application will be assessed in the same manner as applications from fruit growers in the Stanthorpe district, and if successful the scheme assistance will be available.

1409. Caboolture Police Station

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/10/99)—

With reference to Redcliffe Police District and to the deputation with him on 21 October, from the Caboolture CBD Traders Association and the Chamber of Commerce, at the Caboolture Police Station—

- (1) What will be the staffed strength of the Caboolture Police Station with the addition of the promised 10 extra police since February?
- (2) What is the expected date that this strength will be achieved?
- (3) When are the current vacancies at the Caboolture Police Station expected to be filled?
- (4) How many police officers in the Redcliffe Police District which includes Caboolture and Bribie Island Stations, are on extended sick leave?
- (5) How many officers stationed at the Caboolture and Bribie Island Stations are on extended sick leave?

Mr BARTON (25/11/99):

(1) Following a visit to Caboolture in February this year, the authorised police strength at the Caboolture Police Station increased by thirteen percent, or five officers, to a total of 43 officers. Over the same period police numbers statewide have increased by approximately 2.7 percent. During a further visit to Caboolture last month, I advised that additional increases to Caboolture police numbers could be expected. As I said at the time, the exact number of the increase has yet to be determined, but there is no doubt Caboolture will receive increases over and above those already granted.

(2) As a former police officer the honourable member would no doubt understand the importance of

following due process when appointing police officers. Applicants will be appointed only after this process has been completed.

(3) Officers have been identified to fill the two vacant positions at the Caboolture Police Station and will commence duty in the near future.

(4) Three. One of the officers on sick leave is from the Caboolture Police Station.

(5) Five.

1410. Regional Forest Agreement

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (26/10/99)—

With reference to the Government's recently released Regional Forestry Agreement (RFA) signed by the Premier, three conservation groups and a representative of the Queensland Timber Board and to the extra 425,000 hectares of State forest now closed to logging—

- (1) What area of this State forest is currently being logged?
- (2) How much had been logged in the last 15 years and is now closed?
- (3) How much was to be logged in the next 15 years?
- (4) What environmental damage can be expected with the increased logging pressure on the remaining State forest?

Mr WELFORD (25/11/99):

(1) I should inform the member that the Agreement was signed by the Chairman of the Queensland Timber Board following the unanimous support of a 15 September 1999 meeting organised by the Queensland Timber Board to consider the Industry position regarding the Agreement. All affected members of the Queensland Timber Board, and other South-East Queensland millers utilising a Queensland Timber Board information service, were invited to this meeting.

Since the signing of the Scoping Agreement for Queensland Regional Forest Agreements in January 1997, harvesting operations in the South-East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement region (SEQRFA), have been conducted in accordance with agreed interim management arrangements that have maintained timber supplies to industry without reduction. Of the areas currently available for sawlog harvesting under these arrangements, about 2567 hectares is in the estimated 425,000 hectares to be added to the conservation reserve system.

(2) Due to a lack of comprehensive records it is not possible to accurately define in total the area of the estimated 425,000 hectares which has been logged in the last 15 years. Significant areas have been subject to low intensity logging operations for products such as girders or poles, where the permit may cover a large gross area but the actual net area logged is small. Where there are records available, they show the gross permit area but not the actual area logged. Further, for a range of minor timber

products or small volume sales, no details of specific logged area are maintained.

(3) Sawlog harvesting scheduling is managed by the Department of Primary Industries. Consistent with planning procedures agreed with my Department of Natural Resources, DPI Forestry operates on a forward logging schedule of 3 years where possible. Sawlog harvesting is not planned 15 years in advance.

By comparison, the Queensland Government Plan for the SEQRFA includes a detailed harvest schedule for 25 years, providing industry with a level of information and certainty that has not existed previously.

(4) Under the Queensland Government Plan for the SEQRFA, logging intensities will vary, with some areas to be logged at a greater intensity than the currently applied selection harvesting, and other areas to be logged under current selection harvesting practices. Significantly, however, no clearfelling will be allowed.

All harvesting operations will comply with the Code of Practice for Native Forest Timber Production, the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The Code, developed in consultation with the timber industry, includes the most comprehensive set of environmental protection measures ever applied to logging operations on State forests in South-East Queensland. Sawlog harvesting operations will be monitored at several levels to ensure compliance with the Code and to ensure stabilisation and rehabilitation of the site and regeneration of the forest. No significant environmental damage is expected.

1411. Mount Morgan Shire Council

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (26/10/99)—

Is he aware of the allegations by the ratepayers of Mount Morgan against their mayor and the performance and liquidity of their shire council; if so, how does he propose to address the problem and when?

Mr MACKENROTH (24/11/99):

Liquidity of Mount Morgan Shire Council

Over the past three years my Department has been monitoring the financial position of Mount Morgan Shire Council. Council did experience liquidity problems in 1996. The Council's liquidity position has improved markedly since then. Council has prepared 10 year assets plans and a 10 year financial plan. These are currently being reviewed and my Department will be meeting with Council officers prior to the end of the year to discuss their long term forecasts.

Performance of Mount Morgan Shire Council

In the past, the Mount Morgan Residents Action Group Inc (RAG) has requested I investigate issues of concern to them and dismiss the Council. Where

possible the administrative issues raised were examined and no evidence was found which would warrant action being taken to dissolve the Council under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.

I am aware RAG has also raised issues of alleged "impropriety" and "official misconduct" with the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC). I am informed the CJC has now completed its investigations into the allegations and is currently preparing advice on the results of its investigations for the Council and complainants. Until such time as the CJC finalises its investigation, I am unable to act further in my capacity as Minister for Local Government.

1412. Adoption

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (26/10/99)—

With reference to step-parent adoption where the child lives with their biological mother and their mother's spouse and the other biological parent is deceased—

- (1) If the step-parent is the only father the child has known since infancy, why is it necessary for the department to enter the family home to determine if the step-father is eligible to adopt the child?
- (2) If the department determines that the adoption is not in the child's best interest (a) what happens to that child, (b) is he/she removed from the family home, (c) how can it be against the child's interest to be adopted by the step-parent yet still remain in the care of the step-parent and (d) what is the rationale for this?
- (3) If there are other children from the relationship and it is determined that the adoption is not in the best interest of the child, what effect does this have on the other children in the family and if the step-father is not adequate enough to adopt one child, is he then inadequate to be the father of others, even if they are his own?
- (4) Why must the step-parent go through the full adoption procedure when surely a lack of access problems or financial settlements must result in a quicker and more acceptable process?

Ms BLIGH (25/11/99): In response to your question on notice, I provide the following information.

(1) Adoption is a legal process by which the rights of legal parenthood are conferred on the adoptive parent, in this case a step-parent, and legal ties with the family of origin are extinguished. If a couple is applying for adoption as opposed to a parenting order, residency rights etc, then all procedures as outlined in the Adoption of Children Act 1964 must be followed. These include the establishment of eligibility to adopt and the undertaking of an assessment to determine that the proposed making of an adoption order is in the best interests of the child.

(2)(a) If an adoption order is not made, the child would remain in the family, unless there were child protection concerns, which would result in a referral of the family to the relevant Area Office of Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. The matter would then be assessed under the provisions of the Children's Services Act 1965. The Area Office could then take action to remove the child from the family if this were deemed necessary. Such a decision would not be made by the Adoption Services Branch.

2(b) See 2(a)

(2)(c) The Department may discern that the making of an adoption order is not in the child's best interests on the basis, for example, that the child has not been told of his or her family of origin; contact with older birth siblings and with the family of origin may be regular and vital to the child; the decision about the proposed adoption may be being made without the child's agreement, and with the child having little or no control about the matter. These issues, while instrumental to the decision about whether an adoption order is made, are distinct from child protection issues, and determining whether the child is being cared for adequately or should be removed from the family.

2(d) See 2(c)

(3) The focus of an adoption assessment is not solely to determine if the stepfather is providing adequate care for the child, but rather whether adoption is in the best interests of the subject child, with all the legal and social implications that adoption entails. There is a clear distinction between matters relating to a person's care of a child, and the legal status of the relationship between the adult and child concerned. If an adoption order is not made in favour of a step-parent, the relationship between the subject child and other children in the family remains the same—ie the children remain half-siblings, who have the same birth mother and different birth fathers, but are being raised by the same father figure. As the children would have different family names, an option open to the family is to apply to the Registrar-General's Office to legally change the child's family name on the birth certificate, while retaining the birth father's details.

(4) If a step-parent applies for adoption, rather than a parenting order or residency for the child, there are set procedures that must be followed in processing the application as defined by the Adoption of Children Act 1964. The Relative Children's Adoption List, which maintains applications in chronological order, according to application date, requires that assessments are undertaken according to date of application, regardless of the complexity of the case, or whether there are possible contentious issues. Where a birth father is deceased, the fact that there may not be conflict between the parties regarding access to, or maintenance of, the child does not determine whether an adoption order should or should not be made. Because of the legislative provisions of the State's adoption legislation, adoption by a step-parent cannot be seen as an automatic process, simply because the birth parent is deceased.

1413. Special Education

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Education (26/10/99)—

With reference to education in Queensland—

- (1) With the closing of special schools and regular schools becoming inclusive (a) why are the school class sizes remaining the same and (b) what is the ratio of special needs children in a normal classroom?
- (2) What will happen when teacher aide hours go statewide instead of regional?
- (3) What is Education Queensland going to do about ensuring that there is a trained or experienced replacement available if the special education teacher is away?
- (4) Why do preschools have no teacher aide time?
- (5) With inclusive education, are any teachers being trained to teach children with disabilities?
- (6) How does the Education Department put a figure on teacher aide hours?
- (7) Why does the allocation of teacher aide hours form not have adequate questions to suit the range of individual needs?

Mr WELLS (25/11/99):

(1) This Government has closed no special schools. I am not aware of any departmental plan to do so. In 1999 there were fifty (50) special schools operating in Queensland.

- (a) They aren't. Schools are resourced according to the level of students ascertained with disabilities. These resources follow the student, if the student moves to a different class.
- (b) There is no set ratio of special needs children in a "normal" class. However if a student with a disability is placed in a "normal" class then that student is provided with additional resources to assist the student to achieve appropriate educational outcomes. They may receive additional teacher aide time and/or the services of an advisory visiting teacher and/or education adviser with specialist expertise in their disability area, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech pathologist, transition officer, guidance officer, or other personnel whose skills may be relevant to assist the educational need of the student. This is in addition to the regular class teacher and teacher aides employed at the school. This method allows the unique needs of the student with a disability to be met locally by staff with disability specific skills.

(2) Education Queensland no longer has regions and on 5 January 1998 Education Queensland moved to a system of 36 districts. Teacher aide hours are allocated to special schools and mainstream schools to support students with disabilities. Teacher aide hours are distributed to mainstream schools at a district and not a statewide level. Teacher aide hours are distributed to mainstream schools by districts based on student need and local factors.

(3) When a special education teacher is away every effort is always made to find a trained and experienced replacement. Teachers make choices as

to where they wish to reside within the state independent of the wishes of employers and in some cases there are limited numbers of relief teachers with specialist skills available within the community in which a school is located. If a teacher with specialist skills and experience is not available then a replacement teacher whose skills or potential are as close a match to the educational needs of the students is sought.

(4) All preschools have teacher aide time. Generally each preschool class has thirty (30) hours of teacher aide time per full time teacher employed at that site.

(5) Yes. All new teachers have undertaken some training in teaching students with disabilities in their initial university courses that they complete in order to become a teacher. Education Queensland offers assistance and support to teachers who are currently employed and wish to complete further study in disability specific areas.

(6) In the same manner that it puts a figure on class size, teacher numbers, therapists, etc. Education Queensland receives a quantum of funds from which Education Queensland is required to meet the needs of all students. In order to meet the needs of all students in the state, allocative models are developed to ensure these educational needs are met. Districts are given these allocations and then ensure that the distribution within the district meets the educational needs of all students.

(7) Currently there is no statewide allocation of teacher aide hours form. Each district is currently using its own individual mechanism to gather data in order to distribute teacher aide time. Because each district wishes to identify educational needs within the context of the uniqueness of that district there should naturally be some variance in the appearance and type of mechanism used to collect this information. For example some districts currently use a question and answer form while others use a checklist to gather this data.

1414. South Burnett Meatworks

Mrs PRATT asked the Premier (26/10/99)—

With reference to the South Burnett Meat Works (SBMW), Dinmore Meat Works, Australian Meat Holdings (AMH) and ConAgra—

- (1) What was the 'sound and exciting business plan' Dinmore was able to demonstrate as per his answer to Question on Notice No. 1273?
- (2) What has happened to the \$400,000 he stated that his Government offered to SBMW to develop a detailed business plan?
- (3) What is the dollar value of moneys mentioned for on-going care and maintenance mentioned in Question on Notice No. 1273?
- (4) Is this money in addition to the \$400,000 mentioned by the administrators at meetings with creditors held in July?
- (5) Who employed Mr Ferguson to inspect the SBMW?
- (6) What was the date of the Premier's visit to AMH this year?

- (7) What was the date of Mr John Berry of the Meat Industry Taskforces visit to AMH's facility in Japan?
- (8) Was Ray Riding an employee of ConAgra, AMH or any of its subsidiaries?
- (9) Has Ernst and Young been employed at any time by AMH or any of its subsidiaries?
- (10) What donations have been made by ConAgra, AMH or any of its subsidiaries to the Labor Party?
- (11) Is ConAgra, AMH or any subsidiaries a major shareholder in the Suncorp Metway Bank?

Mr BEATTIE (24/11/99):

(1) The business plan for the Australian Meat Holdings' Dinmore plant is a commercial matter, and as such, is confidential.

(3) The final figure for ongoing care and maintenance of the South Burnett Meat Works is still being negotiated between the parties, however it is expected to be in the vicinity of \$200,000 per month. The Government's commitment was to share this cost with Suncorp Metway for a period of two to three months.

(4) Yes.

(5) I understand that Mr Ferguson visited the South Burnett Meat Works as an industry representative, with a view to examining its suitability as a training establishment.

(6) I inspected and opened the Dinmore Meat Works on 4 September 1999.

(7) Mr John Berry did not visit an Australian Meat Holdings facility in Japan.

(8) No.

(9) This question should be directed to the Australian Meat Holdings.

(10) Political donations are matters for the relevant political party. Details of donations to the Australian Labor Party, or any other party, are available from the Queensland Electoral Commission.

(11) This question should be directed to ConAgra and the Australian Meat Holdings.

1415. Education Conference, Adelaide

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Education (26/10/99)—

With reference to the meeting in Adelaide of Commonwealth State and Territory Ministers on 23 April regarding Education and as I understand the meeting was attended by the Australian Capital Territory, the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia—

Why was there no Queensland representative at this meeting?

Mr WELLS (25/11/99): The honourable member will be pleased to know that Education Queensland was represented at the Adelaide meeting.

1416. Shelburne Pastoral Lease

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (26/10/99)—

With reference to his refusal to renew Pastoral Holding Lease number 43/5117 and the associated Occupation Licence number 73 on environmental grounds and as he has taken into consideration native title interests—

- (1) Will he guarantee that native title interests, specifically with regards to Darryl Pearce's and Noel Pearson's statements regarding autonomy and the ability to gather resources from the land (see A Good Idea Waiting to Happen, the Cairns Workshop July 1994 and the Cairns Post 16 October), will outweigh environmental concerns in the Shelburne/Cape Grenville area?
- (2) As environmental concerns are also counted as a reason for not renewing the lease, will he guarantee that no native flora and fauna and no resources will be mined, hunted or removed in any way from this area?

Mr WELFORD (25/11/99):

(1) No.

(2) No. The intention of the Government is to declare the former Shelburne Pastoral Lease a National Park. Once this is done, the Nature Conservation Act 1992 places restrictions on dealing with flora and fauna (subject to native title rights). Mining is prohibited in a National Park under that legislation.

1417. Beaudesert State School

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (26/10/99)—

With reference to the total dissatisfaction of the Beaudesert community with the selection process for the position of Principal of the Beaudesert State School and as the Parents and Citizens' Association have stated that "the Department of Education has treated the wishes of the community with total and utter contempt" and the association is requesting a meeting with him as Minister—

Is he prepared to meet with the association?

Mr WELLS (8/11/99): Yes, I am happy to meet with the Parents and Citizens Association of Beaudesert State School to discuss this issue. Arrangements have been made to meet with representatives of the P&C during the week commencing 8 November.

1418. Toowoomba Range Crossing

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (26/10/99)—

With reference to studies indicating that the existing Toowoomba Range crossing is now forecast to reach saturation point as early as 2004 and that a second range crossing and national rail transport link is considered vital to economic development in regional southern Queensland—

What assessment studies has the Government done on this and what is the Government's time frame for the provision of this vital infrastructure?

Mr ELDER (25/11/99): I can report that the Second Range Crossing project has already been the subject of an extensive study including feasibility/consultation and environmental impact assessment.

The proposal for rail infrastructure was considered during the road study and a common corridor is proposed on the flatter terrain on the western side of Toowoomba. The Rail alignment to the east of Toowoomba is currently being investigated by Queensland Transport and Queensland Rail.

Funding is currently being sought from the Federal Government to complete the planning and design for the road project. Approximately \$11 m has already been spent on the study and on hardship land acquisition. The additional funding being sought will allow completion of land acquisition and engineering design of the project by 2002/2003.

The construction timetable for the road project will depend on available funding and respective priority of the many other high priority National Highway projects throughout Queensland.

Similarly, the timetable for implementation of the rail proposal will depend on completion of the route location study assessments under way, and on consideration of feasibility and demand.

1419. Public Housing

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/10/99)—

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 by (a) four to less than eight weeks, (b) eight to less than 12 weeks and (c) 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?

Mr SCHWARTEN (25/11/99):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of public housing rental accounts in arrears in total and percentage terms by area office.

(2) See Attachment A for the number and percentage of public housing rental accounts in arrears for (a) four to less than eight weeks, (b) eight to less than 12 weeks and (c) 12 weeks and greater, in total and by area office, and the monetary value of these categories as at 30 September 1999.

(3) As at 30 September 1999, of the total 48,666 public housing tenants, 2,895 or 5.9 percent were paying full market rent.

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1420. Public Housing

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/10/99)—

With reference to public housing at 30 September—

- (1) How many dwellings by dwelling type and bedroom number were vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) greater 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 (25/11/99):

(1) Data on vacant dwellings has been revised to more accurately reflect the actual stock of housing units available for allocation. Housing units that are undergoing maintenance, for sale, being redeveloped or demolished are not considered as housing stock available for tenants. The listed dwellings are those available for allocation to clients on 30 September 1999. See Attachment A for the number of Vacant Tenatable dwellings, by dwelling type and bedroom number, vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) more than 12 weeks in total and by area office as at 30 September 1999.

(2) The vacant turnaround time for maintenance of public housing premises was 10.6 calendar days, as at 30 September 1999. The vacant turnaround time for allocations of public housing premises was 16.3 calendar days, as at 30 September 1999.

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1421. Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (26/10/99)—

With reference to the proposed increase in the number of regions from five to 12 in her department—

Will she indicate the population distribution in each of the proposed new regions and the budgetary allocation for each output by regions?

Ms BLIGH (25/11/99): The population distribution for the new 12 regions is as follows:

Remote region (includes the Cape, Gulf and Far Western Queensland)—52,802 (1.5% of the State's population);

Cairns and Surrounds—201,014 (5.8% of the State's population);

Townsville and Surrounds—184,166 (5.3% of the State's population);

Mackay/Whitsundays—137,225 (4% of the State's population);

Rockhampton—195,692 (5.7% of the State's population);

Wide Bay—193,389 (5.6% of the State's population);

Sunshine Coast—257,696 (7.5% of the State's population);

Caboolture/Redcliffe/Pine Rivers—272, 232 (7.5% of the State's population);

Brisbane—848,741 (24.6% of the State's population);

Gold Coast/Redlands—488,654 (14.1% of the State's population);

Ipswich/Logan—368,071 (10.6% of the State's population); and

Toowoomba and Far South West—256,663 (7.4% of the State's population).

My Department is currently working through the resource split between the existing Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and the new department of Disability Services Queensland which will become operational once approved through the proper administrative processes. Until all formal processes are completed it is not possible for me to provide funding by output for the new 12 regions in Families, Youth and Community Care. At this stage the Budget for the Department is as published in the 1999-2000 Ministerial Portfolio Statement and is based on the existing five regions.

1422. Q-Build

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/10/99)—

With reference to Q-Build within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for September?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for September by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory for September?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Q-Build for September?

Mr SCHWARTEN (25/11/99): In answer to your questions, the figures provided are year to date results as at the end of September 1999 as financial reports were not prepared separately for July and

August 1999 due to the end of financial year preparation of accounts and issues associated with the implementation of Q-Build's new business systems.

(1) \$49,715,000. However a significant volume of trading sales for this period has not yet been recognised as revenue, due to the changeover to Q-Build's new business systems.

(2)(a) operational expenses \$48,520,000;
(b) administration expenses \$11,125,000.

(3) \$14,833,000.

(4) A loss of \$9,930,000. However a significant volume of trading sales for this period has not yet been recognised as revenue, due to the changeover to Q-Build's new business systems.

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to business units of the Department of Public Works and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1423. Q-Fleet

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/10/99)—

With reference to Q-Fleet within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for September?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for September by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory for September?
- (4) What was the total value of vehicle assets for September?
- (5) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Q-Fleet for September?

Mr SCHWARTEN (25/11/99):

(1) \$8,191,000.

(2)(a) operational expenses \$6,953,000;
(b) administration expenses \$199,000.

(3) \$155,000.

(4) \$300,141,000.

(5) A profit of \$1,039,000.

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to business units of the Department of Public Works and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1424. Gold Coast Hospital

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health (26/10/99)—

With reference to her advice during Estimates Committee hearings and in relation to Health Department land at Burleigh (which is actually Miami or Burleigh Waters) that Queensland Health is doing a swap with the council to provide extra land at the Gold Coast Hospital (in the interests of both the council and the hospital) and as much effort has been expended in ensuring that this land is not sold for residential development and is retained in its present natural state and as residents of Miami and Burleigh Waters are keenly interested in the future of the land—

Will she provide more detail as to the progress of negotiations between Gold Coast City Council and Queensland Health on the proposed exchange of this land for portion of the Athol Patterson car park at Southport (near Gold Coast Hospital) and when does she expect negotiations to be finalised?

Mrs EDMOND (25/11/99): The land exchange has been approved by the Queensland Government through the Cabinet Budget Review Committee. The Gold Coast City Council formally approved the exchange at a Council meeting on 29 October 1999. Subject to resolving conditions attached to that decision, the exchange will occur as soon as possible in accordance with normal time periods for real estate transactions.

1425. Road Trains

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/10/99)—

When will type 2 road trains be unrestricted between Hughenden and Julia Creek, will it be early 2003 or late 2003?

Mr BREDHAUER (25/11/99): The current Roads Implementation Program for 1999/2000 indicates that unrestricted access between Hughenden and Julia Creek for Type 2 Road Trains will not occur until at least late in the year 2003, and more likely towards the middle of 2004. The present restrictions were put in place to ensure the utmost safety for all users of the Flinders Highway between Hughenden and Julia Creek.

Until the necessary upgrade of this section of the Highway is completed, the current operating restrictions for Type 2 Road Trains will remain in place.

1426. Education Department

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Education (26/10/99)—

What details of all contractors (listed by departmental unit) engaged since 1 July 1998, to present, including (a) the nature/topic/objective of appointment, (b) the name of the contractor and principal contractor, (c) the total cost or cost estimate, (d) the commencement and (expected) completion dates of the contract, (e) the number of days engaged, (f) whether a written report was (will be) submitted and (g) whether the contract was publicly advertised and where it was advertised?

Mr WELLS (25/11/99): The Department informs me that the Attachments refer to contractors engaged through the Strategic Procurement Section and Information Management Branch between 1 July 1998 and 26 October 1999.

The department informs me that it should be noted that the details provided is based on information available at this time. However, information regarding individual contractors is subject to change due to changes in the scope, nature and time lines of some projects.

The department informs me that information regarding the number of days engaged has not been included. The department informs me in many cases contractors are engaged on a fixed fee to complete a particular task, not to perform a function for a set number of days. The department informs me that where a contractor is engaged for a period to perform a function, the number of days may vary depending on public holidays, sickness and other issues. The department informs me that only the start and finish dates for each contractor is provided.

The department informs me that the Attachments include contractors engaged through the Strategic Procurement Section and Information Management Branch. The department informs that these contractors are generally associated with complex, high risk, high cost projects that require specialist procurement expertise. The department informs me, that other contractors are engaged by operational units without reference to the Strategic Procurement Section or the Information Management Branch to meet specific short term skill requirements or to fill short term vacancies. The department informs me that these contractors are generally staffed through personal placement agencies. Because of the decentralised nature of the departments purchasing functions, information on these contractors is not readily available. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1427. Project Services

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/10/99)—

With reference to Project Services within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for September?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for September by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Project Services for September?
- (4) What was the total number of chargeable hours for Project Services for September?

Mr SCHWARTEN (25/11/99):

- (1) \$7,886,978.
- (2)(a) operational expenses \$5,043,292;
(b) administration expenses \$3,306,624.

(3) A loss of \$462,937.

(4) 183,541.

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to business units of the Department of Public Works and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1428. Goprint

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/10/99)—

With reference to Goprint within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for September?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for September by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory for September?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Goprint for September?
- (5) What was the value of spoilage for September?

Mr SCHWARTEN (25/11/99):

- (1) \$2,409,000.
- (2)(a) operational expenses \$1,542,000;
(b) administration expenses \$752,000.
- (3) \$893,000.
- (4) A profit of \$115,000.
- (5) \$7,000.

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to business units of the Department of Public Works and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1429. Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/10/99)—

With reference to the Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for September?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for September by (a) cost of sales and (b) operating expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 30 September?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for the month of September?

Mr SCHWARTEN (25/11/99):

- (1) \$2.480m.
- (2)(a) cost of sales \$1.820m; (b) operating expenses \$0.817m.
- (3) \$4.854m.
- (4) A loss of \$0.157m.

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to business units of the Department of Public Works and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the member for Mooloolah.

1430. Stanthorpe Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (26/10/99)—

With reference to staff concerns that Stanthorpe Hospital will be downgraded and turned into a nursing home facility—

What are her future plans for this hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (25/11/99): There are no plans to downgrade the Stanthorpe Hospital into a nursing home. Stanthorpe Health Service, which includes the hospital and community health service at Stanthorpe and Wallangarra will continue to offer a full range of acute, residential aged care and community based services. I understand that the source of staff concerns is the deliberate misinformation which is being spread by members of the opposition.

1431. Commercial Rowing Club

Mr HEGARTY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (26/10/99)—

With reference to plans by his department to relocate the Commercial Rowing Club (CRC) (26/10/99)—

What (a) negotiations and discussions have occurred between the Government and CRC, (b) time-frame for relocation is under consideration, (c) location is being considered for relocation and (d) will be the costs involved?

Mr FOLEY (25/11/99):

- (1) No negotiations have occurred between the Government and the Commercial Rowing Club.
- (2-4) In light of my answer to question (1), these questions are premature. It would be imprudent to release an estimate of costs of any commercial transaction under contemplation.

1432. Centenary Poolmart

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (26/10/99)—

With reference to the correspondence from Mr King of the State Ombudsman's Office dated 31 March 1998, regarding the registration of the business name

"Centenary Poolmart" which stated "In the circumstances the Register of Business Names will invoke section 10 of the Business Names Act 1962 and cancel the registration of the business name "Centenary Poolmart"—

Why has this cancellation under section 10 of the Business Names Act 1962 not yet occurred?

Ms SPENCE (25/11/99): This issue arose following a complaint by the proprietors of Pool Mart Centres to the Ombudsman that the registered business name Centenary Poolmart had been inadvertently registered in terms of the Business Names Act and that the registration of the name Centenary Poolmart should be cancelled.

In response to the complaint, a Deputy Register of Business Names wrote to the proprietors of Centenary Poolmart on 4 February 1998 advising of the intention to take action to cancel the registration pursuant to Section 10 of the Business Names Act with the letter giving an opportunity to nominate an alternative name in substitution for Centenary Poolmart.

In subsequent correspondence from Mr K Blake, a proprietor of Centenary Poolmart, it emerged that he and his wife had been using the Pool Mart name following the purchase of a Pool Mart in 1993 and that a written contract had been signed by the relevant parties.

As the matter was a contractual issue that should be resolved between the parties concerned it was determined that the situation was not one where the Registrar of Business Names should intervene to cancel the registration of the name Centenary Poolmart pursuant to the Business Names Act.

The previous Director-General of the Department of Justice wrote to the Ombudsman on 17 June 1998 advising of the fresh information that had been provided and that it would be inappropriate for the Registrar of Business names to make a determination regarding ownership of the expression "Pool Mart".

The Registrar of Business Names remains of the view that it is not appropriate to intervene in relation to a dispute between the parties and does not propose to cancel the registration of the business name Centenary Poolmart.

The matter was recently discussed with the Ombudsman's Office and the Ombudsman's Office has accepted the position taken by the Registrar in this matter.

1433. Teachers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (26/10/99)—

At July (a) how many teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed by Education Queensland in its central office and in each of the 36 education districts, (b) how many temporary teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed in central office and in each of the 36 education districts, (c) what percentage did temporary teachers represent of the total teacher numbers for central office and each of the 36

education districts (by headcount and full time equivalent), (d) how did the total of each of these figures compare with the corresponding totals for June (by headcount and full time equivalent) and (e) what was the growth during that one month period (by headcount and full time equivalent)?

Mr WELLS (25/11/99): Attachment A—The department informs me that Attachment A refers to Total Teacher FTE numbers for July and percentage of temporary teachers. Attachment B—The department informs me that Attachment B refers to Total Teacher FTE numbers for June and percentage of temporary teachers. Attachment C—The department informs me that Attachment C refers to the variation in teacher FTE numbers from June to July.

The department also informs me that details regarding headcounts have not been provided as these are not part of departmental collections. The collection of this information will place an unnecessary burden on otherwise limited departmental staff resources. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1434. Hummer Armoured Vehicles

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/10/99)—

Will he detail the lease arrangements for the Hummer armoured vehicle fleet including (a) date of latest lease commencement, (b) term of lease, (c) number of vehicles covered by the lease, (d) the value of the vehicles at the beginning of the lease and (e) payout or residual at the end of lease.

Mr BARTON (25/11/99): The Hummer armoured vehicles have been leased from the Department of Public Works and Housing by the Department of Corrective Services for two purposes. Following the escape of Brendon Abbott and four other dangerous prisoners from Sir David Longland Correctional Centre in November 1997, the Borbidge/Sheldon Government made arrangements to purchase the Hummer vehicles for use as armoured perimeter vehicles and transport and escort vehicles. The orders were placed between February and April 1998; two to three months prior to Labor attaining Government. The Hummer vehicles have been progressively delivered from that time, with five year leases dating from the time of delivery in each case. The first of thirteen Hummer vehicles was delivered on 22 May 1998, and the most recent on 9 March 1999. Upon coming to power, the Labor Government sought to reverse the orders. Advice from the then Queensland Corrective Services Commission was that the Department of Public Works and Housing had already placed formal orders for the vehicles with the supplier. These orders were unable to be reversed without a prohibitive financial cost to the taxpayer of Queensland. At the commencement of the lease, the vehicles were valued at between \$178,634 and \$203,909. QFleet has indicated to the Department of Corrective Services that a residual value of \$25,000 for each vehicle will need to be paid should these vehicles be

purchased by the department at the end of the lease period.

1435. Queensland Transport, Call Centre

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/10/99)—

With reference to the significant delays being experienced by customers calling the Queensland Transport Call Centre—

- (1) Is he aware that a large number of the increased calls to the call centre have been generated by the removal of telephone numbers of customer service centres from telephone books at a time when significant changes to policy and procedures were being introduced?
- (2) What additional resources were allocated to the call centre prior to the removal of this information from phone books?

Mr BREDHAUER (25/11/99):

(1) The decision to remove Customer Service Centre phone numbers from telephone books in South East Queensland was made whilst the Member for Gregory was Minister for Transport.

(2) After the Beattie Labor Government took office, an extra \$810,000 was made available following a reallocation of funding by Queensland Transport in January 1999 to recruit and train additional service consultants for Emerald and Fortitude Valley Call Centres. An additional \$1M has been budgeted this year for Call Centre operations.

Latest performance information from the Queensland Transport Call Centre indicates average waiting time for customers before being answered by a consultant is under 2 minutes. This has been achieved at a time when incoming call numbers are at record levels and is a reflection of the efforts of staff in the Call Centre to best meet customer needs. Improved rostering practices and revised arrangements, as well as increased resources have contributed to the significant improvement in customer service.

1436. Pensioners, Rail Travel

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/10/99)—

With reference to the free rail travel offered to older Queenslanders—

What (a) is the eligibility criteria for this travel, (b) entitlements are offered, (c) percentage of eligible persons take up free ticket entitlements, (d) percentage of free tickets are used and (e) is the annual cost of this worthwhile benefit?

Mr BREDHAUER (25/11/99):

(1) Free rail travel is available to all Queensland-resident holders of Pensioner Concession Cards issued by the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs and by Centrelink on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services.

(2) In conjunction with the Pensioner Concession Card, each pensioner receives four Pensioner Travel Vouchers. Each Voucher entitles the pensioner to one free economy rail journey on Queensland Rail services. Two vouchers may be combined to provide an economy return journey while four vouchers may be combined to provide a first class return journey. However, the pensioner must pay for sleeping berths, meals and a booking fee. Vouchers may be used on either long-distance Travel train services or suburban City train services.

(3) Queensland Rail and the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care advise that no records are maintained of the number of eligible persons who use Pensioner Travel Vouchers. However, the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care advises that, at March 1999, there were 487,692 holders of pension cards issued by the Department of Family and Community Services and 78,334 holders of Veterans' Affairs pensions. Information provided by Queensland Rail indicates that approximately 265,000 journeys per year are made with Pensioner Travel Vouchers. However, some pensioners may undertake more than one journey per year.

(4) Based on the number of Travel Vouchers issued and the number used on Queensland Rail services in a twelve-month period, the percentage of Vouchers used is approximately 16%.

(5) Queensland Rail and the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care advise that the cost of providing free rail travel to pensioners is approximately \$18 million per annum.

However, in addition, holders of Pensioner Concession Cards and Queensland Seniors Cards are entitled to 50% concession on all rail fares on Queensland Rail services. The cost of these concessions is approximately \$6 million per annum.

1437. One Nation Party, Budget

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (26/10/99)—

With reference to the reduction of One Nation to five members within the House, and his reduction of One Nation's parliamentary funding by \$400,000 and his statement that he was forced to do this by parliamentary procedure and that it was his responsibility to see that that \$400,000 was not wasted and to an optional use for this \$400,000 which would have been, and still is, to give each of the new independents \$80,000 to allow them to employ a researcher and thus be better informed and thus to contribute to better-informed debate in Parliament—

What has the \$400,000 been used for and can he illustrate to me that its use has shown a better return to the State than having five better researched independent members contributing to informed debate in the House?

Mr BEATTIE (24/11/99): As the Honourable Member is aware, on 11 March 1999, I announced a revised budget for the Office of the Leader of Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party of \$850,000 over three years. This followed the reduction of One

Nation's representation in this Parliament from eleven members to five members. This revised budget represents an overall reduction of approximately \$400,000 over three years. These savings are a budget adjustment and the funds remain in the consolidated fund, which is administered by Queensland Treasury.

1438. Pesticide/Chemical Poisoning, Misdiagnosis

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (26/10/99)—

With reference to concerns which have been expressed at alleged misdiagnosis of pesticide or chemical poisoning as psychiatric illnesses—

What investigations have been made in response to these concerns and what procedures have been put in place to ensure referral or liaison with chemical poisoning experts in Australia and overseas?

Mrs EDMOND (25/11/99): I am advised that while there is some literature suggesting an association between pesticide or chemical poisoning and psychiatric symptomatology, further research in this area is needed. The strongest evidence of an association is when there has been a discrete episode of acute organophosphate poisoning. This may be followed by chronic neuropsychiatric symptoms, although the exact cause of these is not yet clear (that is whether they are due to the direct toxic effects of the poison or to the experience that the individual has suffered). There is insufficient evidence to state that there is a clear association between more general pesticide or chemical exposure and the development of psychiatric symptomatology. In the absence of such evidence, there are no procedures in place for referral or liaison with chemical poisoning experts in Australia and overseas. This issue is however on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Directors/Clinical Directors of District Mental Health Services in November.

1439. Public Housing

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/10/99)—

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) couples (without children), (b) couples (with children), (c) single (with children), (d) single (without children) and (e) others 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 six months, (b) six to 11 months, (c) one to two years, (d) two to three years, (e) three to four years and (f) more than four years in total and by area office?
- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 October 1998 and 30 September in total and by area office?

- (5) How many applicants were allocated public housing during September?
- (6) How many evictions of public housing tenants have occurred during September?

Mr SCHWARTEN (25/11/99):

- (1) As at 30 September 1999, there were a total of 24,860 applicants on the public housing waitlist. See Attachment A for the breakdown of the waiting list by area office.
- (2) See Attachment B for the composition of the public housing waitlist by family type as at 30 September 1999.
- (3) See Attachment C for the number of applicants on the public housing waitlist by wait time in months, and by area office as at 30 September 1999.
- (4) See Attachment D for the number of applicants allocated housing between 1 October 1998 and 30 September 1999 in total and by area office.
- (5) The number of applicants allocated public housing during September 1999 were 779.
- (6) During the month of September 1999, 10 public housing evictions were executed.

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1440. University Vice-Chancellors

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Education (26/10/99)—

What is the total value and full details of the components of the remuneration package paid to the Vice-Chancellors of each public university established under an Act of the Queensland Parliament?

Mr WELLS (25/11/99): The information requested is not available to the government, the previous government introduced legislation to make it no longer available.

Up to 1997-1998, salary packages for Vice-Chancellors were set by their employers, the Council or Senate of the institution concerned, and were subject to approval by the Governor-in-Council. In 1997 and 1998, new legislation authorising the operations of Queensland universities was enacted by the Parliament, which removed any requirement for government involvement and placed on the governing body of each university, sole responsibility for this matter.

This change gained the support of both sides of the Parliament when it was proposed. While universities are established as State Statutory Bodies, they receive less than 5% of their funds overall from the State, and a significant share—in some cases, more than 50%—of their funds from non-government sources. The composition of university governing

bodies is such as to ensure that both expertise, and appropriate checks and balances, can be brought to bear on the process of determining Chief Executive salaries. In Queensland, university governing bodies all have more than twenty members, and include a mix of external appointees and elected staff and students. They include distinguished representatives of the business and professional communities, members of the Legislative Assembly, and community and scholarly representation. The previous Government's legislation was based on the proposition that governing bodies are, by virtue of their knowledge of the detailed work of their Universities, and their expertise, better placed to determine the salaries of their Chief Executives than the Government.

1441. Youth Detention Centres, Escapes

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (26/10/99)—

What are the number of escapes and the number of absconds that have occurred from facilities (listed by facility) operated, or administered, by her department in 1998-99 and since 1 July?

Ms BLIGH (25/11/99): On 7 December 1998, responsibility for youth detention transferred from the then Queensland Corrective Services Commission (QCSC) to my Department. Since that date and until 30 June 1999 there have been 2 incidents of escape, resulting in 3 young people escaping from custody. One incident was on funeral escort from the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre and the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre. The other incident was at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre.

Between 1 July 1999 and 25 November 1999, there has been one incident involving four young people from Cleveland Youth Detention Centre.

1442. Sunshine Coast, Police Stations

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/10/99)—

How many police were rostered on for duty on 15 October at Noosa Police Station, Coolum Police Station, Eumundi Police Station and Cooroy Police Station and how many officers were assigned to each of the stations on 15 October?

Mr BARTON (25/11/99): On 15 October 1999 thirteen staff were rostered on over a 24-hour period at the Noosa Police Station. A total of two staff were rostered for duty at the Eumundi Police Station at some time over the period between 8 a.m. and 12 midnight. Four officers were rostered at various times between 10 a.m. and 2 a.m. at the Coolum Police Station, and four at the Cooroy Police Station between 7 a.m. and 2 a.m.

1443. Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (26/10/99)—

What is the list of officers, by designation and classification, who have regular garaging rights for a departmental vehicle and the reason for each such arrangement being maintained?

Ms BLIGH (25/11/99): A list of those officers with garaging privileges as at 12 November 1999 is attached. Details of cars provided as part of SES packages have been excluded. As a result of new home garaging policies introduced by the Department, the number of Central Office vehicles garaged at home overnight has been reduced to 11. This compares to 26 at 1 July 1998. Further changes are anticipated as a consequence of the pending regional realignment proposed by February 2000. In some instances, regional staff garage vehicles at home when on call and in other cases vehicles are garaged at home because of the lack of secure overnight parking on or near the business premises. These cases are not treated as home garaging privileges and are not included in the attached list. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1444. Deaths in Custody

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (26/10/99)—

What are the full details of each death in custody that has occurred within facilities operated, or administered, by her department in 1998-99 and since 1 July?

Ms BLIGH (25/11/99): There has been one death in custody since my Department assumed responsibility for youth detention centres on 7 December 1998 until the present time. At 1:07 am on 28 December 1998, a young person, then aged 16 years 9 months, died whilst in custody at John Oxley Youth Detention Centre (JOYDC).

An Inquiry Team was established by the Director-General of my Department to investigate the circumstances of the young person's death and provide a report. The report was completed in January 1999 and forwarded to the Criminal Justice Commission, the State Coroner, the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions (the Forde Inquiry), and the Children's Commission. Recommendations from the report are being progressively implemented. The death was the subject of a public statement, issued on 28 December 1998. A coronial inquiry into the death is currently under way.

1445. Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (26/10/99)—

What is the list of officers by designation and classification who have approval for parking private motor vehicles on departmentally owned, leased or rented premises, showing the business reasons for each such approval?

Ms BLIGH (25/11/99): Outside Brisbane no specific approvals have been given to park private motor vehicles on departmentally owned, leased or rented premises. Parking is available for private vehicles in some locations on a "first come first served": basis.

As at 12 November 1999, in Brisbane, four officers have approved garaging privileges as follows:

Executive Officer, Office of D-G, AO6 Long and variable working hours

Manager, Cabinet Policy & Coordination Unit, Office of D-G, AO8 Long and variable working hours

Principal Business Consultant, Info Tech Branch, AO7 Medical condition

Information Resource Officer, Stats Services Branch, AO5 Physical disability.

1446. Justice Department

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (26/10/99)—

Since July 1998 (a) how many officers of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General have been charged with disciplinary matters under the Public Service Act, (b) what were the grounds for the disciplinary action, (c) what were the outcomes of the disciplinary actions, (d) if any officer was charged with breaching a code of conduct, what are the full details of the charge and (e) without the disclosure of full details, the number of disciplinary proceedings commenced against departmental officers in the years 1995, 1996 and 1997?

Mr FOLEY (25/11/99):

(a) In the 16 months since July 1998, 19 officers have been issued with notices to show cause why disciplinary action should not be taken against them. (The total excludes officers from the Arts part of my portfolio).

(b) Disciplinary action arose out of: the electronic sending or storing of offensive or obscene material; false claims for travelling allowance; complicity in the making of a false statement; misappropriation of money; drunkenness on duty; an altercation between staff; rudeness to clients; discriminatory or offensive language; and careless, incompetent or inefficient performance of duties resulting in loss.

(c) Outcomes of the disciplinary actions: three dismissals; two resignations; two letters of reprimand; management action was taken in two cases to address the workplace culture and in one other case involving the performance of duties; and nine matters are still being finalised.

(d) The Code of Conduct was launched in June 1998. Some matters involved breaches of sections 87(1)(a) or 87(1)(b) of the Public Service Act alone but most also involved breaches of section 87(1)(f) and of various principles in the Code of Conduct. Only those matters arising out of the sending or storage of offensive or obscene material involved breaches of principle 5.

(e) Prior to 1997, disciplinary records were not stored centrally so accurate figures are not available. In 1997, 10 disciplinary proceedings were commenced.

1447. Gold Coast, Ambulance Service

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Emergency Services (26/10/99)—

- (1) What was the average response time for Code 1 cases on the Gold Coast for 1998-99 and what is projected for 1999-2000?
- (2) What proportion of Code 1 cases were responded to in less than 10 minutes on the Gold Coast in 1998-99 and what is projected for 1999-2000?
- (3) Has the Gold Coast area the lowest proportion of Code 1 response times under 10 minutes; if not, what area does have the lowest and what is the rate?
- (4) How does the SE region rate in Code 1 response times compared to other regions?
- (5) What is the fastest recorded response time of a stretcher-bearing ambulance service for a distance greater than 10km on the Gold Coast?
- (6) Where and when was it despatched from and to, and what was the duration?
- (7) What is/was the budget for the Gold Coast for the last five years and how many staff are allocated/actual over the same period?
- (8) What is the current response time for a Code 1 emergency between Worongary ambulance/old fire station and Clearwater Estates Nerang and Nerang CBD?
- (9) What area of Gold Coast has the largest number of Code 1 emergencies, how many per annum and how many does the Nerang area have?
- (10) What is the projected shortfall of subscriptions in Queensland/SE region/Gold Coast area as a result of free pensioner transport policy?
- (11) Did the Police Service formally request that the Ambulance Service working from the Nerang Police Station vacate the premises; if so, when and in what form?

Mrs ROSE (25/11/99):

- (1) The average response time for Code 1 cases in the Southport area of the Gold Coast for 1998/99 was 10 minutes. The target for 1999/2000 is also 10 minutes.
- (2) The Gold Coast forms part of the SE Region of the Queensland ambulance Service (QAS), for which response times are routinely reported. The percentage of Code 1 cases responded to in less than 10 minutes in the Region for 1998/99 was 61%. The target for Code 1 responses by the first vehicle on scene for 1999/2000 is 62%.
- (3) No. Thursday Island Area had a rate of 54%.
- (4) I refer the Hon. Member to the answer to Question on Notice No. 1187, providing a breakdown of response times across the State.

(5) The QAS 'AIMS' data set is unable to provide this information. The recording of kilometres on patient forms is for the total distance travelled for the whole trip, not the distance travelled to the patient.

(6) See (5) above.

(7) Budget and staff allocations: Gold Coast area.

YEAR: BUDGET—OPERATIONAL STAFF

1994/95: Note (a)—89
 1995/96: Note (a)—89
 1996/97: \$5.07M—89
 1997/98: \$5.76M—95
 1998/99: \$5.71M—95
 1999/2000: \$6.31M—110

Budget identification for the Gold Coast area became available as from the 1996/97 financial year. Prior to then, budgets were compiled on a regional basis.

(8) The QAS is unable to report response times between specific locations due to variations in traffic flow and road conditions. Furthermore, response times are dependent on the responding vehicles location at the time of dispatch.

(9) Southport area had 2801 Code 1 emergency cases for 1998/99, compared to 844 in Nerang.

(10) There is no shortfall in subscription revenue due to the introduction of the Government's free pensioner policy. The Government has allocated \$25M to the QAS in 1999/2000 in lieu of subscriptions previously paid by pensioners and Seniors Card holders.

(11) On 3 September, the Acting QAS Regional Executive Director received a letter from the Police Assistant Commissioner, South East Region, dated 30 August 1999. The letter indicated that Queensland Police needed more space at their Nerang station and asked what plans the QAS had in relation to ambulance officers being based in their temporary facility at Nerang Police station.

The letter advised that the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the use of the Nerang Police station between Police and QAS had expired on 30 July 1998. A subsequent conversation took place with QPS where it was agreed that the QAS would vacate the temporary premises at Nerang on 4 October 1999.

1448. Education Department

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Education (26/10/99)—

With reference to the Opposition's Freedom of Information applications lodged with Education Queensland and the Office of the Minister for Education since 26 June 1998 (a) how many have been finalised without proceeding to internal or external review, (b) how many have proceeded to internal review, (c) how many of these internal reviews have secured further documents, (d) how many have proceeded to external review, (e) how many of these external reviews have secured further documents, (f) how many documents have been released under internal review, (g) how many documents have been released under external review

and (h) how many documents should have been released in respect of all applications but have not been?

Mr WELLS (25/11/99): With reference to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (g): I believe the information requested refers to the Opposition's own Freedom of Information requests and therefore is officially provided by the written decisions of the Office of the Minister, the Education Department and the Information Commissioners Office. This written notification is sent to the Office of the Opposition.

With reference to (h): I am advised by the Department and my Ministerial office that to the best of knowledge of the decision-makers and reviewers, all documents that could be released, have been released.

1449. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/10/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 1225 and particularly to his closing statement, "However proof of such cover is now sought by the Department."

Will he now list all those consultants employed by the department during his term in office and indicate, for each consultant, the type of documentary evidence provided to the department as "proof of such cover"?

Mr BRADY (25/11/99): As stated in my answer to Question on Notice No. 1225 it has been long standing practice of the Department, including during the period of the Coalition Government, to accept that when the Consultant signed their contract they had public liability insurance and professional indemnity insurance cover. Proof of such cover is now sought by the Department and the departmental instructions are being amended to reflect this requirement. In the interim staff of the Department were advised via email on 2 September 1999 to comply with the requirement.

Since 2 September 1999, the following consultants have been engaged by the department:

Consultant: Documentary Evidence Provided

Gibson Associates Management Consultants: Copy of certificate of currency from consultant's insurance broker.

Customer Contact Solutions: Copy of insurance policy from consultant.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu: Copy of insurance policy from consultant.

1450. Collinsville Power Station

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (26/10/99)—

Will he confirm that the Collinsville Power Station will be shut down and taken off line when the Callide

Power Station is completed; if so, why can't the Collinsville Power Station be connected and converted with the Chevron Gas PNG pipeline and remain open as a gas-fired station?

Mr McGRADY (26/11/99): There is no intention to shut down or take Collinsville Power Station off line when the Callide C Power Station is completed. There are no plans to convert Collinsville Power Station to operate on gas.

1451. Rail Corridors, Fencing

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/10/99)—

With reference to my belief that there is a legal requirement to have a distinct boundary to railway corridors which has generally been in the form of wire fencing and within the last twenty years, the fences enclosing the Western Line through Western Downs were reconstructed at great expense and since then, railway maintenance crews have wantonly destroyed this valuable asset by cutting the wires indiscriminately to gain access from the roadway or by careless use of fire, in short, much of the fencing is now worthless and ineffective—

As there are very few cattle now ever moved on foot on stock routes or roadways beside the rail corridor, will he investigate an alternative to wire fencing to determine the boundary of the rail corridor or amend the legislation to make demarcation unnecessary?

Mr BREDHAUER (26/11/99): QR has a legal obligation to maintain fences between the rail corridor and private property in areas where substantial fencing existed at the time of construction of the railway.

This obligation does not extend to fencing between the rail and road corridor, therefore QR has not put its scarce resources into maintaining the fencing between the road and rail corridor but rather has concentrated on maintaining the fencing between rail corridor and private property where this is required under the Act.

It is not proposed to make any changes to the Legislation as the Legislation does not require the erection of a fence to mark the boundary between the railway and the road reserve.

1452. Public Hospital Patients

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Health (27/10/99)—

- (1) Is she aware of the growing incidence of patients presenting at public hospitals being turned away and referred to private practitioners?
- (2) Is she aware of instances of patients being referred from outpatients or emergency sections in public hospitals, to doctors employed by that hospital with the right to private practice?
- (3) Is this a result of a directive instigated by the Health Department, to shift the costs involved from State funding to Federal (via Medicare)?

Mrs EDMOND (26/11/99):

(1) Patients are not being turned away from Queensland's public hospitals. If the patient is seeking a primary care service such as a General Practitioner consultation, they may be given information about the availability of appropriate service providers in the community that may be more convenient for them to visit. It is preferable for people to access their general practitioner who can provide continuity of care. The Australian Medical Association promotes this practice through its General Practice webpage (The Modern Patient-Doctor Relationship is a partnership). However if they choose to remain at the hospital they will receive treatment according to triage protocols, based on the urgency of their case.

(2) Under the Australian Health Care Agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland, non-inpatients may be referred to hospital specialist doctors with the right of private practice.

(3) There has been no directive by Queensland Health to turn away patients or to refer them to hospital specialist doctors with right of private practice. The Commonwealth has been shifting costs of primary care services for which it is responsible through the Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) onto the State public hospital system for many years. In 1997/98, MBS outlays for Queensland were \$31.5 million below Queensland's per capita share, while PBS outlays were \$27.3 million below its per capita share. Queensland has been providing these services through its outpatients and emergency departments because the Commonwealth funded medical and pharmaceutical services are unevenly spread throughout the State or in some cases do not exist at all. It is important to note that the Commonwealth does not compensate Queensland for these services.

1453. Hervey Bay, Queensland Transport

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/10/99)—

With reference to the lengthy waiting times at the Hervey Bay branch of Queensland Transport—

- (1) Is he aware of the problems that arise due to the lack of permanent staff for licence testing?
- (2) Does he intend to improve this situation when the department moves to the new Government building in Main Street, Pialba?
- (3) What will be the cost in relocating the department from Queens Road, Scarness to Main Street, Pialba and will there be a designated area for the vehicle inspections to be carried out?

Mr BREDHAUER (26/11/99):

(1) There presently exists a four week waiting period for driver testing in the Hervey Bay Customer Service Centre.

The Driving Examiner who was based in Hervey Bay has resigned effective 8 November 1999. No delays have resulted from the resignation of the permanent

Driving Examiner. There has been no loss of service to the public as relief driving examiners from Bundaberg and Toowoomba conduct all tests normally performed.

The position has been advertised and applicants are currently being short-listed for interview. It is expected that a replacement examiner should be appointed by early December. It should be noted that all Customer Service Centres experience delays during the Pre Christmas period as young drivers rush to book tests before the holidays. A longer than average waiting period is not unusual for this time of year.

(2) The new office in the Government building is designed to maximise efficiencies of operation. Additional work stations and a dedicated inquiry counter will help streamline work performed at the office.

Together with this, regional staffs are reviewing current processes to ensure every advantage is taken when the new office opens.

(3) The cost associated with moving is approximately \$3000.00, being removalist's fees and relocation of Telstra services. The cost of refitting the new office to Queensland Transport standards is approximately \$270,000.00, this is comparative to other similar projects.

Dedicated off road inspection facilities have been included in the lease agreement. Light vehicle inspections will be carried out in the Hervey Bay Customer Service Centre. Heavy vehicle inspections continue to be carried out in the Maryborough Customer Service Centre and on business owners' premises.

1454. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (27/10/99)—

With reference to the southern Moreton Bay islands—

- (1) What is the total amount of land acquired, purchased and resumed by the Redland Shire Council during the past five years?
- (2) Has any of this land been resold by the Redland Shire Council; if so, has any of the land that was declared drainage problem land been resold?

Mr WELFORD (26/11/99):

(1) Under the Acquisition of Land Act 1967, my Department of Natural Resources assists with the acquisition of land for public purposes by local governments and other Government agencies in accordance with their instructions. During the past five years, Redland Shire Council resumed 16 parcels of land on the Southern Moreton Bay islands under this Act. The land comprised a total area of some 9,492 square metres.

My Department of Natural Resources has no involvement with any purchases of land on the open market.

(2) My Department of Natural Resources has no involvement with any sales of land (acquired or otherwise) by the Redland Shire Council or any other local government. These transactions are a matter for each local government.

1455. Aboriginals, Traditional Hunting

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (27/10/99)—

With reference to the recent High Court decision allowing the hunting of Australian native animals by people of Aboriginal descent—

- (1) How many dugongs are taken each year by traditional hunting?
- (2) How many sea turtles by species and number are taken each year by traditional hunting?
- (3) How many crocodiles will be taken each year by species and number?
- (4) Under what circumstances can non-Aboriginal Australians take these native animals?
- (5) How many of each species above are taken accidentally by commercial fishermen each year?
- (6) What effect will this traditional hunting have on the endangered dugong and turtle populations?

Mr WELFORD (26/11/99):

(1 & 2) No Statewide data are available. In the Torres Strait, traditional fisheries are monitored by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. The rights of Indigenous people living in communities to hunt and fish dugong or turtle are covered by Community Services legislation. In the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, hunting activities are generally negotiated under specific permits.

(3) It is difficult to anticipate the number of crocodiles that may be taken by traditional hunting in the forthcoming year. However, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service maintains an active crocodile monitoring program to ensure that these populations remain viable. This program will be well placed to monitor any future impacts on crocodile populations.

(4) Under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, non-Aboriginal Australians can only take or keep dugong, turtles or crocodiles under a permit issued for research or educational purposes or where the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service hands over a captured crocodile to an authorised reptile park as part of a relocation or public safety activity.

(5) The regulation and reporting on commercial fishing catches falls within the Primary Industries portfolio and any request for information on the number of dugong, turtles and crocodiles that are accidentally taken as a result of commercial fishing operations should be referred direct to my colleague, the Honourable Minister for Primary Industries.

(6) Given that current traditional hunting cannot occur for commercial purposes, I expect that the impact of the recent High Court decision on the identified species will not be significant.

This expectation is supported by the existence of current agreements with Indigenous people in the Great Barrier Reef which limit the taking of dugong.

While the High Court decision on traditional hunting is expected to produce some increase in the traditional taking of turtles and dugong, it must be stated that traditional hunting is not the only threat to the viability of these species. The loss of seagrass as a food source, accidental strike by boats, and taking as trawling by-catch are all recognised threats to these species.

In any event, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service will continue to work with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Indigenous groups to ensure effective monitoring of these species and, where necessary, will negotiate moratoriums or limitations on the level of taking as a result of traditional hunting.

1456. Dalbeg State School

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Education (27/10/99)—

Does the Government intend to close the Dalbeg State School (in the electorate of Burdekin) that the community of Dalbeg uses, not only as a school but as a much needed community service?

Mr WELLS (26/11/99): Because the current low number of students at Dalbeg State School (4 current students) is not sufficient to maintain the facility in its present state, I have approved Dalbeg State School to be "mothballed" in the short term. The situation will be reviewed after Term 3 next year.

Discussions will be held with the Principal and the Dalbeg community about the local arrangements that can be made so that the school and appropriate resources can be maintained. This includes the possible use of the facilities by the community.

Computers and equipment that cannot be stored will be distributed to other schools with first priority being given to the schools where the current students go.

The educational needs of the 4 current students is the primary concern. They will be well-catered for, either at the two-teacher Millaroo State School or other schools in the Burdekin district. Every assistance and support will be given to the parents and students in the transition to a new school.

1457. Caboolture State School

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Education (27/10/99)—

With reference to the Caboolture State School upper primary male and female under building toilet facility which he is acutely aware of, has deteriorated to worse than poor condition and needs replacing—

- (1) When will the Caboolture State School's upper primary and female under building toilet facilities be replaced?
- (2) Is he aware that the initial examination of this facility in 1994 assessed it as being in poor condition and has he seen the photographs?

- (3) Is he aware of the potential health risks associated with the deterioration of this facility?
- (4) Given that in previous correspondence, he has noted the interest the Member for Caboolture has in the welfare of the students at this school, when will this replacement be given the urgent priority that it should be?

Mr WELLS (30/11/99):

- (1) The problems with the amenities will be remedied. I have asked my department for some options and will ask the Principal to pass the result on to the P&C.
- (2) See (1).
- (3) The toilets should have never been allowed to deteriorate into such a state.
- (4) See (1).

1458. Child Abuse

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (27/10/99)—

With reference to an 'at risk' child where there is evidence of severe sexual abuse—

- (1) Will she explain why, after a request from the Premier for her to look into the [name withheld] case, [name withheld] received the same letter that their solicitor had received previously?
- (2) What further investigations were carried out?
- (3) As a letter dated 18 October received by [name withheld] and signed by her, stated that the department will "continue to follow up with the child for a short time" and a further letter received from the department dated 20 October, stated that "the case plan is for the file to remain open to provide regular monitoring of [name withheld]'s protective and safety needs, (a) how long is a short time and (b) will [name withheld] be notified if his son is taken off the 'at risk' category?

Ms BLIGH (25/11/99): In response to your question on notice, I provide the following information—

- (1) I am advised that further visits did not establish any new child protection concerns and that the circumstances had not altered in the interim. Therefore, a letter with similar information was sent.
- (2) From 11 August 1999 until now regular home visits to the child's mother and stepfather have been made by a family services officer at the Area Office with case responsibility to monitor the situation and to provide support to the family. During these visits, no child protection concerns have been noted.
- (3) The question as to how long the case will remain open is to be discussed and decided at the family meeting. It is anticipated the case may remain open for a period of some months and this will be discussed and decided on at the family meeting. If no new child protection concerns are assessed and the family is not seeking further support, the case

may be closed. There is a plan for the child to visit the child's father at Christmas and departmental assistance may be necessary during this time. This will occur in liaison with a local Area Office. As is standard practice, the father will be informed of the case plan with regard to the child, including any decision to close the case. The case will be closed when the child is not considered to be "at risk" and it is felt the child's safety and protective needs continue to be adequately met by the parents.

1459. Greyhound Racing Clubs

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (27/10/99)—

With reference to his appointed Greyhound Racing Authority which proposes drastic cuts in a new financial and race date package for all northern clubs and as few if any of these clubs believe they can survive under this new arrangement—

- (1) Is this a deliberate attempt to close all clubs north of Brisbane; if not, how can he justify the proposed new arrangements?
- (2) Did one of his appointees, Mr Warwick Richter become president of a greyhound club at the end of the 1995 financial year when that club was solvent and resign as president after the 1998 financial year when that club's liabilities exceeded its assets; if so, was he as minister aware of this fact when Mr Richter's appointment was made?
- (3) If closure is not intended, does this mean that his appointed authority lacks the ability to govern the financial affairs of the industry?

Mr GIBBS (25/11/99):

- (1) No.
- (2) Mr Richter was a past President of Bundaberg Greyhound Racing Club.
Of those clubs located outside the South-East corner of the State, Bundaberg Greyhound Racing Club received the highest performance ranking in the Queensland Greyhound Racing Strategic Plan dated July 1998 prepared by consultants KPMG.
- (3) No.

1460. South Burnett Meatworks

Mrs PRATT asked the Premier (27/10/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice 1273 dated 14 September in which he stated, "This Government is prepared to assist the South Burnett Meatworks by committing \$400,000 to the development of a detailed business plan for any viable proposition that can be identified" and in the following paragraph he stated, "In addition to this the Government is also prepared to fund the ongoing care and maintenance of the South Burnett Meat Works, in conjunction with Suncorp Metway for a further two to three months"—

- (1) What is the dollar value of moneys for on-going care and maintenance mentioned in Question on Notice 1273?

- (2) Has any of this promised funding changed hands and who was the receiving party?
- (3) Has an agreement with the bank been signed; if so, when?
- (4) Would it be right to say that the \$400,000 loan will ultimately be paid by the employees anyway and only in the event of there being no administration funds left would the Government have to pay?
- (5) As a letter to the staff of the SBMW indicated that the \$400,000 offered for the development of a detailed business plan has also been made available if required, to Wenham Pty Ltd, is this offer available to all other interested parties?
- (6) Were other interested parties notified of this offer?

Mr BEATTIE (24/11/99):

- (1) The final figure for ongoing care and maintenance of the South Burnett Meat Works is still being negotiated between the parties, however it is expected to be in the vicinity of \$200,000 per month. The Government's commitment was to share this cost with Suncorp Metway for a period of two to three months.
- (2) The original \$400,000 has been paid by Suncorp Metway to the Administrator of the South Burnett Meat Works. No other amounts have been paid to date.
- (3) In relation to the \$400,000 advance to the Administrator of the South Burnett Meat Works by Suncorp Metway, I signed a Deed of Priority in favour of Suncorp Metway on 3 September 1999.
- (4) The Government has granted a Deed of Priority to Suncorp Metway for it to extend a further \$400,000 to the South Burnett Meat Works and this has been paid. I understand that the Administrator of the South Burnett Meat Works is endeavouring to ensure that the employee entitlements are preserved.
- (5) This offer is available to all interested parties with viable proposals. No amount for this has been specified.
- (6) The Administrator of the South Burnett Meat Works has been advised of the availability of this assistance, so that they may advise any potential buyers with viable proposals.

1461. Queensland Intravenous AIDS Association

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (27/10/99)—

Aside from the \$900,000 Federal funds recently awarded to QuIVAA in South Brisbane under the Prime Minister's drug strategy, what other funds, both State and Federal, have been awarded to QuIVAA and for what programs?

Mrs EDMOND (26/11/99): QuIVAA, which is based in Fortitude Valley, has been allocated approximately \$886,000 over four (4) years from the National Illicit Drug Strategy. Additional funding is provided under:

(a) The Public Health Outcomes Funding Agreement (PHOFA) of \$300,229 in 1998/99. The PHOFA has not been finalised for 1999/2000. New Initiative funding of \$19,317 in 1998/99 for increased administrative cost (Statewide Health and Non-Government Services Unit Special Funding Program: Commonwealth). As with other agencies, QuIVAA will continue to receive this funding on a recurrent basis whilst the agency has an agreement with Queensland Health.

(b) HIV Indigenous Sexual Health funding through the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (Commonwealth) as a one-off payment of \$26,017 in 1999/2000 for the conclusion of an Indigenous injecting drug use project.

Funds are provided to the Queensland Intravenous AIDS Association (QuIVAA) to provide a range of peer based health promotion and harm reduction strategies aimed at reducing the transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C among people in the Fortitude Valley and inner Brisbane area who inject drugs.

1462. WorkCover

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

- (1) Has the total number of staff in WorkCover Queensland been slashed by about 200 during his term as employment Minister?
- (2) How does this massive shedding of staff fit in with the Government's meaningless mantra of jobs, jobs, jobs?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99):

(1) On 25 May 1998 WorkCover commenced a major review of its business and how it can further improve service delivery to its customers (Service Project). This review, incorporated business process and information technology improvements to raise the standard of WorkCover's customer services to a world-class level. VERs have been offered to staff as a result of implementation of the outcomes of the Service Project.

The Service project was an initiative of the former WorkCover Board appointed by the former Coalition Government.

WorkCover advises that in 1998/99 approximately 86 employees accepted VERs and approximately 221 employees will leave the organisation in 1999/2000 through VERs.

(2) WorkCover Queensland is an independent statutory authority responsible for all administration matters including staffing. As well as seeking to raise the standard of WorkCover's customer services to a world-class level, the WorkCover Board is aiming to increase its permanent workforce and keep employer premiums the lowest of any Australian State.

WorkCover has advised that by 30 June 2000 its permanent full-time workforce is projected to increase by approximately 48. In addition Queensland has the lowest premium rate of any State in Australia and one of the lowest excess costs. Clearly, the more competitive employers' premiums when compared to other States, the more

competitive Queensland employers become and the more jobs for Queenslanders.

1463. Viviani Report

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

With reference to Professor Viviani's report which recommends devolution of industrial relations functions from DETIR head office to TAFE Institutes—

What industrial relations functions, if any, should be devolved and have been devolved?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): As stated in a previous response to Question on Notice No. 832 asked by the opposition on 10 June 1999, in accordance with the Government's Ten Point Plan to Safeguard TAFE Queensland there is a four year commitment to negotiate key wages and employment conditions centrally for the whole of TAFE.

1464. Corrective Services Commission

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/10/99)—

- (1) Will he provide the names of the people on the selection panels for the following positions in the Department of Corrective Services (a) Director-General, (b) director of Director-General's Office and (c) Manager, Strategic Planning and Coordination?
- (2) Will he also detail (a) the three senior officers who were paid out in the restructure, (b) their previous positions and (c) the total cost of these three payouts?
- (3) What other personnel were paid out in the restructure?

Mr BARTON (26/11/99):

(1)(a) As Mr Peach had previously fulfilled the necessary criteria of a Director-General (having been the Director-General of Education in both Labor and Coalition Governments) he was able to be transferred to the role of Director-General of the Department of Corrective Services without panel selection. This action is in accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Act 1996, which was introduced by the Borbidge Government.

(b) Mr Frank Peach, Director-General, Department of Corrective Services (Chair); Ms Alison Hunter, Executive Director, Policy and Program Services Directorate, Department of Corrective Services; and Ms Robyn Potter, Executive Coordinator, Office of the Coordinator-General, Department of State Development (Office of the Public Service Commissioner nominated representative).

(c) Mr Frank Peach, Director-General, Department of Corrective Services (Chair); Ms Angela Musumeci, Executive Director, Community Corrections Directorate, Department of Corrective Services; and Ms Deborah Partridge, Principal Project Officer, Office of the Public Service Commissioner (external representative).

(2)(a&b) Three senior officers were paid out as a result of the creation of the new department. They were the Acting Chief Executive Officer of QCorr; the General Manager, Communication, QCorr; and the Director, Information Technology, Queensland Corrective Services Commission.

(c) The total cost of the three payouts was \$201,124.

(3) No other officer was paid out as a result of the creation of the Department of Corrective Services.

1465. WorkCover; Mr G. Murphy

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

With reference to the appointment of Mr Gerry Murphy as a Director of the WorkCover Board and legal actions undertaken by Mr Murphy and his legal firm in relation to WorkCover matters—

Will he detail to the House the total of all actions, (including total number) whether a common law claim has been implemented into the WorkCover computer system or not, and where Mr Murphy has commenced an action against WorkCover for this financial year as at 22 October?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): The first part of the question that says "Will he detail to the House the total of all actions, (including total number) whether a common law claim has been implemented into the WorkCover computer system or not," is unclear and therefore cannot be answered. I am advised by WorkCover that Mr Murphy has taken no actions against WorkCover Queensland as the defendant.

1466. Stuart Oil Shale Project

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (27/10/99)—

As the department responsible for the development at Suncor/SPP, what investigations have been carried out regarding the recent process failure, its cause and effects (including effects on the community) and what departmental reporting obligations are in place?

Mr McGRADY (26/11/99): I am aware of the recent serious issues that have arisen in relation to the Stuart Oil Shale Project. At the present time officers from DME, DSD and the EPA are investigating the emissions, and the plant is currently shut down. Rest assured the Beattie Government is treating this issue with the seriousness that it warrants, and will provide the member with further information when it comes to hand.

1467. Mature Aged Workers

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

With reference to his media statement dated 8 September in which he says, "This year—The

International Year of Older Persons—is the ideal time for government, employers and the wider community to take action and give older people a go."—

Will he give details of successful projects that the Government has implemented to ensure older people are given the opportunity to learn new skills and in doing so become valued employees?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): A substantial whole of government submission was prepared for the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Workplace Relations Inquiry into Issues Specific to Workers over forty-five years of age seeking employment, or establishing a small business following unemployment. The submission emphasised this Government's continuing focus in its employment programs on the issue of mature age unemployment, the need for the Commonwealth Government to develop strategies to address mature age unemployment and for a significant change of employer attitudes towards mature aged workers.

The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations is conducting research into workforce practices that militate against mature age employment and a campaign to educate employers and employees and raise awareness of the benefits of having mature age employees. Strategies include:

a major workforce symposium Experience Pays which was held in August 1999 with 150 participants;

an information kit to assist employers to understand the value of having older workers, to manage the older workforce effectively and to assist employees in preparing for the new knowledge economy; and

a series of regional workshops designed to inform employers and the community about the growing mature aged workforce and the value of experience, and to commence a process of collaborative strategy development.

Under the Community Jobs Plan and Community Employment Assistance Program, mature aged unemployed people over the age of 40 years are considered at risk of long-term unemployment and are a specific target group for assistance. To date, a total of 731 mature aged unemployed people have received employment or assistance through projects funded under these initiatives, representing 20% of the total number of participants.

Another successful initiative implemented by the Government is the Worker Assistance Program. This is an early intervention labour market program that aims to assist workers displaced as a result of large scale retrenchments to make the transition to alternative employment, eligible workers include those aged 45 and over.

In addition, during 1998, over a quarter of students undertaking vocational education and training were over 40 years of age. About 14 percent of the 40,000 enrolments in traineeships and apprenticeships in 1998, were taken up by people over 40 years.

1468. Cullen Report

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

What progress has been made by him and his department in terms of implementing the major recommendations of the Cullen Report?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): The Cullen Report establishes a framework within which Queensland can identify and close the "gaps" between the level of qualifications and skills held by the workforce and the level of qualifications and skills required for industry to continue to be competitive.

The Cullen Report is used as one measure to guide the Vocational Education and Training planning processes to ensure training resources are prioritised towards areas of greatest qualifications and skills deficits. The approach to planning recommended by the report has informed the work undertaken in preparing the Year 2000 Queensland Annual Vocational Education and Training Plan and the Resource Priorities Document 2000-2002.

The Cullen Report identified where the workforce had a low level of qualifications, and there were good prospects of growth or the industry was significant in the Queensland economy. In the Year 2000 Queensland Annual Vocational Education and Training Plan, the Government has planned to increase Queensland's total training delivery by 1,465,904 Annual Hours Curriculum, or 3.25 per cent. However, the increase for the specific skill shortage areas identified as priorities by the Cullen Report will be 8.7 per cent.

The Government's commitment towards closing the qualifications and skills gaps is demonstrated through the substantial growth in traineeship and apprenticeship training which has resulted in a 45.1% increase in approvals from 1997/1998 to 1998/1999.

In addition, the Government is committed to the implementation of school-based traineeships and apprenticeships. Approximately 900 approvals were recorded in 1998. Already by the end of September, Queensland had recorded 1,336 commencements of school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. This will assist in overcoming the skills gaps identified by Cullen.

1469. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

With reference to his department which now has two Deputy Directors General—

- (1) What is the SES classification and paypoint that each is paid?
- (2) Who determined that a second Deputy Director General position was operationally necessary?
- (3) What was the date and recommendation of the CED evaluation of the second deputy position?

- (4) Apart from salary, what other remuneration or benefits, apart from standard SES conditions, is each of the deputy's entitled under their contracts of employment?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): I am advised by the department that:

- (1) Both Deputy Directors-General positions are classified Senior Executive Service Level 4 (SES4). The incumbents of the positions are remunerated at SES paypoint level 4.2.
- (2) In line with the realignment of the Department's structure to deliver the Government's incoming policy priorities, the Director-General determined that a second Deputy Director-General position was necessary.
- (3) The date of the Mercer Cullen Egan Dell evaluation of the second Deputy Director-General position was 13 January 1999. Mercer Cullen Egan Dell supported the rationale for the establishment of the second Deputy Director-General position.
- (4) None of the incumbents of the Deputy Directors-General positions are in receipt of remuneration benefits other than those prescribed for standard SES conditions of employment.

1470. WorkCover

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

With reference to the workers' compensation reform package he announced earlier this year and the proposal to reduce the level of solvency requested for full funding within the Workers' Compensation Fund from 30 per cent as recommended by Jim Kennedy and currently legislated to 20 per cent—

- (1) Did the Workers' Compensation Board support his proposal to reduce the solvency margin and will he release evidence of this support?
- (2) Will he instruct the board to release the actuarial advices which underpin the above proposal and his other proposals to reform the workers' compensation system so that the public can be confident of the viability of the changes?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99):

(1) Mr Kennedy did not recommend 30% solvency. Mr Kennedy's recommendation was 15% solvency plus \$40M which correlated to approximately 20%. The figure of 30% was legislated based on a recommendation of the subsequent Implementation Taskforce established by the former Coalition Government.

The WorkCover Board recommended the reduction in the level of solvency to 20% based on actuarial advice.

(2) I am advised that WorkCover obtains actuarial advice as part of its commercial activities. This advice is classified as "excluded activities" under the WorkCover Queensland Act 1996. Given the commercial sensitivity of the information requested, it is not available for release.

1471. Moreton TAFE Institute

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

With reference to the latest SPSFQ Journal which he would undoubtedly be aware carries a critical article concerning staffing issues at Moreton TAFE—

Will he confirm that he, his Director General and his Cabinet colleagues including the Premier, have supported moves by the director and management of Moreton TAFE to review staff numbers in order to achieve financial profitability?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): A business review process being conducted at Moreton Institute of TAFE has identified that approximately 130 temporary positions will be translated to permanent positions. The process has also identified that some areas of the Institute have excess staff for the level of business demand.

Opportunities are being put in place for existing permanent staff to redeploy to other parts of the Institute, redeploy to other TAFE Institutes, transfer to other Government departments, or be offered Voluntary Early Retirement. In accordance with the Government's commitment, no permanent staff will be retrenched. These matters are being progressed in consultation with staff and unions.

The problems at Moreton Institute of TAFE arose during the coalition government. Rapid escalation of the competitive agenda by the previous government extracted more than \$125 million from TAFE Queensland's budget to support competitive initiatives which reduced the flexibility of TAFE Institutes to invest in staff development, new and enhanced products and market analysis.

The Beattie Government has provided Moreton Institute:

\$20.55 million in direct grant funding in 1999-2000, an increase of more than \$2.33m on the previous year, which includes: \$1m specifically for additional training in IT & T; \$1m targeted at additional training in Environmental Management, Community Care in the Aged Care and Disability Work streams, and pre-employment courses in engineering;

\$3.5 million to continue the redevelopment of the Bayside Campus in 1999-2000; and

\$2.1m in revitalisation funding provided to Moreton Institute in 1998-99, of which the Institute has \$1.46m to invest in 1999-2000 in initiatives which will—

enhance customer service

establish activity based costing/management to analyse the consumption of the Institute's resources

support product development, and

provide increased staff training and development.

The Director of Moreton Institute has provided appropriate briefing to officers of the department and myself.

1472. Cooloola Shire, Registration Revenue

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/10/99)—

With reference to the revenue generated through car registration in the Cooloola Shire—

What was the total revenue received from this source for 1997-88 and 1998-99?

Mr BREDHAUER (26/11/99): Registration revenue breakdown by local government area is not readily available from Queensland Transport.

1473. TAFE

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

With reference to his failure to provide the information requested through Question on Notice No. 1288—

Why is he hiding the real costs of his travels through the State to hand down his vision to TAFE by claiming it would divert too many of his departmental officers to count up the full costs of his vision-dispersing activities?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): I am not hiding costs—my answer remains the same as previously advised to you in Question on Notice No. 1288.

1474. Local Governments, Disaster Mitigation Studies

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (27/10/99)—

With reference to her recently announced subsidies to a maximum of \$1.2m allocated in the 1999-2000 Budget, for 32 local governments to fund disaster mitigation studies—

- (1) Will she explain what effects these studies have on local government areas of responsibilities?
- (2) Will he detail the guidelines which determine the division of these moneys?
- (3) What funding is applied to each local government to undertake these studies?

Mrs ROSE (26/11/99):

(1) Local Government will determine the area of responsibility they wish to address through the studies. It is anticipated that Local Governments will choose to apply for financial assistance for studies on a wide range of issues including feasibility studies to flood-proof strategic infrastructure, siting options for flood warning systems and development of modifications to planning schemes to take account of high-risk hazards.

(2) The State Government is currently awaiting final advice from the Commonwealth Government on the guidelines. All Local Governments will be eligible to apply.

(3) Local Governments will be subsidised to undertake such studies. They will receive two thirds of the cost of the studies. One third will be provided by the Commonwealth Government and one third by the State Government.

1475. Underground Power

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (27/10/99)—

Will he define the comparison in cost of overhead wires to conduct electricity against the cost of a similar underground system?

Mr McGRADY (26/11/99): I am advised that the cost associated with providing underground power on a greenfield housing development site is approximately double that of an equivalent overhead wires system. I am further advised that experience in Queensland and other states has shown that the costs of undergrounding existing overhead distribution systems range between \$4000 to \$7000 per dwelling.

1476. Employment Task Force

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

- (1) What was the total number of applications entered on the Employment Taskforce database up to the end of September?
- (2) What was the number and percentage of applications received from applicants in the following age cohorts and what was the number and percentage of those applicants who were employed, in each age cohort (a) 15-19, (b) 20-24, (c) 25-34, (d) 35-44, (e) 45-59 and (f) over 60?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99):

(1) Since October 1998, 9,739 applications have been entered on the database.

(2) The database was established as an aid to Departments to assist them with their recruitment process. Departments are not restricted from recruiting using other processes.

The following is a breakdown in age cohorts of applications received:

15-19:	2,606—26.7%
20-24:	2,815—28.9%
25-34:	2,306—23.7%
35-44:	1,225—12.6%
45-49:	443—4.5%
50-60:	342—3.5%
over 60:	2—.02%

Data is not available on the number and percentages of those employed in each age cohort.

1477. Correctional Centres, Training

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

- (1) How much has the department allocated for training in correctional centres in 1999-2000?
- (2) What was actually spent in 1998-99?
- (3) How much was spent in 1998-99 on training designed to rehabilitate young offenders?
- (4) How much has been allocated for this purpose in 1999-2000?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99):

- (1) \$1.2 million.
- (2) \$1,367,262.10.
- (3) Young offenders are eligible for assistance under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiative and Vocational Education and Training Access and Equity programs due to their level of disadvantage in accessing training and labour market opportunities. However, as these programs are flexible in nature, the Department did not provide a specific budget allocation for the young offender group and is unable to estimate the level of expenditure on assistance and training provided specifically to this group.
- (4) As per No. (3).

Note: The funding in (1) and (2) assists persons in custody in Queensland correctional centres, whereas projects described in (3) and (4) target young offenders, ie. young people under court orders and not in custody.

1478. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

With reference to the appointment of his second Deputy Director General—

How many applicants were there for this position, who comprised the selection panel and how many applicants were short listed?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): The department advises me that: there were 6 applicants; the selection panel was Dr Brian Head, Public Service Commissioner, Mr Barry Smith, Chair, Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission, Ms Linda Apelt, Director-General, Department of Housing and Mr Robert Marshman, Director-General, Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations; and 2 were shortlisted.

1479. Queensland Rail, CEO Remuneration

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/10/99)—

With reference to comments made in the House by the Premier and himself regarding the recent salary increase for the Chief Executive of Queensland Rail—

- (1) When was this increase processed?
- (2) When did payments of this increase commence?
- (3) Which shareholding Ministers approved these increased payments?

Mr BREDHAUER (26/11/99): The Member for Gregory and the Member for Caloundra were advised of the salary increase by letter dated 27 April 1998. There is no record of the previous Ministers objecting to this. Therefore the increased payments were effective from 21 April 1998. Payment of the new salary (including back dating to 21 April 1998)

commenced while the Member for Gregory was still the Minister for Transport.

1480. Training, User Choice Contracts

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

Will he provide the House with information on the review process that has been undertaken to determine the fair and correct delivery cost of training under various user choice contracts.

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): As part of the implementation of the findings of the recent Independent Investigation into the Quality of Training in Queensland's Traineeship System, the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations is looking at new arrangements for the operation of User Choice in Queensland. These new arrangements will include a revised User Choice price list.

A process is under way for reviewing the price list. The review will take cost factors into consideration. At this stage no final report has been developed or presented.

1481. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

How much has the Purchasing Branch of his department incurred in legal expenses in 1998-99?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): The purchasing area of 'Acquisition and Accounting Services' in the Business Development Division of the Department did not incur any legal expenses in 1998/99.

1482. Rubbish Dumps

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (27/10/99)—

With reference to an article in The Courier Mail on 16 September which reported that the Labor Government had scrapped the Coalition's \$200m plan to clean up the State's rubbish dumps and was, in the usual Labor fashion, going to spend \$15m over two years to produce studies on the state of our dumps and as Labor has been extremely critical of the Coalition's use of consultants during its term of office—

How much of this \$15m will be spent on consultancies and how much has been allocated for these consultancies to date?

Mr WELFORD (26/11/99): The Honourable Member is advised that the study into the state of Queensland's dumps, including consultancies utilised in this process, is administered by the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning. As such, this question should be referred to the appropriate Minister, the Honourable Terry Mackenroth.

1483. Q-Build Industry

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (27/10/99)—

With reference to Q-Build Industry (QBI) (27/10/99)—

- (1) What was the total revenue (accrual based) derived from sales and/or services "Year to Date" for 1999-2000?
- (2) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) "Year to Date" for 1999-2000?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by QBI "Year to Date" for 1999-2000?
- (4) Of the total expenditure (accrual based) "Year to Date" for 1999-2000, how much has been spent in the following categories (a) materials and stores, (b) salary and wages, (c) labour hire fees and charges, (d) advertising and (e) travel/travel expenses?
- (5) What is the projected expenditure (accrual based) for the remainder of 1999-2000 in the following categories (a) materials and stores, (b) salary and wages, (c) labour hire fees and charges, (d) advertising and (e) travel/travel expenses?

Mr SCHWARTEN (26/11/99):

- (1) \$1,637,663.
- (2) \$1,857,704.
- (3) A loss of \$220,041.
- (4) (a) materials and stores \$566,563, (b) salary and wages \$1,047,426, (c) labour hire fees and charges \$13,798, (d) advertising \$3,384 and (e) travel/travel expenses \$1,977.
- (5) (a) materials and stores \$7,679,252, (b) salary and wages \$3,033,222, (c) labour hire fees and charges \$41,394, (d) advertising \$26,616 and (e) travel/travel expenses \$7,023.

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to business units of the Department of Public Works and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1484. Fuel Products

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (27/10/99)—

With reference to a report by the Australian Institute of Petroleum of a significant increase in recent months of unscrupulous operators substituting low excise products for petrol and diesel (eg. kerosene, solvents or other volatile material) and as the substitution of these unsuitable products by some 'cheap petrol' outlets during the current high price cycle can endanger the safety of consumers and can cause damage to engines—

What action is being taken to eradicate these illegal practices and to protect consumers from unfair trading?

Ms SPENCE (25/11/99): Since 1994 it has been illegal in Queensland to supply diesel that has a flashpoint of 61°C or less under an order through the Fair Trading Act 1989. The reasoning behind this was that there was a trend at that time of adding low excise fuel products such as kerosene for diesel, which carried a higher excise duty.

This type of fuel substitution is dangerous because by substituting kerosene and solvents for diesel the flashpoint can be lowered and therefore become more volatile without the knowledge of the vehicle owner or user. 61°C was seen as a safety benchmark.

Adding solvents and kerosene to motors can, under some circumstances, damage petrol and diesel motors.

Queensland is still the only state that has this ban in place. This ban is under review and input from the petroleum industry and the broader community will be sought in the reviewing process.

No petroleum industry bodies have contacted my office to pass on any marketplace intelligence they may have about incidents in Queensland. If the Honourable Member is aware of any such substitution activity I would ask him to contact the Office of Fair Trading without delay.

However, I have asked the Office of Fair Trading to monitor this practice closely to ensure that we do not see a return to this past practice.

1485. Children's Commission

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (27/10/99)—

With reference to the Children's Commission—

- (1) What were the Public Service classifications for each employee at 1 July 1998 and what are they at 26 October 1999?
- (2) What are the salaries and remuneration packages for each of these classifications?

Ms BLIGH (25/11/99):

(1) The Public Service classifications for each employee at 1 July 1998 and 26 October 1999 are: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1486. TAB

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (27/10/99)—

As one of the shareholding Ministers of the TAB (a) what was the value of total current assets of the TAB at 27 October, (b) why has he directed the TAB to pay a special dividend of \$36m to be paid prior to the public float, (c) post the payment of this dividend, what will be the projected balance of total current assets for the TAB at the point of listing on the ASX, (d) what was the value of any dividend/s paid to the Queensland Government by the TAB in 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 and (e) what

was the breakdown of remuneration (including but separating travel expenses, accommodation expenses and meeting fees) to each individual member of the board of the TAB in 1998-99?

Mr GIBBS (26/11/99):

(a) The total of TAB current assets as at 30 June 1999 was disclosed in the TAB's Financial Statements that are certified by the Auditor-General in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977. The only major variation since 1999 financial year-end was (b) below.

(b) Consistent with advice provided independently by the State's taxation and accounting adviser PricewaterhouseCoopers and by the State's financial adviser ABN AMRO, TAB Queensland Limited made a special dividend payment of \$36 million to the State prior to the completion of the privatisation process. The amount of \$36 million represented surplus cash for which the State would not have received full value from the market in the sale process.

(c) Refer to the pro-forma balance sheet that is shown at page 39 of the TAB Queensland Limited Share Offer Document.

(d) No dividends were paid to the Queensland Government by TAB in financial years 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99.

(e) A breakdown of each individual TAB Board member's remuneration in 1998-99 is tabled below: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1487. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

With reference to a media release of 14 September in which he and his department boasted of creating almost six times more extra traineeships (2449) than apprenticeships (429) in Government departments and agencies and local councils—

- (1) Have they decided to ignore the warnings in official departmental research* concerning the 'imbalance' between the numbers of traineeships and traditional apprenticeships? (*The Smith Report)
- (2) To what new research data can he refer to explain or justify his policy backflip on this issue?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): (1-2) This Government undertook to create an additional 6,000 traineeship places and 500 apprenticeship places in public sector agencies across four financial years. The figures quoted above represent achievements relating to the first financial year only.

1488. Acacia Ridge, Indigenous Training Centre

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

What is the breakdown of the budget costs of \$700,000 for the indigenous training centre at Acacia Ridge?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99): The Aboriginal and Islander Independent Community School successfully applied for Commonwealth funds provided to the Australian National Training Authority under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Facilities component of the Vocational Education and Training Infrastructure Program. The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations which administers the program supported the application, recommending that funding of \$721,301 be approved for the Kulkathil Skill Centre.

The funding for the Skill Centre involves the renovation of a heritage listed building within the Aboriginal and Islander Independent School campus and the purchase of furniture and equipment for the Centre.

The breakdown is as follows—

Renovation—\$393,988
 Equipment—\$158,545
 Electronic peripherals and Software—\$144,768
 Project Management—\$24,000
 Total—\$721,301.

1489. Deaths in Custody

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/10/99)—

What are the full details of each death in custody that has occurred within facilities operated or administered by his department in 1998-99 and since 1 July 1999?

Mr BARTON (26/11/99): I would refer the Honourable Member to the Department of Corrective Services Annual Report for details of deaths in custody. The information contained in the Annual Report relates to the past four financial years, is broken down by apparent cause of death, and identifies the deceased as indigenous or non-indigenous. For reasons of privacy, and concern for the families of the relevant prisoners, it would be inappropriate for me to provide personal details for each of the deceased. There have been four deaths in custody in Queensland correctional facilities in the financial year to date. All have been identified as suicide.

1490. TAFE

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/10/99)—

- (1) Was he misquoted in Campus Review of 17-23 March when he stated and I quote "Application of National Competition Policy in the competitive training market is only in the initial scoping stages"?
- (2) If he has in fact been quoted correctly and he actually believes what he said when does he intend to tell TAFE unions and staff that they are still only at the initial scoping stage of the

competitive training market first introduced in 1994 by the Goss Labor Government?

Mr BRADY (26/11/99):

(1) No. The initial scoping refers to the formal process of applying the National Competition Policy principles to TAFE. In applying these principles, a Competitive Neutrality Public Benefit of Assessment—Base Case Assessment was completed in 1997, under the previous Government.

This Base Case Assessment has been reviewed and revised incorporating information from the findings of the TAFE Review Taskforce in 1998 and the Independent Investigation into the Quality of Training in Queensland's Traineeship System in 1999. The next step is a Competitive Neutrality Public Benefit Test for TAFE Queensland.

(2) I would expect that TAFE unions and staff are able to differentiate between a formal process of applying National Competition Policy and being competitive in a training market.

1491. Dairy Industry

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Primary Industries (27/10/99)—

(1) What effect does he envisage that the slow decision being made regarding total deregulation of the of the Dairy Industry in Victoria will have on Queensland dairy farmers?

(2) Will he guarantee to keep the farm gate price he promised Queensland dairy farmers in legislation?

Mr PALASZCZUK (25/11/99):

(1) I applaud the decision of the Victorian Government to actually consult their farmers on this issue. Unlike the Member for Southport, I support careful consideration by the Victorians of the issue of deregulation—it is not an issue that should be decided in a rushed way.

(2) In 1998 the Government legislated to retain a regulated farmgate price for milk for 5 years. This decision had the unanimous support of State Parliament. This would only be removed in exceptional circumstances and with industry agreement.

1492. Dingo Barrier Fence

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources—

With reference to people whose grazing enterprises depend upon an effective dingo barrier fence and who are fearful of the future of this facility and if it deteriorates, through lack of consistent maintenance, it may be abandoned because the cost of replacement would be enormous—

(1) How can he, as the responsible Minister, not have approved a prospective Budget for his department without having allocated a costing for the maintenance of the dingo barrier fence?

(2) How is it possible that he, as the responsible Minister, has still not finalised this allocation some six weeks after the Budget was presented to Parliament?

(3) Will he now, as a matter of urgency, announce the exact funding for this project, bearing in mind its actual role in maintaining the viability of some wool growers already severely financially stressed?

Mr WELFORD (29/11/99):

(1) The budget which I have presented to the Parliament includes a component for the continued maintenance of the dingo barrier fence.

(2) Indicative budgets have been conveyed to operating sections of my Department of Natural Resources. Budgets are reviewed on a continuing basis to ensure that peak efficiency is achieved.

(3) Budgets for ongoing projects like the Dingo fence vary from year to year. Within the current year the budget will be monitored. The Dingo Barrier Fence remains a priority for the Beattie Government and will be maintained.

1493. Whitsunday Electorate, Public Housing

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (28/10/99)—

With reference to public housing in the Whitsunday electorate—

(1) How many homes are currently vacant?

(2) How many applications have been made for these vacancies?

(3) What action is he taking to address the problem of public housing in the Whitsunday electorate?

(4) What is the average waiting time for applicants requiring public housing over the past six months?

Mr SCHWARTEN (29/11/99): Tenable means dwellings that are available for allocation, whereas, untenable means dwellings undergoing maintenance, for sale, being redeveloped or demolished. Untenable dwellings are not available immediately for allocation to public housing applicants.

(1) At 31 October 1999, there were 14 dwellings vacant in the Whitsunday electorate. Of these, six were 'tenable' and eight 'untenable'. Two of these dwellings at 'untenable' status are in Collinsville and will be sold.

(2) Rental applications may only be made for specific suburbs. It is not possible for a client to apply for a particular public rental dwelling. As at 31 October 1999, there were 137 applicants for public housing in the Whitsunday electorate.

(3) Over the past five years, the Department of Housing has added 44 dwellings to the public housing stock in the Whitsunday electorate, bringing the total number of public housing dwellings to 314, as at 4 November 1999. In the 1999/2000 Capital Works Program, eight dwellings are scheduled to commence construction, comprising four apartments

and four duplex units (three of which are being allocated to clients with a disability).

(4) From 1 May 1999 to 31 October 1999, the average wait time for applicants allocated public housing in the Whitsunday electorate was 37 weeks (31 allocations), whereas, the average wait time for applicants allocated public housing in Queensland as a whole was 1 year and 9.5 weeks (4,501 allocations).

1494. Redcliffe-Caboolture Health District

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Health (28/10/99)—

With reference to the Redcliffe/Caboolture health district—

What is the (a) level of funding for homecare in the district (i) this quarter and (ii) annually, (b) number of hours of homecare service provided between 1 July and 30 September, (c) average number of hours of homecare service provided each quarter during 1998, (d) number of clients who received homecare services between 1 July and 30 September, (e) average number of clients who received a homecare service during each quarter of 1998, (f) number of staff hours utilised in direct service provision, per week, across the district and (g) estimated date when previous service levels will be reinstated?

Mrs EDMOND (29/11/99): The Home and Community Care (HACC) budget for the 1999/2000 financial year for home care services in the Redcliffe-Caboolture is \$1,499,301. This represents an increase of approximately 9% on the previous year.

As outlined in previous Ministerial correspondence to the Member for Caboolture, an ongoing process of review ensures that the services can be targeted towards those people who are at most risk of premature admission to residential care. This is in compliance with the HACC National Guidelines as determined by the Commonwealth. Clients are able to reapply for home care services at any stage should their needs change.

1495. Stipendiary Magistrates

Mr PAFF asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (28/10/99)—

- (1) How many stipendiary magistrates are currently working in Queensland courts?
- (2) As previously indicated by him, how many relieving magistrates is he intending to appoint?
- (3) During such appointments (a) with relation to ability and training, what will be the selection criteria used, (b) in the event of an appointment, at what pay level of magistrate would that appointment be made, (c) what length of time would the relief period be made, (d) what special package of remuneration would be made ie travel, overnight, accommodation and travelling allowance and (e) how will this improve the justice system?

Mr FOLEY (29/11/99):

(1) Currently, there are 73 full-time magistrates appointed in Queensland.

(2) Subsection 6(1) of the Stipendiary Magistrates Act 1991 allows the Governor in Council to appoint a clerk of the court to act as a Magistrate. The Chief Stipendiary Magistrate then directs duly appointed clerks to relieve as necessary. The issue of the appointment of permanent part-time Magistrates has arisen and I have asked my Department to examine it.

(3) If these questions relate to the appointment of part-time Magistrates, they are premature in light of my response to question (2).

1496. Land Valuations

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (28/10/99)—

With reference to inequalities in the valuation system, particularly in relation to rural properties lying adjacent to urban development—

- (1) What protection to these bona fide farmers to prevent overvaluation due to over zealous city buyers is being considered by his department?
- (2) Is he aware that some of these farmers are changing their farming practice and focus and as a result of this, have had their concessional rating removed by some of his valuers and properties being reassessed as home sites?
- (3) What checks does his department take to protect landowners against the intimidatory tactics often used by his valuers over valuation disputes?
- (4) How often does his department move valuers between districts to prevent such incidents of intimidation and overfamiliarisation?

Mr WELFORD (29/11/99):

(1) My Department of Natural Resources provides statutory valuations for rating and taxing purposes in accordance with the Valuation of Land Act 1944. Section 17 of the Act allows land used exclusively for farming to be valued as such, regardless of any higher potential use. My Department's sales investigation process ensures that only sales of properties bought for farming purposes by informed purchasers are used as a basis for valuation.

(2) The concession for farming is not given in perpetuity. My Department's valuers monitor how land is being used. To obtain the Section 17 concession, farming business must be the dominant use of the land and have a significant and substantial commercial purpose. In addition, farming must be carried out on a continuous, "for profit", basis. A change in land use can lead to the loss of the concession and the property being reassessed as a rural homesite.

(3) I refute the suggestion that my Department's valuers engage in intimidatory tactics. My Department employs professional valuers who are bound by a code of ethical conduct that requires they undertake their dealings with respect for other

people. Moreover the system has a number of formal checks in place to address disputed valuations. Landowners who feel aggrieved by the valuations of their properties have a number of protections under the Valuation of Land Act 1944. A landowner may object to a new valuation and seek a conference to discuss their concerns with a delegate of my Department's Chief Executive as well as the valuer who determined the valuation. The delegate's role is to chair the conference and ensure a fair and impartial hearing. If dissatisfied with the delegate's decision on an objection, a landowner may appeal to the Land Court for the matter to be determined. The Court's procedures are relatively informal and landowners may present their own cases. The Court does not usually charge landowners for hearing valuation appeals.

In addition my Department's managers are readily available to address any particular concerns of landowners.

(4) My Department's valuers are managed through its State Valuation Service which undertakes training programs to ensure valuers are appropriately qualified and experienced. There is no formal rotation program for valuation staff. The movement of valuers between districts is generally undertaken at departmental convenience to satisfy work requirements.

1497. Health Department; Ms M. Johnson

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Health (28/10/99)—

- (1) Will she explain under what power and authority does Mary Johnson (Tablelands District Health Manager) have to direct [name withheld] to undergo medical (psychiatric) tests prior to evidence being put forward demonstrating 'reasonable cause' for concern in determining that diminishing performance is apparent?
- (2) Under the current code of conduct, what considerations are given to the misuse of diminishing performance standards for employees and service providers?
- (3) Under the code of conduct, how is the service user's privacy and the service provider's privacy protected?
- (4) Why does she believe I, as the Member for Tablelands, should not represent my constituent?

Mrs EDMOND (29/11/99):

(1) The authority to direct an employee to attend for a medical examination lies within IR Circular 118/92 which is a determination made by the Chief Executive pursuant to Section 28(2) of the Health Services Act 1991.

(2) The Code of Conduct is applicable to all Queensland Health employees. It is the responsibility of all employees, including those in supervisory roles, to act in accordance with the code.

1498. Stuart Prison

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Health (28/10/99)—

With reference to Stuart Prison in Townsville—

Will she advise what mental health services are available at the prison?

Mrs EDMOND (29/11/99): If Stuart Prison officers require an assessment of a prisoner the Government Medical Officer is called to undertake primary assessment. If necessary the prisoner can be referred for an outpatients appointment either at the Cambridge Street Community Mental Health Service or the Acute Mental Health Unit attached to Townsville General Hospital. Permission from the Director of Integrated Mental Health Service has to be given for a prisoner to be admitted to the Acute Unit. If necessary, admission under guard occurs.

Private Practitioners are available to Stuart Prison for medical assessment and psychologists are employed by the Correctional Services Department.

Should a prisoner require treatment in a Secure Mental Health Unit, the closest Unit is the John Oxley Hospital in Brisbane and prisoners are transferred to that facility.

There is a Mental Health Nurse who visits the Watchhouse, when required.

The Mental Health Service is currently seeking to recruit a Senior Nurse and a Social Worker to provide Court liaison /assessment process for prisoners prior to sentencing.

In the medium term (2001), a Secure Mental Health facility is to be built in Townsville adjacent to the new Townsville Hospital to accommodate 31 clients. This will also assist when it is necessary to hospitalise a prisoner who requires hospitalisation for a mental illness.

1499. Susan River, Fish Habitat

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (28/10/99)—

With reference to the Susan River fish habitat and the biting midge—

- (1) Is the Government considering extending the Susan River fish habitat area (at the Great Sandy Straits), as shown on the Plan No 015-048A, to include part of, or the whole of, public reserve?
- (2) Does the State Government recognise that the biting midge is a health problem?

Mr WELFORD (29/11/99):

(1) Fish Habitat Areas, such as that at Susan River, are the responsibility of the Department of Primary Industries. This question should be forwarded to the Minister for Primary Industries, The Honourable Henry Palaszczuk.

(2) Biting midge is not recognised as a vector of human disease. Therefore it is not considered to be a health problem but is classified as a nuisance

species. This question should be referred to The Honourable Wendy Edmond, Minister for Health.

1500. Fish Habitats

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (28/10/99)—

Considering the steady loss of competent staff during the last five years, and the decrease in his Budget, does he think his department will now be able to institute effective long term monitoring, and thus develop well researched plans, following extensive consultation with all the stakeholders, for our State's fisheries habitats; if so, how?

Mr PALASZCZUK (25/11/99): In response to the Member's question, I would advise that:

Staff assigned to Fish Habitat Projects and Management within the Fisheries Group, Department of Primary Industries (DPI) have been increased over the last few years with the establishment of a condition and trend unit, 1.5 full-time positions specifically for the gazettal of Fish Habitat Areas (FHAs) and most recently a full-time Marine Fish Habitat Research Coordinator. A total of thirty full-time positions are now involved in Fisheries Habitat issues within the DPI.

A DPI seagrass watch program has also been established with community involvement in Hervey Bay and North Queensland to monitor local seagrass beds. This program has been well accepted and requests are being received for further expansion to other parts of the coast.

Two monitoring teams have been established to document fish community and habitat information for selected species in six coastal systems.

The condition and trend unit has recently released its first report on the status of fish habitats in Queensland. The report provides a vital baseline for management and research both within Fisheries and other arms of Government.

Recent workshops have been conducted to develop a Marine Fish Habitat Research Strategy to enhance the Primary Industries Department's research efforts in this important area.

Mapping of marine vegetation for the coastline is seventy percent completed and will be finished by the end of 2001.

Habitat information is being incorporated within Management Plans for specific Fisheries.

Additional FHAs are being declared, the most recent being the Burdekin FHA of approximately 90,000 hectares.

1501. South Burnett, Health Services

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health (28/10/99)—

With reference to the document produced by Carthy Project Strategies, dated October 1998 and titled 'South Burnett Health Service District Review of Functional Plan for Provision of Health Services' and

the document issued to the community representatives by the South Burnett Health Services titled 'Nanango Working Group' which show exactly the same outlook for the hospital—

- (1) Does she still stand by her previous statements in this House that the Carthy Project Strategies document does not reflect the true intent of the Health Department?
- (2) Does she still stand by her statement delivered at the opening of the new entrance to the Kingaroy Base Hospital where she guaranteed the people of Nanango and surrounding districts that the Nanango Hospital would not be downgraded in its services?

Mrs EDMOND (29/11/99):

(1) The document has not been endorsed by Queensland Health.

(2) The Nanango Hospital will not be downgraded. I have just visited the Nanango Hospital. I met with deputations from Nanango during the community cabinet meeting at Kingaroy on 14 & 15 November to confirm this. The process being undertaken by the Health Service District is an opportunity for the hospital to upgrade to a level of service delivery that meets the community's health needs into the future. The Nanango Working Group (which has only a one-third membership of health service staff) is well advanced in its deliberations about the actual health needs of the community.

1502. Rockhampton, Mental Health Service

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (28/10/99)—

Will she outline the circumstances of a child being allegedly admitted to the Rockhampton Mental Health Unit without a doctor's approval and, if this is correct, what action is she taking?

Mrs EDMOND (29/11/99): The child in question was receiving weekend respite provided by a non-government organisation. The child was showing aggressive behaviour to staff and his mother, which was unable to be controlled. The child's parents refused to take the child home at that point and the respite service was unable to keep the child at the centre.

The Regional Director of Families, Youth and Community Care contacted the District Manager, Rockhampton Health Service District to ask for urgent assistance with emergency accommodation for one night at the District Mental Health Facility. The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care indicated they would be able to make other arrangements on the Monday morning.

The District Manager agreed and asked the nurse manager to arrange the admission with the staff of the Mental Health Service. The psychiatrist on call rang the District Manager and she outlined the situation to the doctor on call.

As the situation was considered critical, I am advised by the Director-General that the decision was appropriate.

1503. Industrial Commission, Transcript of Proceedings

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

With reference to page 22 of the MPS for DETIR—

What was the nature of the transcript work performed below market value and who performed such work?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99): The Department of Justice and Attorney General provided the services of court reporters to document proceedings in the Industrial Commission.

1504. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

With reference to page 11 of the MPS for DETIR—

- (1) What was the nature and scope of work performed by his department on behalf of the Department of Housing and what was the cost of such work?
- (2) To which office refurbishments does Note 5 relate and what was the total cost of these refurbishments and who performed them?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99):

(1) The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations acted as a broker for the Department of Housing to distribute Community Renewal Program funds from that Department for the Westfalen project at Ipswich. These funds were provided in conjunction with Community Jobs Plan funds from the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations. The work was administrative in detail and no costs were recorded for this activity.

(2) The office refurbishment relates to the Employment Initiatives component of the fitout and relocation costs for 75 William Street. The total costs for fitout and relocation for this output area was \$104,826. The Department of Public Works performed the work.

1505. Employment Programs

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

With reference to page 9 of the MPS reports that in 1998-99 58 per cent of employment initiatives were delivered outside South East Queensland and in 1999-2000 it is estimated that 46 per cent of these placements will be outside south east Queensland.

What is the reason for this reduction and which regions will have fewer job placements in 1999-2000?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99): 58% represents the actual proportion of placements delivered outside South East Queensland on projects approved during 1998/99 under the Community Jobs Plan and Community Employment Assistance Program.

The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations has established 46% as a minimum target for 1999/00, as this figure approximates the proportion of unemployed people residing outside of South East Queensland.

While the Department targets areas of high unemployment and seeks to achieve a spread of projects throughout the State, the location of funded projects is determined by the quantity and quality of applications developed by local community based not-for-profit organisations or local government authorities.

Fourteen Community Jobs Priorities Committees have been established throughout the State to evaluate all projects and provide independent and locally based advice on the priorities for funding in each of the areas. The membership of these Committees includes representatives from the community, local government, employers, employees, and State Government agencies.

1506. Rural Fire Brigades

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services (28/10/99)—

With reference to the 30 per cent (\$16m) increase in the Rural Fire Service Budget—

Will this increased funding be used to reduce the financial burden on district services by fully funding the purchase of equipment (new and replacement), full uniforms including boots and petrol for vehicles to fulfil their duties instead of having to raise further funding from the community who already pay an annual fire levy?

Mrs ROSE (29/11/99): Rural Fire Brigades are community self help organisations. Communities which elect to establish a Rural Fire Brigade also undertake to support that Brigade. Brigade volunteers undertaking fundraising exercises in addition to their firefighting duties have historically supported the funding for brigades. The Government via the Rural Fire Service (RFS) contributes to the operations of more than 1600 brigades across the state by making equipment available at subsidised prices and providing training and administrative support. Furthermore, some local Governments impose a rural fire levy to assist the Rural Fire Brigades in their shire with their day to day operational expenditure.

For the 1999-2000 financial year funding for the Rural Fire Service has been set at \$16.4M, with \$9.8M being allocated to operating expenses and \$6.6M allocated to capital expenditure. This is an increase of \$4.5M or 38% over the 1998/1999 allocation not a \$16 million increase as suggested in the Members' question. This additional funding will help provide our volunteers with vital support to undertake the various tasks of fire mitigation and fire suppression in rural Queensland.

This financial year a total of \$2.365M has been allocated to provide essential firefighting and safety equipment to our volunteers.

Personal protective equipment is provided free of charge to Rural Brigade volunteers (overalls, helmets,

gloves, goggles and facemasks). Boots are provided at a 50% subsidy. This year \$0.51M has been allocated.

General firefighting equipment, such as hoses, knapsacks, rake-hoes and drip torches, is available to brigades at a 50% subsidy with \$1.855M being allocated.

Fuel is considered an operating cost, which is provided by the Brigade. In Shires where the Rural Fire Levy is imposed, the cost of the fuel is allocated from this fund. In other Shires the Councils on an ad hoc, as needs basis donate fuel to the Brigades.

A Base Vehicle Program to provide brigades with an initial or an additional appliance to match their risk profile is in place. Both Light and Medium Attack Appliances are provided under this program with an allocation of \$2.023M this year.

\$4.14M has been allocated to the Veteran Replacement Program in 1999-2000. The aim is to reduce the fleet age to less than 20 years by 2006.

It is anticipated that a total of approximately 148 Light and Medium Appliances will be provided to Rural Fire Brigades in 1999/2000. This figure includes 24 Light Attack Appliances carried over from 1998-1999. Brigades contribute 20% of the final cost of these vehicles.

\$355,000 has been allocated to the RFS for the 1999/2000 financial year to assist brigades in constructing fire stations. On behalf of brigades the RFS will bear all costs of land acquisition including legal and associated costs, survey charges and statutory fees.

This Government's commitment to the Rural Fire Service is rock-solid. Much progress has been made in two Labor budgets to recognise the magnificent work performed by our rural volunteers.

1507. Viviani Report

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

What action, if any, does he intend to take to follow up on Professor Viviani's comments on the \$176,000 Bannikoff Report when she states "in reconstructing the policy process, there is one remaining gap in the lack of attention paid to quality issues, despite lip service to the ideal and a touching faith in national quality guidelines evident in the Report"?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99): Professor Viviani's comments were supported by the Independent Investigation into the Quality of Training in Queensland's Traineeship System, which confirmed the need to address quality issues. The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations is addressing the investigation's findings.

1508. Apprentices and Trainees

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

- (1) Why did his department fail to deliver 191 jobs through the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund (budgeted 370 and created 253), the Housing Industry Trade Training program (budgeted 70 and created 67) and the provision of subsidies to employ additional apprentices in the public sector (budgeted 500 and created 429)?
- (2) Is he aware that he has failed to deliver more than 20 per cent of the jobs promised under these programs?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99): (1 & 2) The Building and Construction Industry Training Fund (the Fund) is not administered by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations. It is administered by Industry through Construction Training Queensland to meet industry needs.

I am advised that as of 25 June 1999, the Fund had approved incentive payments to employers for a total of 253 additional apprentices and trainees for the 1998/99 financial year. This was the figure that featured in the Ministerial Portfolio Statement against a target of 370.

The collection of exact data on the number of additional apprentices employed as a result of the Fund will always experience at least a 3-month lag because apprentices are only counted after they complete their probationary period.

I am further advised that as at 30 June 1999, 337 additional apprentices and trainees and an allocation to employers in excess of \$1.3 million had been achieved. Given that the Fund did not begin operations until 1 January this year, this is a significant achievement in its first 6 months of operation.

The Housing Industry Trade Training program did not officially start until 1 October 1998 and it took some time to identify additional suitable housing projects. As a result a number of projects were not started until later in the financial year. The achievement of 67 only falls short of the target by 3 apprenticeships, which represents an achievement of 95.7%

The 500 additional apprenticeship places were budgeted for across four financial years. 429 actual placements were achieved in the first year.

1509. Viviani Report

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

With reference to one of the terms of reference given to Professor Viviani which was to identify what functions should be retained within the department to be exercised on behalf of the Government—

Which specific governmental functions the Professor indicated in her 3 page \$6,500 report should be retained and exercised within the department, rather than being devolved to TAFE?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99): Governance arrangements are set out in the TAFE Queensland Constitution and include all the functions of my

department and Institutes. A copy of the document is available upon request.

1510. WorkCover

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

As he was obviously confused by Question on Notice No. 1163 and as neither it, nor the original question (No. 367) which he failed to answer adequately, asked whether he was satisfied with the advice he received from WorkCover is he now able to adequately and professionally answer Question on Notice No. 1163?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99): The answer to Question on Notice 1163 stands.

1511. TAFE

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 1319 and as undoubtedly the TAFE Institute's directors and councils involved would have gone through the preliminary steps he mentions, prior to their decision to outsource the activities referred to and as such preliminary considerations are irrelevant to the Question which was actually asked—

Will he provide a list of the potential savings as calculated by the institute directors and councils?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99): My answer to the previous Question on Notice stands.

1512. Worongary/Mudgeeraba, Ambulance Station

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Emergency Services (28/10/99)—

On the basis that she has made public commitment to a new 24 hour ambulance station at Worongary/Mudgeeraba and that there is no funding allocation in the Budget nor capital works program, will she explain (a) where the money is coming from, (b) how much will the facility cost, (c) how many ambulance officers will be allocated and (d) what it will cost to run on an annual basis?

Mrs ROSE (29/11/99):

(a) The QAS has a capital works allocation in the 2000/2001 financial year of \$100,000 to renovate the existing building and establish new amenities. Paramedics are now using the plant room for undercover vehicle parking. They are using the station kitchen, toilet facilities and office space and are establishing their own gym.

(b) A demountable building has been placed at Worongary/Mudgeeraba to provide additional accommodation until the station extensions are completed. The facility was provided by the QFRA. A total of \$18,000 has been allocated for

refurbishment to the existing building, of which \$7000 has been expended to date.

(c) Ten Paramedics are located at the station.

(d) Annual recurrent costs to maintain service delivery from the Worongary/Mudgeeraba Station will approximately total \$600,000.

1513. Ambulance Stations

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (28/10/99)—

With reference to the proposed new ambulance stations to be constructed during 1999-2000 in such areas as Agnes Waters, North Coast and Brisbane's western suburbs—

Is it planned or foreseen that these new stations will replace, supersede or directly lead to the closure of any existing stations within the surrounding area of these new stations; if so, will she list the stations which will be affected within the next three financial years?

Mrs ROSE (29/11/99): Agnes Waters is a new station and as such no plans for this station involve the closure of any existing station within the surrounding area, either now or in the next three years.

The North Coast Region plans to build two new stations on the Sunshine Coast in the 1999-2000 financial year. Both of these facilities will replace existing stations. The North Coast Region has no plans to close any of its stations without replacement.

The plans for the South-West area of Brisbane centre on construction of three ambulance stations and the closure of the poorly-located Oxley station. The net effect will be two new stations for the South-West which will be over and above current levels. They will be strategically located to provide maximum coverage and will enhance and improve service delivery and response times. Future plans include the sourcing and purchase of land to be finalised in the 2000/2001 financial year. Completion of the building of both ambulance stations will occur during the 2001/2002 financial year.

1514. Lang Park, Police Citizens Youth Club

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (28/10/99)—

With reference to the PCYC located adjacent to Lang Park and the plan to relocate this facility as part of the Lang Park Redevelopment Project—

- (1) What is the projected cost of this relocation?
- (2) Is this cost already included in the overall project budget?
- (3) Where is it planned to relocate this facility to?
- (4) Has the site already been purchased; if not, when is it planned to purchase an alternate site?
- (5) What is the quantum of any compensation being paid to the PCYC due to this forced relocation?

Mr GIBBS (26/11/99): (1-5) There is no plan to relocate the PCYC.

1515. Justice and Attorney-General Portfolio, Remuneration Packages

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (28/10/99)—

With reference to each person earning more than \$100,000 per annum within each of the statutory authorities and other organisations in his portfolio—

Listed by job title and employer (a) what is the dollar value, including components and bonuses of remuneration packages, (b) when were these packages negotiated and (c) when do they expire?

Mr FOLEY (29/11/99): Attached is the list requested. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1516. Police Resources

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (28/10/99)—

With reference to answers to recent Questions on Notice regarding police to population ratios—

Are (a) police positions allocated but vacant and (b) officers on leave, included or excluded from the numbers when working out the ratio?

Mr BARTON (29/11/99): The actual strength of the Queensland Police Service, as opposed to the funded or established strength, is used when calculating the police to population ratio. Accordingly—

- (a) Positions that are vacant at the time the ratio is calculated are excluded from the police to population ratio; and
- (b) Officers on leave at that time are included in the calculation.

1517. New Years Eve, Taxis

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (28/10/99)—

- (1) Is he aware that taxi drivers are threatening strike action if they are not permitted to charge a \$20 premium for all fares on New Years Eve?
- (2) Does he support the charging of this premium?

Mr BREDHAUER (29/11/99):

(1) I am aware of public statements by some taxi drivers in the South East corner of the State to the effect that they are considering not working on New Years Eve unless they are permitted to charge a \$20 premium on all fares.

(2) No.

1518. Gympie, Queensland Transport

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (28/10/99)—

With reference to the eight week plus "wait time" for licence testing being experienced at the Gympie office of Queensland Transport—

Is he aware of the extent of the waiting time and when can Gympie be assured of an increase in the number of driver testers to meet requirements?

Mr BREDHAUER (29/11/99): The Minister is aware of the wait times and the difficulties caused to many members of the community, and regards the resolution of this issue as a matter of urgency.

A package of measures has been developed and designed to ensure a sustainable solution to lengthy waiting times for driver tests. Consultation on the package has commenced and includes driving examiners, driver trainers, RACQ, State Public Services Federation (Queensland) and regional management of Queensland Transport.

A project team has been established to further develop and implement the changes to the driver testing process. It is expected that changes to the testing process will be in place during November 1999.

1519. TAFE

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

- (1) Compared to 1998-99, what is the estimated percentage increase in TAFE enrolments?
- (2) What was the student/teacher ratio for TAFE Queensland during 1998-99 and what is the estimated student/teacher ratio for 1999-2000?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99):

(1) Student enrolments in TAFE Queensland are calculated on a calendar year basis. For 1998 student enrolments were 343,158. Estimated student enrolments for 1999 are 377,205. Therefore the estimated percentage increase in enrolments from 1998 to 1999 is almost 10%.

(2) A statistic which measures student/teacher ratio is meaningless in TAFE Queensland.

The number of teaching staff in TAFE Queensland changes on a daily basis due to the varied range of programs offered through the direct grant, user choice, competitive purchasing, fee for service and adult and community education programs. Teaching staff may be full-time, part-time or casual and have varying programmed teacher contact hours and a broad range of delivery strategies with students.

Student numbers will also vary from day to day with 'rolling start' enrolments, workplace delivery and assessment, flexible delivery through on-line facilities and delivery interstate and internationally.

TAFE Institutes cannot be compared to schools where changes in enrolments are minimal, class sizes are reasonably static and the number of staff involved in teaching is relatively stable.

1520. SEVS Program

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

With reference to the now defunct SEVS program—

- (1) During 1998-99, how much outstanding loan money was recouped?
- (2) How much was written off as a bad debt?
- (3) What further sum is currently outstanding?
- (4) What percentage of the total number of SEVS loan clients is represented by the 850 who were in arrears and to whom letters were sent in November 1998?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99):

- (1) \$2,706,008
- (2) \$1,751,939
- (3) \$876,738
- (4) 30.97%. If taken as a percentage of the number of active loan accounts, at 1 November 1998 the figure is 64.94%.

1521. Electricity Industry, Fatalities

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (28/10/99)—

- (1) How many fatalities have occurred that can be attributed to problems associated with the electricity transmission system in the last 10 years?
- (2) Will he provide details of where they occurred and the reason for the fatality?
- (3) Will he provide information regarding accidents to workers and the general public with incidents relating to the transmission system over the last 10 years?
- (4) What investigations were carried out and what were the findings of any inquiries held?

Mr McGRADY (1/12/99):

- (1) For the period 29/10/89 to 29/10/99, there were no fatalities relating to problems with the electricity transmission system, however there were 39 fatalities relating to the electricity distribution system.
- (2) As there were no fatalities relating to the transmission system there is no relevant information. In relation to fatalities relating to the distribution system, the information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my Department. This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland. If the Honourable Member has a more specific question, I would be happy to provide relevant information. Electrical fatality statistics are included in the accident statistics produced annually by my Department. I would be happy to arrange for the Honourable Member to receive a copy.
- (3) I am advised that there were 23 recorded electrical accidents associated with transmission systems between 29/10/89 and 29/10/99 relating to electrical workers. I am advised that there were 23 recorded electrical accidents associated with transmission systems between 29/10/89 and 29/10/99

relating to persons who were not electrical workers. I am advised that there were 120 recorded electrical accidents associated with the distribution systems between 29/10/89 and 29/10/99 relating to electrical workers. I am advised that there were 2303 recorded electrical accidents between 29/10/89 and 29/10/99 relating to persons who were not electrical workers.

(4) Each reported electrical accident is investigated by an "authorised person" (electrical inspector). Reported accidents are also investigated by an inspector from the Division of Workplace Health and Safety. The information sought by the Honourable Member relating to the results of investigations and findings would require a vast amount of time and research by my Department.

This would be an expensive and indefensible waste of taxpayers funds which should be used for the delivery of top quality services to the people of Queensland. If the Honourable Member has a more specific question, I would be happy to provide relevant information. Electrical accident statistics are produced annually by my Department. I would be happy to arrange for the Honourable Member to receive a copy.

1522. Suncorp-Metway Stadium

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (28/10/99)—

Will he provide details of the individuals who made up the panel which assessed the tenders for a proposed super stadium in Brisbane and that eventually recommended Suncorp Metway Stadium?

Mr GIBBS (26/11/99): In announcing the Suncorp-Metway Stadium as the preferred site, Cabinet considered the results of a site selection comparison undertaken by a CEO's Steering Committee consisting of the Directors-General of the following Departments: Department of Premier & Cabinet; Department of Tourism, Sport & Racing; Department of Public Works; Department of Transport; Queensland Treasury; and Department of State Development. The Brisbane City Council were also involved in the initial review of the site development proposals.

The Queensland Government undertook a comprehensive assessment of major site selection issues in determining that Lang Park was the Queensland Government's preferred site on the basis of both qualitative and quantitative factors.

1523. Regional Forest Agreement

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (28/10/99)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's Southeast Queensland Forests Stakeholder/Government Agreement and his announced intention (Part 2.2) to immediately implement a strategy to develop substantial native hardwood plantations by planting 10 million trees over 10,000 hectares to provide alternate timber supplies to replace the 425,000 hectares set aside as additional reserve—

- (1) What plantings have been undertaken since the signing of that agreement?
- (2) Will he provide a breakdown of the areas identified for this plantation development and the timing of those plantings?
- (3) Will they be on private land, public land or a combination of both?
- (4) Will he introduce legislation to provide security of resource ownership for private landholders establishing plantations; if so, when?
- (5) What incentives are being offered for private plantation development?
- (6) When will the jobs in plantation development that the Government has referred to be advertised and how many has he projected will be required?
- (7) Will priority be given to timber workers who are displaced from their jobs as a result of the Government's forest deal?

Mr PALASZCZUK (25/11/99):

1. Since the announcement of the Government's Plan for the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement (SEQRFA) in September, a range of actions supporting hardwood plantation development have been initiated by the Government in collaboration with stakeholders. viz;

- (a) A draft hardwood plantation development framework and associated implementation plan has been developed.
- (b) A companion Research, Development and Extension plan has also been drawn up.
- (c) A plantation draft project manager has been appointed to manage and implement a range of field and other supporting activities, some of which have already commenced. These included identification of suitable areas, site preparation and contacts with private landholders regarding joint venture plantation investments.

2. Within the SEQRFA boundary four broad hardwood plantation development zones have been identified: Miriam Vale, Boonah-Beaudesert, Kilcoy-Lockyer-Brisbane Valleys, and Gympie-Maryborough

Other lands within the RFA area will be considered if they are of strategic significance to the future of the native forest timber industry. To date some 1000 hectares are being targeted for the 1999/2000 establishment program.

A total of around 7000 hectares of hardwood plantations are expected to be established over the next 4 to 5 years as a direct result of Queensland Government activity on both Crown and private lands. A substantial increase in private hardwood plantation activity is also expected as a result of the catalyst provided by the SEQRFA related funding package.

3. All plantation tenures and arrangements will be considered as contributing to the plantation transition goal under SEQRFA viz: Crown

plantations, private plantations and partnership arrangements involving both private and public lands.

4. Harvest security is available now through the Integrated Planning Act. When a forestry project is approved through the local government planning scheme all forestry activities contained in that project are exempt from any further controls, ie, harvesting of trees grown under an approved project is assured.

5. Consistent with the Government's commitment under the Plantations 2020 vision a central objective in plantations is to shift a large part of the burden for future plantation expansion from the public to the private sector over time. Accordingly one of the key aims in Government plantation expenditure is to reduce the level of perceived risk in long term private sector investment in plantations. Both R & D and extension have a large part to play in overcoming these perceptions.

In addition a range of other actions, some of which are already in train will be refocused to further enhance the private sector investment climate including:

- (a) Preparation of land suitability maps and other information and advice for investors at a more detailed level than hitherto undertaken.
- (b) Continuation of existing work in ensuring that genuine plantation investments are not commercially disadvantaged by liability for stamp duty or requirements for non commercial survey standards where a profit-a-prendre right is registered on a land title.

6. The focus on early plantation development is on seedling production and plantation establishment. (At present seed collection and supply contracts are being organised for approximately 1.1 million hardwood seedlings for planting in February/March). This will result in additional job support in both nurseries and plantation operations. Expression of Interest for this activity will be advertised during November.

7. Job opportunities will be provided as a priority for timber workers who have been impacted by Boral's exit from their Queensland hardwood operations.

1524. Legal Aid Queensland

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (28/10/99)—

Will he provide a breakdown of the number of cases handled by Legal Aid within the jurisdiction of Queensland's State Courts for each year from 1995-96 to 1998-99 as well as a projection for 1999-2000, along with the total amount of Legal Aid funding spent for each of these years allocated for cases within Queensland's State Courts along with a projection for 1999-2000?

Mr FOLEY (29/11/99): Legal Aid Queensland, like its predecessor the Legal Aid Commission of Queensland, publishes comprehensive annual reports. Those reports disclose by law type the number of applications approved and the number of

cases handled in-house and the payments to private practitioners.

1525. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

With reference to part 2 of his response to Question on Notice No. 1052 in which he has confused "potential recipients" with "applicants"—

- (1) Will he now indicate the total number of trainees and apprentices who would be eligible to receive the specified start-up assistance (ie. the number of potential recipients of the subsidy.)?
- (2) What reasons has his department given for the small number of trainees and apprentices availing themselves of this financial assistance?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99):

(1) The program is demand driven. It is not possible to project potential numbers accurately.

(2) Most apprenticeships and traineeships are covered by industrial relations arrangements which stipulate that the employer must provide essential tools and equipment to their apprentices. Thus, the start-up program is intended to fill a gap which exists in only a few apprenticeships and traineeships.

1526. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

With reference to his Question on Notice No. 1140 in which he indicated, "The Department is consulting with ANTA and a considered response will be provided as soon as possible."—

As most of the current year has elapsed, why is his department now consulting with ANTA in relation to these matters and why is he still unable to provide the statistical information required?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99): In the interests of accuracy and thoroughness, it was necessary to consult the Australian National Training Authority since the figures referred to were national figures supplied by the Authority.

The information sought by Mr Connor and you is:

- a) 3,000
- b) 35,000
- c) 39,803.

1527. Public Housing

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (28/10/99)—

With reference to public housing identified as "untenantable" for September—

Will he provide, by area office, a total and a breakdown of houses by the following categories (a) houses awaiting planned maintenance, (b) houses

awaiting upgrade, (c) houses included as part of an urban renewal, (d) houses beyond repair and (e) houses awaiting disposal?

Mr SCHWARTEN (29/11/99): See Attachment A for a breakdown of Vacant Untenantable dwellings by area office and classification type as at 30 September 1999. It is important to note that vacancy categories specified were not identical to vacancy codes used by the Department of Housing and therefore a "best fit" to existing codes was determined to most accurately respond to the question.

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1528. Employment Task Force

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

Will he table the report by Dr David Warner of the Employment Taskforce which indicates that "Australia, it would appear, lacks the strategy, the skills base, the infrastructure and sufficient awareness in regional areas of changes that are occurring in the information technology industry?"

Mr BRADY (29/11/99): There is no final report available.

1529. Eidsvold/Theodore, Timber Mills

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (28/10/99)—

With reference to the Regional Forest Agreement and the Boral owned timber mills at Eidsvold and Theodore which it is proposed will be purchased by the Government and then on sold to new operators—

Will he give the people of Eidsvold and Theodore an assurance that these timber mills will be on sold with a sufficient crown allocation to ensure they are viable operations and will he ensure those allocations cannot be purchased and transferred thus causing the closure of the timber mills in Eidsvold and Theodore?

Mr WELFORD (29/11/99): The Comprehensive Regional Assessment Unit within my Department of Natural Resources is currently developing a process to undertake a full assessment of the hardwood resource available to the sawmills at Eidsvold and Theodore in the context of maintaining a viable supply for these mills.

The Queensland Government will undertake a tender process for on selling the mills and will factor in social and community issues with the aim of ensuring continuity and continuation of operation of the mills.

1530. Viviani Report

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (28/10/99)—

What action does he intend to take to follow up on the criticism Professor Viviani makes of the \$176,000 Bannikoff Report when she states "it is not clear that the recommendations of this Report which envisages a virtual status quo in the structures of the department and in the department-TAFE relations can meet these evident problems in policy-making"?

Mr BRADY (29/11/99): The Bannikoff and Viviani Reports were endorsed in principle, by the Government, although the precise details of the implementation arrangements are determined by the department in consultation with me.

While the major thrust of the Reports has been implemented, the policy relationship between TAFE Queensland and the department is set out in the TAFE Queensland Constitution.

1531. Gaming Machines

Mr GOSS asked the Treasurer (29/10/99)—

- (1) What was the number of new poker machines approved and the number of premises receiving a licence for poker machines throughout Queensland between 1 July 1998-1 July 1999 and 1 July 1999-29 October 1999?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the above figures into each region at the abovementioned dates?

Mr HAMILL (1/12/99):

(1) Approvals 1 July 1998 to 1 July 1999: 7678 Machines—132 Sites. Approvals 1 July 1999 to 29 October 1999: 3996 Machines—45 Sites

(2) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1532. Malanda State High School

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Education (29/10/99)—

With reference to the upgrade to the manual arts facilities at Malanda State High School promised in the 1998-99 Budget and cited as a part of the Building Better Schools Program and which was used by the Treasurer as an example of how the Beattie Government was delivering on their promise but to date this project has not commenced and as the Treasurer assured me that this facility would be completed "this year" and I waited one full financial year and as I know he is passionate about education I would ask him to push Treasury into funding this promise and commencing work—

Will he use his position in Cabinet to apply pressure to the Treasurer and lobby for the proposed upgrades to the manual arts facilities at Malanda State High School?

Mr WELLS (29/11/99): The Department informs me that the Malanda State High School—Manual Arts Upgrade project was under way in 1998/99, but progress was affected by efforts to contain the cost of the project within budget. These cost increases

were attributed to enhancements requested by the school community, and it has taken considerable time to negotiate an appropriate balance between the demands of the school community and accountability for the Department to achieve cost efficiencies. Departmental officers have recently reached consensus with the school community and the project is now proceeding.

The Department informs me that funds to complete the project have been budgeted for in the 1999/2000 Capital Works Program with a budget of \$681,386. The project is currently undergoing final review to meet Education Queensland's requirements in terms of the Cooler Schools Program and various Workplace Health and Safety issues which now need to be addressed.

The Department informs me that it is expected that documentation will be finalised in the next few weeks and that the project will go to tender and be awarded to contract prior to Christmas.

1533. Independents, Research Staff

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (29/10/99)—

With reference to the equitable availability of research and support staff and the huge increase of over \$50m to the Budget for his department, increasing his staff to over 700, surely the law of diminishing returns must start to come into play—

- (1) Would not the State be better served by allocating a researcher to each of the five Independents who currently do not have research staff?
- (2) Does he actually believe the derogatory comments of his parliamentary colleagues, made inside and outside this House, concerning the ability of the independents to read, think and comprehend?

Mr BEATTIE (24/11/99):

(1) Any request for additional resources is a matter for consideration by the Speaker under section 1.3 of the Members' Entitlements Handbook. I do not intend to give consideration to matters that should properly be determined by the Speaker.

(2) I respect the right of all Parliamentarians to express their views.

1534. Cannon Hill Abattoir

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Primary Industries (29/10/99)—

Will this Government guarantee that if Australian Country Choice resume processing at the Cannon Hill abattoir that they will be restricted to killing beef and excluding pork to protect those abattoirs already processing pork?

Mr PALASZCZUK (25/11/99): No.

1535. Solicitors Complaints Tribunal

Mr PAFF asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (29/10/99)—

With reference to misconduct of solicitors—

- (1) Will he indicate how many complaints have been made to the Solicitors Complaints Tribunal in the last two years?
- (2) How many of those complaints were in relation to misappropriated moneys?
- (3) What are his plans to increase the Solicitors' Fidelity Trust Fund and how would this be achieved?

Mr FOLEY (29/11/99):

- (1) These statistics are to be found in the Legal Ombudsman's Annual Reports which have been tabled.
- (2) Such analysis is included in those Annual Reports.
- (3) The Queensland Law Society Amendment Bill 1999 was introduced on 27 August 1999 and, on enactment, would enable the Council of the Law Society to levy practitioners for the purposes of the Legal Practitioners' Fidelity Guarantee Fund. It would also enhance the viability of the Fund by excluding claims on the Fund for moneys placed with solicitors for investment purposes.

1536. Apprentices and Trainees

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to his ministerial statement of 27 October where he stated that in the past twelve months nearly \$9m has been paid to employers for taking on more than 3,100 new apprentices and more than 2,300 new trainees in the private sector—

- (1) What is the break-up of these new apprentices per building trade in the building and construction industry?
- (2) What is the cap placed on the number of new apprentices who will receive Government assistance per each building trade and construction each financial year?
- (3) Why does the BCITF (Qld) office keep on advertising in trade journals with the full knowledge that the funds for that particular trade have been filled eg in the Queensland Master Plumbers Journal of June when these places had been filled by April?
- (4) What explanation can he give to those private employers who believed they would receive assistance and hired apprentices only to find they had missed the cut for that year?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99):

- (1) Boat Building—25
Bricklaying—44
Carpentry & Joinery—347
Civil Construction—2
Painting & Decorating—104
Plastering—28
Plumbing & Draining—139
Shopfitting—16
Stonemasonry—9
Tiling—54

(2) The Private Sector Employment Initiative is demand driven and there are no preset caps in any of the eligible occupations.

(3 & 4) The Building and Construction Industry Training Fund is administered by Construction Queensland and not my Department. Construction Training Queensland has advised that it advertises in a number of trade journals each month and continued to advertise in the latter months of 1998/99, as funding for some trades was still available and to generate interest by employers for the upcoming financial year.

1537. Hervey Bay, Booral Road

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (29/10/99)—

With reference to Booral Road, Wondunna which has become a significant part of the ring road through Hervey Bay and over recent months eleven accidents resulting in personal injury and one fatality have taken place on this State Government road—

- (1) Will he make emergency funding available for good work to proceed before another life is lost or devastated?
- (2) Is he aware that this road outgoing is 2.6 metres wide and incoming is 3.3 metres wide and marked by centre lines?
- (3) Is he aware that there are approximately eight school bus stops with no pull off areas along this stretch of road?
- (4) As this road services five industrial areas, the Hervey Bay and Fraser Island tip, golf course, airport, sports grounds and link road for schools and public pool and is rated at 100 kph, is this quality of road suitable for supporting this infrastructure?

Mr BREDHAUER (30/11/99): (1-4) A road safety audit of Booral Road, between Garden Drive and River Heads Road, has been completed. The audit recommended the following works, estimated to cost \$12,000, as the highest priority:

lowering of the speed limit on Booral Road, between Beck Road and Don Adams Drive, from 100 to 80 kilometres per hour;

improving the conditions and location of road warning and speed limit signs;

installing additional road edge guide posts and improved line-markings, especially on curves; and

selectively clearing vegetation to improve visibility on curves.

The Department of Main Roads will be working with Hervey Bay City Council to reassess current priorities with respect to the minor works allocation, so that work on some of these measures can start immediately.

Main Roads will submit an application for a section of Booral Road under the Federal Government's Black Spot Program for the 2000-2001 year.

1538. Grazing Leases

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (29/10/99)—

How many Crown grazing leases in Queensland are due for renewal in (a) 1999, (b) 2000, (c) 2001, (d) 2002 and (e) 2003?

Mr WELFORD (29/11/99): Records of leases over State land held in my Department of Natural Resources' Tenure Administration System indicate that 74 grazing leases (namely pastoral leases, term leases for grazing and special leases for grazing) are due for renewal over the next five years as follows:

1999:	21
2000:	14
2001:	8
2002:	13
2003:	18

1539. Breaking the Unemployment Cycle

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative and his Ministerial Statement on 27 October wherein he stated several facts including the creation of some 2,500 jobs and training places in the Brisbane North Region which included the Caboolture area—

- (1) How many actual jobs were created?
- (2) How many full time, part-time and casual jobs were created?
- (3) How many were long term and short term job positions?
- (4) How many of the 2,500 were in fact training placements?
- (5) How many of these jobs and training places were in the actual Caboolture Shire Council area?
- (6) How many of these jobs and training places were in the private sector?
- (7) How many of these jobs were in the Government sector?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99):

(1) 1,865 (232 under the Community Jobs Plan; 769 under the Private Sector Employment Initiative; and 864 under the Public Sector Employment Initiative)

(2) 1,834 full-time (232 under the Community Jobs Plan; 738 under the Private Sector Employment Initiative; and 864 under the Public Sector Employment Initiative); 23 part-time and 7 school-based apprenticeships under the Private Sector Employment Initiative; and no casuals.

(3) 232 jobs under the Community Jobs Plan for three to six months; 769 long term jobs for up to four years under the Private Sector Employment Initiative; and 864 long term jobs for up to four years under the Public Sector Employment Initiative.

(4) 627 under the Community Employment Assistance Program (NOTE—placements onto Community Jobs Plan projects and into apprenticeship and traineeship positions also involve training).

(5) 100 under Community Jobs Plan; 84 under Community Employment Assistance Program; 61 under the Private Sector Employment Initiative; and 40 under the Public Sector Employment Initiative.

(6) 232 under Community Jobs Plan (includes community organisations and group training companies); 627 under the Community Employment Assistance Program (includes community organisations, group training companies and the Sports Federation of Queensland); and 769 under the Private Sector Employment Initiative.

(7) 864.

1540. Court Circuits

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (29/10/99)—

Will he provide information relating to the number of projected circuit court operations for the Magistrates, District and Supreme Courts for 1999-2000, on a circuit by circuit basis and provide a comparison with each year since 1994-95?

Mr FOLEY (29/11/99): The Chief Justice, the Chief Judge and the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate determine the location and frequency of court circuits. The Higher Courts' annual circuits, and any amendments to those circuits are published in the Government Gazette and also made publicly available on the Internet. The Courts have yet to furnish comprehensive details of proposed circuits for 2000.

1541. Grazing Leases

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (29/10/99)—

With reference to the Estimates Committee hearings in which he referred to the addition of 425,000 hectares of Crown native forest to reserve under the Government's proposed South-east Queensland Regional Forest deal and his statement that "it is likely that a large proportion of that area will be designated national park at some time in the future"—

(1) How many hectares will be designated national park and where?

(2) How many grazing leases are within the SEQ RFA area?

(3) How many grazing leases are within the proposed reserve area?

(4) Will grazing leases within the reserve area be renewed?

Mr WELFORD (29/11/99):

(1) The SEQ RFA agreement identifies about 425,000 hectares of existing state forest for protection in a secure, comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system. It is an historic agreement

between the government, the timber industry and conservationists with input from stakeholder groups including the grazing industry. The identified land is to be placed under an interim Nature Conservation Act 1992 tenure. It is to be managed by my Department of Natural Resources while the most appropriate future tenure for the land is determined through a consultative planning process. Actual areas that will be converted to National Park are unknown until this process is finalised.

(2) There are approximately 570 current grazing leases and stock grazing permits over forestry reserves within the SEQ RFA region.

(3) There are approximately 250 current grazing leases and stock grazing permits covering about half of the 425,000 hectare SEQ RFA identified secure conservation reserve areas.

(4) Expiring grazing leases and permits within the 425,000 reserve areas will be continued until the most appropriate future tenure for the land is determined through the consultative planning process. After tenure is decided, it will then be determined if grazing is applicable. It should be noted that grazing activity already exists within areas administered under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and that it is intended that this apply to suitable grazing areas within the 425,000ha reserve.

1542. New Years Eve, Police Bonus

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (29/10/99)—

With reference to police and the community who welcome the news that police will be rostered for New Years Eve and will be paid an additional overtime payment for this work—

How long before the required pay period will local police districts be allocated the additional funds as announced or is he requiring districts to find the additional moneys from existing strained resources?

Mr BARTON (10/1/00): The New Year's bonus will be paid from existing government funding allocations, including a special funding allocation from Treasury. Any other funding considerations regarding the New Year's bonus will form part of negotiations with Queensland Treasury during the normal mid-year budget review.

1543. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

Will he provide details of expenditure by the Director General and Deputy Director General for DETIR during 1998-99 on alcohol, meals, accommodation and domestic and overseas travel, specifically outlining the cost of any "in house" hospitality provided and the number of occasions this was provided?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): I am advised as follows:

Director-General: Alcohol—\$30; Meals—\$3,935; Accommodation—\$3,457; Domestic travel—\$14,209; Overseas travel—NIL.

In-house hospitality was provided on 2 occasions at a total cost of \$59.

Deputy Director-General: Alcohol—\$107; Meals—\$773; Accommodation—\$1,231; Domestic travel—\$6,497; Overseas travel—NIL.

In-house hospitality was provided on 2 occasions at a total cost of \$59.

1544. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to the 1999 MPS for DETIR—

Given this \$2.325m variation, why is the estimated operating result for the department reported on page 43 the same as the estimated operating result derived from adding each operating statement?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): As explained in Note 1 on Page 49 of the Ministerial Portfolio Statement, totals in the Output Operating Statements may not equal totals in the Departmental Operating Statement due to intra-departmental transactions.

At the Departmental level \$2.325M of budgeted expenses and revenues in relation to intra-departmental activities have been eliminated. Consequently the estimated operating result for the department equals the estimated operating result derived from adding each output's operating result.

1545. TAFE

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to page 33 of the MPS which reports that estimated income from international students was \$3.624m less than that estimated (estimated \$13.91m in 1998-99 and received only \$10.286m).

What is the reason for this income being 26 per cent below estimate?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): The explanation is an expansion of the Note 2 on page 33 of the MPS. I am advised by TAFE Queensland that the reason for this variance is mainly due to the downturn in Asian economies. This impacted on TAFE Queensland International Program in four ways:

- (1) a 50% downturn in international students coming to Australia to study ELICOS (English Language Intensive Course of Study);
- (2) a decline in TAFE International enrolments and income by 30% resulting from the flow-on effect of the downturn in students coming to Australia to study ELICOS;
- (3) a fall in income of an estimated \$1 million associated with a number of offshore projects being put on hold; and

- (4) a sustained negative coverage for eighteen months in the Asian media due to perceptions arising from the Leader of One Nation Party's comments in relation to Asians in Australia. This had a significant detrimental effect on student enrolments particularly in Queensland, TAFE Queensland and other Queensland Education Providers in comparison to other States in Australia.

1546. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

Will he provide the names of those departmental officers who travelled overseas on official departmental business in 1998-99, the date of their return and the date on which they furnished their formal report, as required under Public Sector Regulations?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): See attached table. Under the Coalition Government the comparative figures were 144 individuals travelling overseas in 1996/97 and 122 in 1997/98. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1547. Marine Rescue Vessels

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/10/99)—

With reference to her announcement that volunteer marine rescue vessels are to be upgraded to comply with requirements of the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 1995 by 31 December 2000—

- (1) How many vessels are to be upgraded?
- (2) What is the number of vessels and their location which can be modified to meet the regulation?
- (3) What is the number and location of vessels which will have to be replaced?
- (4) What is the total cost involved in this process?

Mrs ROSE (29/11/99):

(1) The total number of vessels to be modified or replaced is 37 from a fleet of 78 vessels.

(2) The number of vessels to be modified is 15. These vessels are located at Bowen, Bribie Island, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Hervey Bay x 2, Mornington Island, Southport, Stradbroke Island, Whitsunday, Cairns, Cooktown, Innisfail, Noosa and Port Douglas.

(3) The number of vessels to be replaced is 22. These vessels are located at Weipa, Karumba, Burketown, Stradbroke Island, Currumbin, Point Danger, Aurukun, Gladstone, Raby Bay x 2, Whitsunday, Cape York, Cardwell, Ingham, Innisfail, Mooloolaba, Redcliffe, Redland Bay, Sandy Strait, Torres Strait, Tully and Yeppoon.

(4) The Government has committed \$2.5 million over the next two years for modifications or replacements to the vessels. This forecast is based on estimates

provided by the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association and by the Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland.

1548. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to the 1999 MPS for DETIR—

- (1) Will he explain why an under-calculation of \$252,000 is shown in the calculation of the actual 1998-99 operating statement?
- (2) What is the basis for this under-calculation?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): When the Department's 1998-99 actual user charge revenue of \$84,301,000 was initially allocated across outputs no allocation was made to the Employment Initiatives output. Subsequently, it was discovered that an allocation of \$252,000 should have been made to the Employment Initiatives output with a corresponding adjustment to user charges for the Vocational Education and Training Services (VET) output. This adjustment to the VET output did not take place. This meant that the Departmental total of \$84,301,000 is correct and is not under-calculated, however the figure for the VET output is overstated.

1549. South Burnett Meatworks

Mr SEENEY asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (29/10/99)—

With reference to the South Burnett Meatworks at Murgon—

- (1) How much money has his department actually paid towards the ongoing care and maintenance of this plant since receivers were appointed?
- (2) When were these payments made and to whom?
- (3) What other assistance has his department provided towards care and maintenance of the plant?
- (4) What has his department done to date and what is currently being done to assist in having this plant reopened?

Mr ELDER (25/11/99):

(1) The Department of State Development (DSD) is committed to funding up to a total of \$300,000 for care and maintenance at South Burnett Meatworks. This covers the period September, October and November 1999 or up until the next Creditors' Meeting.

The Government has also provided a deed of priority to enable the Suncorp Metway loan to the Administrators to be extended by \$400,000 to fund care and maintenance for July and August 1999.

(2) No payments have been made by DSD to date.

(3) See Answer (1)

(4) The Department has offered to support the development of a Business Plan for a viable proposal for the meat works at Murgon.

The Department also has available a range of programs to help the recommencement process and the longer-term viability of the abattoir. Programs include the Queensland Investment Development Scheme (QIDS) which can help with Business Plans and export development as well as the Queensland Meat Processing Development Initiative (QMPDI) which can support value adding projects.

Officers of the Meat Processing Task Force and officers from the regional State Development Centre continue to support the Administrator in his efforts to secure one of the proponents to purchase the abattoir.

1550. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to page 43 of the MPS in which it is reported that the equity return for the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations is \$51.215m—

What is the asset base on which this amount is calculated?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): The level of equity return funding and expense included in the Budget was based on the Department's budgeted 1999-2000 opening net asset balance and equity adjustments as estimated at 17 May 1999 of \$859.304M. This information was provided to Treasury as at 17 May in order for Treasury to prepare Whole of Government Budgeted Financial Statements. For budget timing reasons data estimated at this stage was used for formulating 1999-2000 budget figures. It was always recognised that this information would be adjusted once Departments had finalised their audited Financial Statements.

The 1998-99 Actuals reported in the Budget were based on the best available information as at 6 August 1999 and are unaudited. The Department's Financial Statements are currently being audited and it is anticipated that audited figures will be available shortly and will be published in the Department's Annual Report. Once audited values are available a submission to Treasury for a funding adjustment will be made.

For the first year of the application of equity return Treasury have stated that agencies will be fully funded for the effect of the equity return should the year's actual equity return charge be greater than the budgeted amount. Conversely, if agencies equity return charge is less than its funding it will be required to return that funding to the Consolidated Fund.

1551. Roma Street Police Headquarters

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (29/10/99)—

Will he detail the total number of sworn police and civilians based at Police Headquarters in Roma Street and will he break these numbers down to the number of sworn and unsworn staff in each of the three commands, four corporate services divisions and other administrative support units attached to Police Headquarters?

Mr BARTON (10/1/00): The major changes in sworn officers in police headquarters was an increase in the Disaster and Major Events Planning Group from 7 to 13 in preparation for the Olympic Games and an increase of 15 in the Ethical Standards Command due to the increased workload as the CJC pass more work over to the Command. A Y2K Planning Group of 3 officers was also formed since 30 June 1998 but this will be disbanded over the next few weeks.

Even though some of these increases occurred in non-operational roles, the number of police in non-operational roles in Police Headquarters has dropped by 13 since 30 June 1998 and the number of police in operational roles has increased by 20. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1552. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to page 18 of the MPS for DETIR—

To which office refurbishments does Note 4 relate and what was the total cost of these refurbishments and who performed them?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): The office refurbishment relates to the Industrial Relations Services fitout and relocation costs for 75 William Street. The total costs for this output was \$635,000. The Department of Public Works performed the work.

1553. Griffith University

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (29/10/99)—

With reference to the amalgamation in 1990 of Griffith University and the then Gold Coast College of Advanced Education and a memorandum of understanding between the two institutions which provided for the University Council, "to arrange no sooner than ten years after the appointed day, for an external review to be undertaken to advise the Council on what, if any, changes should be made to the status of the University College in relationship to the university, including the possibility of the College becoming a university in its own right" and considering that the 10 year timeframe expires in approximately March/April 2000—

What action is the University Council planning to take in order to satisfy this element of the memorandum of agreement?

Mr WELLS (29/11/99): The Honourable Member should direct his question to the Griffith University Council.

1554. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to page 9 of the MPS for DETIR—

- (1) Why did he fail to achieve the target of 500 trainees employed in the public sector through subsidies in 1999-2000?
- (2) Why did he fail to achieve the target of 370 trainees or apprentices employed through the building and construction industry training subsidies in 1999-2000?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99):

(1) The 500 additional apprenticeship places were budgeted for across four financial years. 429 actual placements were achieved in the first year.

Note 2 on page 10 of the MPS explains that "this initiative funds the creation of 500 apprentices for the full four-year term, therefore the 1999-2000 figure is a continuation of apprenticeships created in 1998-99."

(2) The Building and Construction Industry Training Fund (the Fund) is not administered by my Department. It is administered by Industry through Construction Training Queensland to meet industry needs.

I am advised that as of 25 June 1999, the Fund had approved incentive payments to employers for a total of 253 additional apprentices and trainees for the 1998/99 financial year. This was the figure that featured in the Ministerial Portfolio Statement against a target of 370.

The collection of exact data on the number of additional apprentices employed as a result of the Fund will always experience at least a 3-month lag because apprentices are only counted after they complete their probationary period.

I am further advised that as at 30 June 1999, 337 additional apprentices and trainees and an allocation to employers in excess of \$1.3 million had been achieved. Given that the Fund did not begin operations until 1 January this year, this is a significant achievement in its first 6 months of operation.

1555. Emerald, Queensland Rail Staff

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (29/10/99)—

- (1) Will he confirm that rail employees at a number of regional centres including Emerald are to be downsized?
- (2) How many jobs are to be lost at Emerald?
- (3) Is this downsizing related to the introduction of driver only operations in non-signalised areas from November despite back up safety systems not being available until after July 2000 at the earliest?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/12/99):

(1 & 2) QR is proposing some staffing changes in Emerald. Discussions are continuing with unions and staff on the proposals.

(3) Driver Only Operations have no relationship to the proposed staffing changes at Emerald.

1556. TAFE

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to page 37 of the MPS for DETIR—

What was the nature of the work performed below market value, what was the cost of such work and who performed such work?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): Work performed on behalf of the department at below market value for the Vocational Education and Training Services consisted of the following: The Department of Public Works provided services for the maintenance of TAFE Queensland facilities to the value of \$6,041,000; and Queensland Police Service provided services for the criminal history checks on applicants for positions within TAFE Queensland to the value of \$70,000.

1557. Moreton TAFE Institute

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

How does he justify the allocation of \$2.1m in "revitalisation" funding to the Moreton Institute of TAFE when not one of the projects funded involve the delivery of a program to students as its prime objective?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): Rapid escalation of the competitive agenda by the previous government extracted more than \$125 million from TAFE Queensland's budget to support competitive initiatives which reduced the flexibility of TAFE Institutes to invest in staff development, new and enhanced products and market analysis.

Revitalisation funding was a much needed and long awaited initiative focusing on staff and product development, to address issues related to TAFE Queensland's effective and efficient performance in an increasingly competitive environment.

The revitalisation projects at Moreton Institute are aimed at either improving marketing strategies to grow the Institute's business, or at reducing cost in delivery and non-delivery areas, so that the Institute can redirect resources to the continued improvement in the quality of training received by clients and students.

1558. TAFE

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

How many FTE staff are employed in TAFE and how many of the staff are teachers?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): At 30 June 1999 there were 6,492 (FTE) employed by TAFE of which 2,383 (FTE) were teachers.

1559. Justice and Attorney-General Portfolio, Remuneration Packages

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (29/10/99)—

With reference to each of the statutory authorities and other organisations in his portfolio—

Listed by authority or organisation, what remuneration is paid to (a) the Chairman and (b) board members?

Mr FOLEY (29/11/99): Details of remuneration of members to statutory authorities are set out in the attached schedule. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1560. Moreton TAFE Institute

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

Will he confirm advice that planned retrenchments at Moreton TAFE will not be immediate but that temporary staff will not have contracts renewed and that permanent staff will be placed on deployment for six months and then, if unsuccessful in finding a new position—as is likely—will be retrenched?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): The Moreton Institute of TAFE has been undertaking a business review to ensure that its marketing strategy, business and administrative systems, and that its staffing levels are aligned to business demands.

Opportunities are being put in place for excess permanent staff to redeploy to other parts of the Institute, redeploy to other TAFE Institutes, transfer to other Government departments, or be offered Voluntary Early Retirement, as a last resort. There will be no forced retrenchment of permanent staff.

Existing temporary staff who are not on a specific purpose contract, will have the opportunity to apply for permanent positions under a Closed Merit Selection Process. Additionally eligible temporary staff will have the opportunity to contend for temporary positions under a Closed Merit Selection Process. The decision to offer, extend or terminate a fixed term contract is dependent on business needs.

1561. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to the 1999 MPS for DETIR—

Will he explain why, when adding the operating statements of each output area, total estimated revenue for 1998-99 comes to \$800,158,000 and not \$797,833,000 as reported?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): As explained in Note 1 on Page 49 of the Ministerial Portfolio Statement, totals in the Output Operating Statements may not equal totals in the Departmental

Operating Statement due to intra-departmental transactions.

The elimination of these revenues from the Departmental Operating Statement prevents double counting of revenue and avoids the overstatement of the Department's true revenue for the financial year.

1562. Electricity Industry, Maintenance Plans

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (29/10/99)—

- (1) Has the level of maintenance on the transmission and general utilities such as switch gear and transformers been serviced adequately to ensure reliability of the Energex and Ergon systems?
- (2) Is there sufficient attention to clearing vegetation which has the potential to cause disruptions to the system?
- (3) Is the system ageing to a point where a significant amount of refurbishing needs to be done that will place a heavy demand on finances?
- (4) What process has been implemented to prevent failure of the transmission system throughout the State?

Mr McGRADY (29/11/99):

- (1) Powerlink, Energex and Ergon each have a comprehensive maintenance plan aimed at ensuring a reliable and safe operation of the electricity network. In 1999/2000, these corporations have budgeted approximately \$207m on network maintenance.
- (2) Vegetation management is a vital element of the maintenance plans of Powerlink, Energex and Ergon. The vegetation management backlog which existed in parts of the Ergon network will be resolved during the current financial year.
- (3) Powerlink, Energex and Ergon have a responsibility to maintain their electricity assets to a level that will ensure community safety, safety of staff and meet established customer service standards.

The electricity networks have some assets which are ageing and require replacement and refurbishment. This work is being progressively undertaken as part of their capital works programs. For example, in 1999/2000, Ergon will spend approximately \$41m on the replacement of assets in its North-West region.

- (4) The transmission network in Queensland is planned, developed, operated and maintained in accordance with the National Electricity Code. Powerlink has an ongoing maintenance program designed to maintain the reliability of the network in line with the strict standards imposed by the Code.

1563. TAFE

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to page 5 of the MPS for DETIR—

What is the explanation for the reduction in staffing FTEs under the Vocational Education and Training Services Output in 1999-2000?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): The overall allocation of full-time equivalent staff for Vocational Education and Training Services is showing a reduction of 24. These reductions are due to the completion of special projects such as preparation for the introduction of Training Packages and improved efficiency.

1564. TAFE

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to page 41 of the MPS for DETIR—

- (1) Why did he fail to fully expend his capital works program listed on Page 41?
- (2) Given his Government's Smart State initiative why did he fail to fully expend his Budget on TAFE Information Technology projects?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99):

(1) The statement on page 41 of the Ministerial Portfolio Statement shows the 1998-99 cash budget compared to capitalised expenditure as per accrual output reporting requirements. In cash terms, the capital works expenditure in the 1998-99 year was within 4.2% of forecast.

(2) The TAFE Technology project was underspent by \$0.542M for the 1998-99 financial year. This cash under-expenditure is offset by \$0.436M in commitments for technology system developments to 30 June 1999. The resulting variance of \$0.106M represents 0.8% of the total technology funding available during the year.

1565. Police Resources

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (29/10/99)—

With reference to my previous Question on Notice No. 1322—

Will he provide the same information at 1 September, not by ratio but by population numbers and police numbers, by rank and include a separate section which includes all centrally located officers such as PCS, SERT, PSRT etc?

Mr BARTON (10/1/00): See attached table.

For the number of centrally located officers, please refer to the answer to Question on Notice 1551. These officers are not included in police population ratio calculations for the districts and regions. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1566. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to page 6 of the MPS for DETIR—

Given that his target for 1998-99 was 2576 traineeships and 508 apprenticeships or simply a total of 3084 apprenticeships and traineeships, why did he fail to achieve his self-set target by only reaching 2878 apprenticeships and traineeships?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): Page 9 of the MPS details the target for 1998/99 of 2,000 traineeships and 500 apprenticeships. Following negotiations with public sector agencies, quotas of 2,576 traineeship places and 508 apprenticeship places were established in order to achieve the targets. Actual results for the year were the recruitment of 2,449 trainees and 429 apprentices. In the first year of implementation the target was exceeded by 378 apprenticeship and traineeship places.

1567. Worker Assistance Program

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/10/99)—

With reference to the MPS for DETIR and to the increase of 23 FTEs under the Employment Initiatives—

How many FTEs are attributable to the Worker Assistance Program?

Mr BRADY (30/11/99): Two.

1568. Bayside Health District, HACC Program

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (29/10/99)—

With reference to a Wynnum West couple who a Health Department occupational therapist has assessed as eligible for assistance to install handrails in their bathroom as the 66 year-old wife suffers from spina bifida and her 69 year-old husband, who is her carer, is about to go into hospital for a heart operation and despite being told they are eligible for assistance, they have been told they will not receive assistance until next year due to a lack of funds—

- (1) In the year of the ageing, why is this couple not receiving this assistance in a more timely manner?
- (2) What was last year's funding allocation for this assistance for this health district and what is this financial year's allocation?

Mrs EDMOND (29/11/99):

(1) Services are provided on the basis on assessed needs involving safety issues or urgency of the case, in accordance with State and Commonwealth guidelines.

(2) There are three organisations funded by the Home and Community Care Program for home maintenance in the Bayside District. The total allocation of funds for 1997-98 was \$112,950 and in 1998-99 was \$161,283. A process is under way to give services additional funding. The new funding upper limits for the 99/2000 financial year will then be applied. The State Government allocated an extra \$4.4 million to the Queensland Home and Community

Care Program (HACC) in the 1999/2000 budget. The extra funding, provided under a Commonwealth State matching funding arrangement, will increase the total amount provided through the Program in Queensland by about \$12 million to nearly \$148 million. The extra funding will help to meet the increasing demand on the program which provides care, support and services to frail elderly people and people with a disability and their carers. The HACC Program is directed at improving the quality of life for these people and reducing the need for inappropriate or premature admission to long term residential care.

1569. Queensland Events Corporation

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (29/10/99)—

Will he provide details of the individuals who made up the selection panel that appointed Mr Denton as CEO of Queensland Events Corporation?

Mr GIBBS (26/11/99): The selection panel that selected Mr Denton as CEO of Queensland Events Corporation comprised Mr D J Power, Chairman of Queensland Events Corporation, and Mr R B McGruther, Board Member of Queensland Events Corporation. The Queensland Events Corporation Board approved the proposed appointment.

1570. Jardine River, Ferry Crossing

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/11/99)—

- (1) Does the Jardine River ferry crossing on the Peninsula Development Road currently charge \$80 per crossing for private vehicles?
- (2) Will he list the fees that apply to other vehicles on this crossing?
- (3) Will he provide the level of fees for similar crossings throughout Queensland and Australia?

Mr BREDHAUER (9/12/99):

(1) The Jardine River ferry crossing is not on the Peninsula Developmental Road, This is not a State-controlled road; however, it is under the control of the Injinoo Aboriginal Community Council. The Injinoo Aboriginal Community Council advised the current charge per crossing of the Jardine River by ferry is \$40, with a requirement that the fee for the return trip is paid at the time of the initial crossing.

(2) I am advised by Injinoo Aboriginal Community Council that the level of fees that apply to other vehicles per crossing is as follows:

Vehicle Type—Cost (\$)

Trailers—0.00

Trucks (up to 10 tonne)—80.00

Trucks (over 10 tonne)—100.00

Trucks and trailers in combination (over 10 tonne) and other vehicles—By Quotation

(3) There are no directly comparable crossings in Queensland.

1571. Nudley State Forest, Noxious Weeds

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (9/11/99)—

With reference to the promise given by the Premier and himself that the Beattie Government would meet its responsibility of eradicating noxious weeds from all Crown lands and having regard for the \$1.24 billion deficit in the 1999-2000 Budget and the corresponding capacity of the Government to allocate more funding for rural land protection—

- (1) What funding was spent on eradication of Mother of Millions in the Nudley State Forest in the Chinchilla Shire in 1998-99?
- (2) What funding will be spent in this same infested area in 1999-2000?

Mr WELFORD (9/12/99):

- (1) Approximately \$375 in 1998/99.
- (2) \$2060 in 1999/2000 of which approximately \$1060 has been expended to date.

1572. Dairy Industry

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Primary Industries (9/11/99)—

With reference to the forthcoming dairy deregulation due to be introduced in June 2000—

- (1) Does he agree with the forecasted figures which state, of the 1600 approximate dairies in Queensland, 500 will be lost under deregulation?
- (2) As dairy workers do not come under any wage award who is going to pay for their redundancy?
- (3) Will these redundancies be paid out of the \$1.6 billion the Federal Government is offering for restructuring of the industry?
- (4) Without any real competition for Parmalat remaining, what safeguards will be put in place to ensure that milk prices to the supplier and householder will not be jeopardised?
- (5) As at present Australians cannot buy shares in Parmalat on the Australian Share Market, will he pursue any avenues to ensure that Australians, who wish to invest in this industry, can?

Mr PALASZCZUK (9/12/99):

1. I am not sure where the Honourable Member has obtained her forecast. There is, as yet, no certainty that deregulation of market milk controls will occur. Presently, all States are awaiting the outcome of the ballot in Victoria. As far as I am aware, there has been no decision by any State to remove market milk controls. Consequently there can be no certainty as to timing, likely impacts or any forecasts as to the magnitude of the loss of dairy farms. It is simply too early for any reliability as to those types of assessment. Undoubtedly sectional interests will seek to influence expectations in their favour by making draconian predictions designed to strengthen their positions.

The Queensland Government will not be pressured into taking a position too early. The Government will work through the issue step by step as developments occur to ensure that the best outcomes are obtained for the industry and the community overall. The industry has the stability of market milk controls in legislation until December 2003. It was acknowledged, at the time these provisions were put in place, that further review would be necessary if market conditions changed substantially. Market signals cannot be ignored, however it is important that adjustment occur at a pace industry can absorb. The Queensland Government is yet to be convinced that deregulation, with or without the Federal Government's Dairy Industry Restructure Package, is in the best interests of the industry.

2. I am advised that dairy workers do not have award coverage. Consequently, in each individual employment situation, the issue of redundancy, along with all other employment conditions, would have been negotiated between employee and employer at the time employment commenced. However, if deregulation is to be forced on the States at this time by the Federal Government's Package, then the wider impacts on rural and regional communities will need to be addressed. This is an issue which I will be raising in the forthcoming negotiations with the Federal Government regarding the Package.

3. I am not aware of any proposal to pay redundancy for dairy workers in the Federal Government's Restructure Package. I am sure that the Honourable Member is aware that no States were involved in developing the proposal, which was prepared by industry and put forward by the Australian Dairy Industry Council to the Federal Government. In fact, States do not yet have full details of the Package. These details are awaited to allow a proper evaluation of the options available to the Queensland industry if deregulation is to occur.

4. At the retail level, Parmalat is subject to competition, principally from Dairyfarmers, which has increased its market share to about one third, and National Foods which has recently commenced operations following the construction of a new \$26m plant in Brisbane. In line with all other Australian States, Queensland no longer has retail milk price controls. It is now a matter for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, which has the responsibility for controlling the business behaviour of firms in the market place, to ensure proper conduct with regard to milk prices. At the supplier level, the farm gate price is in place in legislation currently until December 2003.

5. Australians once owned shares in QUF Ltd and voluntarily sold them to Parmalat. They received a great deal of money for the shares following a vigorous bidding process which involved National Foods. Australians wishing to purchase shares in the dairy industry can do so for any of the publicly listed dairy companies. In addition to Parmalat, there are a number of large Australian dairy cooperatives where shares are also not available to the public. If the Honourable Member is of the view that there is a need for a condition on foreign companies investing

in Australian companies, that the foreign companies list on the Australian Stock Exchange, then I suggest she pursue it in the relevant jurisdiction. This issue is a Federal Government matter which involves the Foreign Investment Review Board.

1573. Regional Forest Agreement

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (9/11/99)—

With reference to the definition of a plantation under the RFA Legislation and as (a) Julian Evans in the second edition of his world acclaimed book "Plantation Forestry in the Tropics" stated that "more careful definition of 'plantation' or 'man made forest' is needed since much tree planting is not done in regular blocks but within existing forests—enrichment planting, or as single rows—linear planting. Though both involve tree planting, they often do not constitute conventional plantations". However, their importance in the tropics and subtropics is increasing, including plantings in association with food crops as they represent a growing stock of planted trees of value to society, (b) many south Queensland graziers have existing quality stands of sawlog species, which they nurture. Many are prepared to engage in enrichment planting, but are hesitant to do so until they know if such land and such practises will be defined under the RFA legislation as a plantation and (c) the QDPI-Forestry have for years encouraged the use of grazing to reduce the competition for water and nutrients within their plantations—

Will he fully inform me and thus these dedicated silvipastoralists if their proposed enriched forests will be regarded as forests under the RFA currently still being developed in south-east Queensland?

Mr BEATTIE (8/12/99): Queensland currently has no specific Regional Forest legislation. The Commonwealth Government did have a Regional Forest Agreements Bill 1998, that I understand was not passed by the Senate. My Government is committed to supporting the development of private forestry. Wood production will be encouraged, provided it is managed in a sustainable manner. We are committed to Queensland agreement.

1574. Hervey Bay Electorate, Mosquito Control

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (9/11/99)—

With reference to mosquito control in the Hervey Bay electorate and the recent petitions delivered to his office in Parliament House—

- (1) What does he intend to do about this ongoing problem?
- (2) Does he take this matter as seriously as the 3,420 people who signed the petitions?
- (3) Has he ever taken the time to personally go to some of these locations during the peak problem time?

- (4) Has State Government allocated any funding to support the Hervey Bay City Council to address or reduce this problem?

Mr WELFORD (9/12/99): (1-4) The control of mosquitoes is governed by the Health Regulation 1996 which is administered by my colleague the Minister for Health. The matter should be referred to that Minister.

1575. Whitsunday Electorate, School Sites

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Education (9/11/99)—

Has the Government allocated land for the purpose of establishing new educational facilities in the Whitsunday electorate; if so, (a) where have the land allocations been made, (b) what is the proposed time frame for development and (c) when will further allocations be made in the Whitsunday electorate?

Mr WELLS (9/12/99): The government (Education Queensland) has identified a suitable site for the establishment of a future primary school and possibly a secondary school in the Riordanvale area of the Whitsunday coast. The government (Education Queensland) has not acquired this land. The site is located between Riordanvale Road and Shute Harbour Road, Riordanvale. The draft Whitsunday Shire Strategic Plan shows this site.

The timeframes for development of this school depends on the residential growth rates of the Whitsunday coast and the capacity of the Cannonvale State School. Education Queensland is working with Whitsunday Shire Council to seek preparation of a Benchmark Sequence of Development that will indicate the timing of new school needs.

The Cannonvale State School is currently being Master Planned. In addition, land adjoining Cannonvale State School has been purchased recently to augment this school site. Therefore, this school yet has a good capacity to accommodate additional demand.

The Proserpine State High School continues to provide a broad curriculum and sporting program that accords with the aspirations of the local community. This high school is central to the Shire and accessible by roads of high standard and safety.

The department informs me that no further allocations or planning for new schools in Whitsunday Shire is being undertaken.

1576. Caboolture East State School

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Education (9/11/99)—

- (1) As the Caboolture East State School Parents' and Citizens' Association have been advised that the proposed extensions to the Caboolture East State School Special Education Unit have been postponed, why was a decision of this nature taken without consultation with the school community who raised the issue?

- (2) As the Caboolture East State School Special Education Unit caters for over 44 students, many with hearing impairment and the temporary demountable structure that exists at present as a two (2) classroom block is inadequate for the job of teaching students with such special needs and with the current conditions being inadequate, when will the building of the extensions for the Special Education Unit be approved and begin?

- (3) Due to the urgent needs of these students with learning disabilities (a) when is this necessary capital works need of this school community going to be addressed and (b) when is this work expected to be started and completed?

Mr WELLS (9/12/99): The department informs me that the provision of additional teaching facilities for the special education unit at Caboolture East State school was nominated in the latter part of 1998 for consideration as a program item in the draft 1999-2000 Capital Works Program.

The preferred solution to address the accommodation requirement is to construct a permanent special education building. The budget amount estimated for this facility is \$400,000.

At the commencement of the 1999 school year, Education Queensland endeavoured to provide a short term solution by providing temporary teaching spaces at Caboolture East State School for use by the special education unit until approval had been granted for the new teaching block to be included within the 1999-2000 Capital Works Program.

However, existing Departmental commitments have not enabled the new permanent facilities to be incorporated into the Capital Works Program at this time.

The Facilities and Services Branch of Education Queensland will very shortly be commencing a review of nominations received from schools, for the provision of additional teaching facilities, to be incorporated in the draft Capital Works Program for the 2000-2001 financial year.

The construction of the additional new teaching block for the special education unit at Caboolture East State School will be included within that review process.

Funding allocated to Education Queensland for capital works projects during the current financial year has been fully committed at this time. As such, it is not anticipated that approval will be granted for the new special education teaching block to be constructed during this 1999-2000 financial year.

As the draft 2000-2001 Capital Works Program has yet to be drafted, it is not possible at this time to give a firm indication as to a proposed commencement and completion date of this new facility.

1577. Blackbutt Police Station

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (9/11/99)—

With reference to Blackbutt Police Station and the rising crime rate in country centres—

- (1) What is the police strength at Blackbutt?
- (2) How long has only one officer been stationed during sick leave and recreation leave?
- (3) Why hasn't the one officer received relief?
- (4) How will he address the anomaly of forced one officer patrols?

Mr BARTON (9/12/99):

(1) The allocated (funded) strength for the Blackbutt Police station is two officers. The current actual strength is one officer.

(2-3) There has been one officer permanently assigned to the Blackbutt Station since the resignation of the officer in charge in July this year. In the intervening four and one half months, the service provided by this officer has been augmented at various times through the assistance of officers from the Nanango and Kingaroy Stations. Similarly, the officer himself has been relieved from time to time by officers from these two stations.

Following the July resignation of the officer in charge the usual recruitment process was commenced. That is, the position was advertised, a shortlist identified, interviews held, and a review period allowed. An officer was subsequently appointed to the vacancy and will commence duty on 20 December 1999. In the meantime, officers from Nanango and Kingaroy will continue to assist the officer at Blackbutt in providing a quality police service to the area.

(4) As outlined above, assistance has regularly been provided to the officer currently stationed at Blackbutt in the period between the second officer's resignation and the appointment of that officer's replacement. If the 'anomaly' referred to by the Honourable Member is that caused by the resignation of officers, as was the case at Blackbutt, the responsible manner in which to address the 'anomaly' is through local police management having regard to the operational needs of the area in the period prior to the appointment of a replacement officer. Additional resources should be provided in line with the needs of the area during this time, as has occurred at the Blackbutt Police Station. Notwithstanding the policing difficulties presented by the resignation of an officer, in considering a replacement it is important that any appointment process is not unduly abridged, and that due process is followed in every case.

Additionally, on the matter of single officer patrols, I refer the Honourable Member to a statement by the former Minister for Police and Corrective Services, the Honourable Russell Cooper MLA during the 1996 Budget Estimate hearings. On that occasion the former Minister said that single officer patrols are a "commonplace, effective and necessary form of deployment".

1578. Boonah/Lockyer Valley, Hardwood Plantations

Dr PRENZLER asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (9/11/99)—

With reference to his recent announcement regarding the establishment of hardwood plantations in the Boonah and Lockyer Valley districts—

- (1) How many hectares in these districts have been identified and where?
- (2) Of this area, how much is freehold, how much leasehold and how much State forest?
- (3) What assistance will be provided by the Government to assist in the establishment of these plantations and in what form will this assistance be?
- (4) How has the Government identified which mills will be the beneficiaries of this timber or will the timber be offered on an auction or some other sale system?
- (5) What employment systems will he put in place to ensure the ongoing maintenance of these plantations till harvesting?
- (6) What downstream benefits to the rural communities in these localities are envisaged?

Mr ELDER (9/12/99):

(1) Land suitability analysis undertaken by DPI Forestry and the Department of Natural Resources has identified some 40,500 hectares of cleared private lands in the Boonah-Beaudesert and Ipswich-Laidley Lockyer areas that could be planted to hardwood plantations.

This estimate is consistent with a recently published report titled Opportunities for Hardwood Plantation Development in South East Queensland that was prepared by the Commonwealth Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE). This report identified some 90,000 hectares of land suitable for hardwood plantations in a somewhat larger region that also included the Kilcoy and Woodford areas.

(2) All of the land identified in this region is private freehold.

(3) A hardwood plantation development strategy forms part of the implementation of the Queensland Government's plan for the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement (SEQRFA). The strategy will create a positive climate for the development of hardwood plantations by continuing to eliminate impediments and provide incentives for investment.

As part of the Queensland Government's hardwood plantation development strategy DPI forestry will enter into joint venture and partnership arrangements with landholders and investors in the region.

Stamp duty relief, the simplification of survey requirements, assistance in finding suitable areas for plantation development and the provision of expert advice in relation to plantations and the industry in general are prime examples of the type of assistance that the Queensland Government is able to provide for the establishment of plantations both in the Boonah and Lockyer valley districts and throughout Queensland.

(4) The Queensland Government's hardwood plantation development strategy is being implemented on the basis of identified regions or

supply zones proximate to existing hardwood processing operations.

The Queensland Government's plan for the SEQRFA has not only provided unprecedented resource security for the timber industry but through the implementation of the hardwood plantation development strategy it is envisaged that there will be a seamless transition from a hardwood timber industry based on the logging of Crown native forests to one based on plantations over a period of 25 years.

Over this period it is to be expected that there will be major developments in industry value adding, marketing and processing efficiencies. It is therefore not possible to identify the mills that will ultimately be supplied from plantations or the sale processes to be employed. These decisions will necessarily need to be taken nearer to plantation harvest age.

(5) DPI Forestry will enter into plantation maintenance agreements with regionally based contractors. Regular inspections will be undertaken by DPI Forestry silvicultural officers to ensure timely maintenance of all joint venture and partnership plantations.

(6) The Queensland Government's hardwood plantation development strategy will provide a secure future for the hardwood timber industry. Plantations will provide opportunities for direct landholder and regionally based contractor involvement in site preparation, fencing, planting, fertilising, weed control, fire protection, maintenance and harvesting. Enhanced employment opportunities in rural communities throughout the region will be a direct downstream benefit.

1579. Courts, Delays in Criminal and Civil Cases

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (9/11/99)—

Will he provide a breakdown on a Court by Court basis (a) for each of the Magistrates, Supreme and District Courts as well as each location where a Court sits in Queensland, (b) of the delays in criminal cases for each month since May 1998 and (c) of the delays on civil cases for each month for the same period?

Mr FOLEY (9/12/99): Available information on the disposal rates for cases is contained in the Annual Report of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

1580. Southern Downs Health District

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Southern Downs Health District—

(1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?

(2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?

(3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1581. Northern Downs Health District

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Northern Downs Health District—

(1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?

- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

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(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1582. Princess Alexandra Hospital

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Princess Alexandra Hospital Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?

- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?

- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospital as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1583. Charters Towers Health District

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Charters Towers Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?

- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1584. Fraser Coast Health District

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Fraser Coast Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?

- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1585. Royal Children's Hospital

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Royal Children's Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?

- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospital as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1586. Royal Brisbane Hospital; Royal Women's Hospital

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Royal Brisbane Hospital and Royal Women's Hospital Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?

- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1587. Sunshine Coast Health District

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Sunshine Coast Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?

- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1588. Battle of Australia 1942, Memorial

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier (9/11/99)—

With reference to the importance to our community of remembering those who contributed (and continue to contribute) to our freedom—

- (1) Does the Government intend to co-operate in the erection of a memorial to honour the Battle of Australia, 1942?
- (2) Will that memorial be placed in the proposed Roma Street parkland in time for its dedication at the parkland opening in March 2001?

- (3) If this is not the intended siting, where will the memorial be placed and when?

Mr BEATTIE (8/12/99):

(1) My Government recognises the sacrifices made by those who participated in past wars and conflicts. However, it is my belief that the existing Shrine of Memories and World War II memorials, located in Brisbane's Anzac Square and maintained by the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch), are a fitting commemoration in an appropriate location.

If the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) believes that the erection of a new memorial to commemorate the Battle of Australia 1942 is warranted, my Government is willing to consider such a proposal.

(2) On 4 November 1999, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Councillor Jim Soorley, and I jointly announced the launch of the Roma Street Parkland project. This project will result in the redevelopment of the former Roma Street Railyards site into spectacular parkland and gardens. The planning and designing for this project is being conducted in partnership with the Brisbane City Council.

To assist with the Parkland's final design, the public has been invited to comment on the redevelopment proposal and the Parkland Concept Plan. Both my Government and the Brisbane City Council have received numerous proposals for the Roma Street redevelopment project, including a proposal to erect a memorial on the site, to commemorate the 1942 Battle of Australia. This proposal, and other suggestions for the redevelopment, are currently being considered by both my Government and the Brisbane City Council in the project's planning and detailed design stages.

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

1589. Public Housing

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (9/11/99)—

With reference to the public housing capital works program for the urban renewal and community renewal programs—

Will he provide a separate breakdown for each program of capital expenditure by State electorate for 1999-2000?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/12/99): The total capital expenditure for 1999-2000 for the urban renewal program is \$21.1M. The total expenditure for 1999-2000 for the community renewal program is \$14M. Community Renewal cannot provide a breakdown of capital versus recurrent expenditure for this financial year. There are three rounds of funding for 1999/2000. Round One of Community Renewal is currently in progress, with approvals to be finalised before Christmas. A further two rounds are to be completed before the end of the financial year. See Attachment A for a breakdown of expenditure by State electorate. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1590. Bundaberg Bypass

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/11/99)—

With reference to the proposed Bundaberg bypass route (ring road) (9/11/99)—

- (1) What is the existing traffic volume on Walker Street in Bundaberg, what proportion of this is made up of heavy vehicles and how does the Main Roads Department rank its accident rating?
- (2) What is the existing traffic volume on Elliott Heads Road in Bundaberg, what proportion of this is made up of heavy vehicles and how does the Main Roads Department rank its accident rating?
- (3) Given the proximity of the heavy vehicle transport route to primary schools and the traffic accident rates, what is the estimated maximum traffic level considered safe along this route?
- (4) Based on these figures and forecast growth, when is the Bundaberg ring road scheduled for commencement under Main Roads Department forward-planning estimates?

Mr BREDHAUER (9/12/99):

(1) Daily traffic volumes on Walker Street range from 5025 vehicles per day between Takalvan and Branyan Streets; 9000 vehicles per day between Branyan and Maryborough Streets; 14700 vehicles between Maryborough and Boundary Streets and, 7500 vehicles per day to the east of Boundary Street. Available information indicates that there are approximately 370 commercial vehicles per day (7.4%) between Takalvan and Maryborough Streets, 690 commercial vehicles per day (9.7%) between Maryborough and Boundary Streets and 640 commercial vehicles per day (8.5%) on FE Walker Street. Over the past five years there has been a total of 115 accidents recorded between Takalvan Street and Greathead Road. There was 1 fatal accident, 65 injury accidents and 49 property damage only accidents over this period. The accident rate is slightly higher than for other arterial roads of this type in the Bundaberg City area.

(2) On the Elliott Heads Road, the maximum traffic volume of 6500 vehicles per day occurs near the junction with FE Walker Street. Volumes reduce progressively until there are approximately 3000 vehicles per day near the junction with McCarthy Street. The maximum number of commercial vehicles would be in the order of 400 vehicles per day (6.1%). Over the past five years, there have been 13 reported accidents between F E Walker Street and McCarthy Street. This figure is made up of 6 injury and 7 property accidents. The accident rate is considered to be low for the standard and type of road involved

(3) Walker Street is located one block from the West Bundaberg Street Primary School. This section of Walker Street carries a relatively low traffic volume of 5025 vehicles per day. This volume could more than double before major works to upgrade the section of Walker Street and the removal of some traffic to

another route is needed. There are no primary schools in the vicinity of Elliott Heads Road in the urban area of Bundaberg. Woongarra State Primary School is located adjacent to Elliott Heads Road but in a rural area. Daily traffic volumes are in the order of 3000 vehicles per day with approximately 140 commercial vehicles. Although traffic volumes will be able to grow for many years without requiring works to increase the capacity of the road, plans are in hand to upgrade the side road intersection at the Woongarra School.

(4) As the sections of road referred to in the above are not approaching their capacity limits and, as the annual traffic growth rate for Bundaberg is approximately 1.5%, there is no imminent need to upgrade any of these sections of road or divert traffic to another route. Consequently, there is presently no identified need to provide any of the component sections of the Bundaberg Ring Road. The recently released Roads Implementation Program does not include any Ring Road projects and it is unlikely that any part of the Ring Road will be required within ten years.

1591. Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (9/11/99)—

With reference to her recent comments about her decision to change the core business of the department from that of a welfare model to a social justice model—

- (1) What new functions will be undertaken and which functions will be discontinued under the new model?
- (2) What is the empirical basis for the shift, the conceptual framework upon which the new model is based and the process of consultation that led to its adoption?

Ms BLIGH (9/12/99):

(1) The implementation of a social justice model influences the way the Department does its work. It focuses the Department on providing services in partnership with a broad range of government and community human services agencies in order to provide better coordinated client-centred services. The functions of the Department will remain the same but as a part of implementing the Strategic Plan, there has been a realignment of these functions, which has clarified the roles and responsibilities of staff in programs, regions and corporate areas.

(2) The Department has moved from a residual welfare to a social justice/human service model based on the strong evidence provided by a range of social welfare, health and medical international population studies. The accumulated evidence of this empirical research has been consolidated into a sound evidenced-based framework by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and documented into The Solid Facts—Social Determinants of Health.

The adoption of this model is clearly outlined in the Department's Strategic Plan. As part of developing

the Strategic Plan which then influenced the functional realignment of the Department, all relevant demographic, service delivery, financial and economic trend data and information was collected and a major consultative process seeking input from our clients, partners and staff was undertaken. Feedback from stakeholders on the Strategic Plan and the direction that the Department has adopted has been very positive.

1592. Public Housing

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (9/11/99)—

With reference to the public housing construction program of \$97.265m (which includes the carryover from 1998-99, will he provide a breakdown of capital expenditure and the number of dwellings to be commenced and/or completed electorate by electorate for 1999-2000?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/12/99): During the 1999/2000 financial year the department has programmed a total of 1,511 dwellings, including 689 dwellings commenced from previous financial years to be completed in 1999/2000, and 822 new dwellings scheduled to start this financial year. The total project cost for these 1,511 dwellings is \$159.3M, of which \$97.265M has been budgeted for expenditure during the 1999/2000 financial year. To ensure program expenditure and commencement targets are met during the 1999/2000 financial year, 122 additional dwellings above the 700 commencements target, as stated in the 1999/2000 Ministerial Program Statement, have been included at Attachment A. These dwellings have been programmed to offset potential project slippage due to planning and other development issues that may result in some projects not commencing this financial year. Of the 822 new construction projects planned to commence during 1999/2000, 40 dwellings could not be allocated to electorates, as exact locations for these dwellings are not yet known and are categorised as 'To be determined'.

See Attachment A for a breakdown of expenditure and dwelling number by state electorate. This includes all dwellings on the 1999/2000 new construction program. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1593. Public Housing

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (9/11/99)—

With reference to the public housing capital works, will he provide a breakdown of the proposed expenditure and number for land acquisitions for 1999-2000 for each State electorate?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/12/99): As part of the 1999-2000 public rental capital works program, the department plans to expend \$20m Statewide during the 1999-2000 financial year for the purchase of land. As the vast majority of the land for the 1999-2000 land acquisition program has still to be purchased,

exact addresses and yields are unknown and therefore cannot be reported on an electorate basis.

1594. Queensland Teachers Union

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/11/99)—

Has the Minister for Education or the Department of Education ever referred to him or his department, a concern that the Queensland Teachers' Union was acting in contravention of the Industrial Relations Act 1999, or the superseded Industrial Organisations Act 1997, by excluding former phase one leading school principals from consideration as union nominees on departmental projects and staff selection panels; if so, what action has he taken and what is the present position of his department on this matter; if not, will he investigate this matter and if a breach has occurred give a commitment to enforce the law and pursue appropriate action?

Mr BRADY (9/12/99): This matter has not been referred to me or my department. Part 4 of Chapter 4 (Freedom of Association) of the Industrial Relations Act 1999 provides recourse to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission for employees who believe that they have been discriminated against.

1595. Bayside Health District

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Bayside Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly

focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1596. Mackay Health District

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Mackay Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

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overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

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Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1597. Charleville Health District

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Charleville Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

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(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1598. Gold Coast Health District

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Gold Coast Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospital as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

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result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1599. Gympie Health District

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Gympie Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospital as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

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increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1600. Prince Charles Hospital

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Prince Charles Hospital and Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospital as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

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health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1601. Central Highlands Health District

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Central Highlands Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-

inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1602. Toowoomba Health District

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Toowoomba Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1603. Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (9/11/99)—

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 October?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for October in (a) cost of sales and (b) operating expenses?
- (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 (9/12/99): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1429 answered on 25 November 1999, due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to business units of the Department of Public Works and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the required information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1604. Wind Generators

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (9/11/99)—

- (1) Can an evaluation be provided for the cost of the wind generators at Ravenshoe in comparison to a range of other energy sources?
- (2) What is the reliability of wind generators in comparison to a range of other generating sources?
- (3) What other sites are proposed for wind generation in Queensland and how does it compare with NEMMCO pricing in consideration of the future developments with carbon credits?

Mr McGRADY (9/12/99): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Rowell, I can advise as follows:

(1) The cost of wind generators at the Ravenshoe is commercial in confidence information and cannot be disclosed. However, I understand the project is commercially based, with retailers paying a premium for the electricity which they will then sell to customers via green power schemes.

(2) Wind generators are considered to have good reliability in comparison to conventional energy generation. Wind generation farms are characterised by small multiple units. Therefore the failure of a single unit has less impact on total capacity.

(3) At this point in time, the Department of Mines and Energy is unaware of any firm proposals to install wind generation at sites other than Ravenshoe. In terms of the impact of emissions trading, it is too early to assess whether the introduction of emissions trading would make wind generation competitive with conventional electricity generation.

1605. Public Housing

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (9/11/99)—

With reference to public housing at 31 October—

- (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 by (a) four to less than eight weeks, (b) eight to less than 12 weeks and (c) 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 (9/12/99): I refer Mr Lingard to Question on Notice No. 1419 forwarded to the Bills and Papers Office on 25 November 1999, in which I stated the following:

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1606. Community Housing Capital Grants

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (9/11/99)—

With reference to community housing capital grants—

Will he provide a breakdown by each program and State electorate of the proposed expenditure for 1999-2000?

Mr SCHWARTEN (9/12/99): See Attachment A for a breakdown by each program and State electorate of proposed community housing capital expenditure for 1999-2000. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1607. Public Housing

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (9/11/99)—

With reference to public housing at 31 October—

- (1) How many dwellings by dwelling type and bedroom number were vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) greater 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 (9/12/99): I refer Mr Seeneey to Question on Notice No. 1420 forwarded to the Bills and Papers Office on 25 November 1999, in which I stated the following:

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1608. Greyhound Racing Authority

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (9/11/99)—

- (1) Does he agree with the statement made by the Greyhound Racing Authority Chairman, Ross Drayton, regarding the slashing of funds to North Queensland greyhound clubs as quoted in The Courier Mail of 14 October "That north Queensland Clubs can no longer expect to be propped up by south-east Queensland TAB Clubs", as there is irrefutable evidence that the situation is actually in reverse with money being channelled from North Queensland clubs to prop up the south-east clubs like Gold Coast Parklands showing losses of half a million dollars since 1997?
- (2) Does he agree that the southern clubs should be held accountable for their own performances?
- (3) Does he agree that the Greyhound Racing Authority does not have the financial or business expertise to ensure that these clubs are run so that their performance gives industry stakeholders the maximum benefits in the form of increased prize money?

Mr GIBBS (26/11/99):

(1) Between 1996 and 1999, growth in prize money distributions to the non-TAB club group, which includes all greyhound clubs in North Queensland, exceeded that of the TAB club group (source: TABQ Annual Reports).

(2) Yes.

(3) No.

1609. Northern Downs Health District

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health (9/11/99)—

With reference to the Northern Downs Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (9/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1610. Dr D. Lange

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

What are the full details of Dr Diana Lange's current level of employment within the department?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99): Dr Lange is a tenured employee of the department. She is currently undertaking retraining for a period of up to six months on full pay from 1 November 1999 to update her clinical skills and knowledge. Dr Lange will return to Queensland Health as a Staff Specialist in Psychiatry.

1611. Central Queensland Regional SAAP Meeting

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (10/11/99)—

- (1) Will she provide me with a complete copy of a 150 page Ministerial Advisory Arrangement file, with attachments, circulated to those attending a Central Queensland Regional SAAP services meeting at the Parkway Motel, Maryborough on 29 September 1999, this meeting being chaired by a John Tudman, an elected senior adviser to her under the Ministerial Advisory Arrangement?
- (2) Will she confirm that a senior officer of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, Maryborough office, attended that meeting in an official capacity and was handed a copy of that file?

Ms BLIGH (9/12/99):

- (1) No. The report in question is not a departmental or Ministerial document.
- (2) A Community Resource Officer from my Department attended the final hour of the regional SAAP meeting. I am advised that this officer was not aware of the inappropriate content of the report.

1612. Emergency Services Centre, Rosewood

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Emergency Services (10/11/99)—

With reference to the new emergency centre to be built at Rosewood—

- (1) What public consultation has been made of the effects of this centre on the surrounding community?
- (2) Was this location part of any strategic plan for future expansion?
- (3) What impact on the amenities of neighbours has been taken into consideration of the building of this new centre?
- (4) Is she satisfied with the location of this centre in a narrow lane?

Mrs ROSE (10/12/99):

1. The QAS and QFRA began planning the conceptual design of the joint emergency services facility in May 1998. Operational QAS and QFRA staff along with community representation from the Rosewood LAC were consulted extensively from the start of planning and up to this date. The architectural schematic drawings were made available to the Rosewood LAC and staff from the QAS and QFRA for comment, and advice on alterations to the planning concept.

2. The QAS, QFRA and Rosewood LAC in choosing the best location for the construction of the joint facility considered the possibility of future community growth. Given the central location of the existing station property within the Rosewood township, it was determined that the new facility be constructed on the current ambulance site.

3. The immediate neighbour to the Rosewood Station attended initial planning meetings for the proposed joint facility and was invited to participate in the schematic planning of the new station. Recent meetings have been held between the QAS, the Architect and the station neighbour to review the current schematic plan and determine mutually agreed building alterations. The station neighbour has advised the QAS that he is happy with the current review of the station schematic plan. The QAS and Architect are working closely with him to ensure the new facility provides minimal impact on his property.

4. The proposed joint emergency services facility is located on the corner of the main street of Rosewood and a lane way. Ambulance and Fire units will exit the station directly onto the main street when responding to emergencies or other incidents. Entry to the station will be via the lane way, which is a sealed public access road. I am totally satisfied that ambulance and fire unit entry into the new facility will not have an adverse impact on road users who may make use of the lane.

1613. Proserpine State High School

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/11/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of the fact that a large number of buildings within the Proserpine State High School have asbestos roofing?
- (2) In light of the publicity referring to asbestosis, will he direct his urgent attention to the removal of this dangerous product, especially in a school situation?

Mr SCHWARTEN (10/12/99):

(1) In October 1995, on behalf of Education Queensland, an audit of the Proserpine State High School revealed that Blocks C, D and E contained asbestos cement roof sheeting. All asbestos sheeting was found to be in a good or fair condition and was not posing a health risk to the occupants of the building.

(2) On behalf of Education Queensland, the Department of Public Works monitors the condition of all asbestos products through regular condition audits of all school facilities as part of the annual maintenance program. The removal of any materials identified by this process as an "immediate risk" is funded and prioritised as part of Education Queensland's Annual Maintenance plan. There are currently no Immediate or High priority items identified for the Proserpine State High School.

1614. CSIRO Research Laboratories, Long Pocket

Dr PRENZLER asked the Premier (10/11/99)—

With reference to his Government's commendable backing for biotechnology research in Queensland over the next decade and the ongoing protests by residents near the CSIRO Research Laboratories at Long Pocket—

- (1) When he allocates his grant for this research, will he encourage the research organisation to relocate their research facilities away from populated areas?
- (2) With the proposed rejuvenation of the Gatton Campus as an agricultural education centre of excellence, will he encourage the University of Queensland to consider the establishment of such research facilities at this campus?

Mr BEATTIE (8/12/99):

(1) My Government is examining options for the development of existing Government/CSIRO research sites at Indooroopilly and Long Pocket as a collaborative, world class Natural Sciences Precinct.

Potential advantages of the sites at Indooroopilly and Long Pocket are the sites' proximity to the University of Queensland and the research relationships that already exist across all relevant disciplines at the St Lucia campus; the sites' proximity to the proposed Institute for Molecular Biosciences at St Lucia, which could allow for the sharing of facilities and collaboration in high technology research and commercial projects; and the significant investment in existing science infrastructure at the Indooroopilly and Long Pocket sites.

My Government has instituted a process of full and open consultation with local residents and is keen to ensure that community issues are fully considered in any decision to proceed with the Natural Sciences Precinct.

(2) The future of the Gatton campus is a matter for the University of Queensland.

1615. Queen Street Mall Police Post

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/11/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of the deteriorating relationship between the Queensland Police Service and the Brisbane City Council over the workplace health and safety concerns surrounding the Queen Street mall police post?
- (2) Is he aware of the rumours of police being ready to walk out and no longer staff the post after verbal altercations with Brisbane City Council staff?
- (3) Is he aware of the condition of the police post in the mall?
- (4) Is he aware of any meeting between Police Service personnel, the Queensland Police Union and Brisbane City Council or has he in his capacity as Minister, made arrangements for such a meeting to take place to resolve this situation?
- (5) What does he intend to do to ensure that this facility meets a standard that will be acceptable

to police to adequately perform their duties and provide the quality of service to this busy centre that is expected of a professional unit of public administration?

Mr BARTON (10/12/99):

(1) The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has advised that a sound working relationship exists between the service and the Brisbane City Council (BCC). The relationship is maintained through a range of formal and informal discussions.

(2) I am aware of a range of issues about which there has been some dispute.

(3) Yes.

(4) A range of meetings have occurred recently in regard to the Queen Street Mall Post, including one between the Assistant Commissioner for the Metropolitan North Region, and officers of the QPUE. A further meeting was held between the Assistant Commissioner and the Lord Mayor of Brisbane to discuss the matter.

(5) The Queen Street Mall Post was constructed many years ago. It thus lacks many of the features common to modern police beat and police shopfront facilities throughout the State. The post was not at any time intended to be a fully operational police station, rather a public information booth. It is however, important for police to have a presence in the Mall to ensure that crime is minimised and public safety is assured. Issues such as the shortage of space, inadequate toilet and lunch room facilities, and lack of security have all been the subject of recent discussion with relevant parties and I can assure the Honourable Member these matters will continue to be the subject of negotiation.

It is possible that most of the identified issues can be addressed through the construction of a new Mall Post, and the Assistant Commissioner has met with the Lord Mayor and his Chief Executive Officer in relation to plans for the new Police Mall Post. It is envisaged that the current Mall Post will be demolished in the next phase of the Mall redevelopment project. The Lord Mayor has indicated that police needs will be considered in the overall context of the Mall's redevelopment. The Lord Mayor has agreed that QPS will be consulted at that time.

In the interim, I am advised that negotiations are continuing with a view to achieving a balance between the important workplace needs of police and the responsibility of QPS to provide a safe environment for Mall visitors and traders. Possible interim options include the use of the City Police Station and William Street facilities by police working the mall area.

1616. East Coast Trawl Fishery

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (10/11/99)—

With reference to the QFMA who have spent more than five years in consultation with the fishing industry over a Trawl Draft Management Plan for the Queensland east coast trawl fishery—

(1) Has the QFMA drafted a new altered management plan that has never been sighted by the industry and now contains some of the very controversial GBRMPA recommendations; if so, does he believe that if this new plan incorporating GBRMPA recommendations is implemented that the fishing industry will suffer terrible financial hardships and numerous job losses?

(2) Will he ensure that the \$600m fishing industry is consulted before any implementation of a new altered plan?

Mr PALASZCZUK (9/12/99):

1. The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) Board has made some amendments to the Draft Management Plan for the East Coast Trawl Fishery as a result of considering comments received from the public and stakeholders after the Draft Plan's release in June 1999. It became clear that there was not unanimous support amongst all stakeholders on a number of key elements in the Draft Plan. A special Task Force of QFMA/Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) staff was established by Government to work through some of these issues from a Commonwealth/Queensland Government perspective. During the Task Force negotiations, ongoing, informal discussions were held with key industry members on the matters being negotiated. The QFMA supported the outcomes of the Task Force's deliberations and called a meeting of key stakeholders to advise them of its position on 23 September 1999. The proposal to cap effort in the fishery at 1996 levels is still supported by Government. A special working group comprised of key stakeholder groups has been established and administered through the Department of Premier and Cabinet to consider a number of matters including the potential socio-economic impact of capping effort at the 1996 level on members of the commercial industry. The QFMA intends to establish an Independent Allocation Advisory Committee to advise it on the fairest method of allocating effort to commercial industry members in light of the working group's advice. The QFMA will endeavour to ensure that adverse impacts on the commercial industry as a result of capping effort are minimised as best as can be achieved.

2. Prior to the final adoption of the Plan, a number of commercial industry members of the Trawl Fishery Management Advisory Committee (TrawlMAC) and the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation were taken through the amended proposed Management Plan. An overview document and specific advice relating to the introduction of the northern closure was sent to all licence holders once the Plan became law. The overview document contains advice on how to obtain a copy of the Plan through the appropriate Internet website.

1617. South Burnett Meatworks

Mrs PRATT asked the Premier (10/11/99)—

With reference to an inquiry to me on 14 September from the South Burnett Meat Works asking if the

\$400,000 promised by the Beattie Government was simply guaranteeing the Suncorp Metway \$400,000, or another \$400,000 besides—

- (1) Why has his office still not provided an answer to this question in spite of nine phone calls made between 15 September and 9 November?
- (2) Will he tell the constituents in the South Burnett whether he didn't answer the question because (a) he didn't know the answer, (b) he didn't want the South Burnett constituents to know the answer or (c) his office is so completely disorganised as to be unable to provide an answer?

Mr BEATTIE (10/12/99): I regret the delay in my office responding to your queries but certain facts had to be checked. Indeed, these checks have determined that the information sought was largely contained in previous answers to Questions on Notice provided to the Honourable Member.

However, for the benefit of the Honourable Member, the Government has made a number of commitments to assist the South Burnett Meatworks.

In reference to the \$400,000, I refer the Honourable Member to Part 4 of my answer to your six-part Question on Notice 1460 asked on 28 October, 1999. On September 3, 1999, we extended the deed of Suncorp Metway by an additional \$400,000 to allow them to provide for care and maintenance for a period of two months covering August and September. The Government has also committed an additional \$100,000 per month for care and maintenance for a further three months to December. Please note this \$300,000 has not yet been paid, but has been set aside. It is hoped that the bank will contribute a similar amount. In addition to this the Government has also committed to fund the preparation of a business plan for any proposal deemed viable and commercial by the administrators.

If the Honourable needs further assistance in relation to the detail of this proposal, I would be happy to arrange for a full briefing by members of the Deputy Premier's Meat Task Force.

1618. Buranda State School

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Education (10/11/99)—

- (1) What progress has been made in the teaching of philosophy at Buranda State School?
- (2) What other schools have expressed an interest and are pursuing a program of philosophy in their schools?

Mr WELLS (10/12/99): In early 1997, with the full support of the school community, "Philosophy for Children" was implemented across all year levels at Buranda State School. Regular lessons, at least weekly, have occurred in all classes since the implementation of the program. Focus is on both the topic under discussion, that is, substantive thinking, and the process by which the topic is discussed, that is, procedural thinking. It is the balance of these two types of thinking that allows the development in children of complex thinking skills. The school has found that "Philosophy for Children" positively

influences students' learning and social behaviour because it teaches them to think for themselves and to respect other people's ideas and opinions. I understand that Buranda State School, as part of a wider network, has been active in the provision of advice about this program.

The Department informs me that anecdotal evidence suggests that a number of other schools have expressed an interest in pursuing this particular approach. The Department also advises me that the following schools have either shown an interest in the program or have staff who have undertaken some initial training in the methodology: Coorparoo Secondary College; Toowong State High School; Taabinga State School; Gladstone Central State School; Springbrook State School; Montville State School; Jimna State School; St Peters, Rochedale; Trinity Lutheran, Gold Coast; Stella Maris, Maroochydore; Pius X, Salisbury; St Peter Claver College, Riverview; Wynnum North State School.

The program at Gladstone Central State School has focused on the Human Relationships Education program with Year 5 and 6 classes having a brief exposure to the program in 1999. The school has one member of staff trained in the methodology and I am advised that experience with this limited trial has been satisfactory. The school may consider an extension of the program in 2000.

The Honourable Member will be pleased to know that Wynnum North State School in his electorate has had eight staff trained in the methodology and has been using it in 1999 as a key strategy in the development of critical thinking. I am advised that the school has been pleased with the results from the first year of the program and is seeking to extend the program in 2000. I am informed that another school in this group is looking at the methodology as one of a raft of strategies to address the development of critical thinking skills in 2000.

1619. Cairns Health District

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Cairns Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospital as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1620. QE II Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospital as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

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Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1621. Mount Isa Health District

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Mount Isa Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospital as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility

but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1622. Roma Health District

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Roma Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the

former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1623. North Burnett Health District

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the North Burnett Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of

beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1624. Bowen Health District

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Bowen Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality

and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1625. Central West Health District

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Central West Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly

focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1626. Bundaberg Health District

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Bundaberg Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to

overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1627. West Moreton Health District

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the West Moreton Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1628. Cape York Health District

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Cape York Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a

result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1629. Logan-Beaudesert Health District

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Logan-Beaudesert Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are

having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1630. Roma Health District

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Roma District Health Region—

- (1) In relation to the St George Community Health Services that have been relocated from Henry Street to the hospital, (a) will her department be providing a separate phone line to the community health services to enable patients to make appointments directly with the community health service providers and (b) will her department be providing additional disabled access to the community health services located at the hospital?
- (2) In relation to the free spectacle supply scheme where patients from Bollon have to make appointments in St George to see the visiting optometrist in Bollon and then have to travel to St George to collect their glasses at the St George Hospital, will her department enable the Bush Nursing Service in Bollon to be the appointment and collection agency for glasses provided under the free spectacle scheme?
- (3) Is she aware that medical patients from Bollon must travel to St George to be assessed under the Patient Transit Scheme when there are visiting doctors in Bollon?
- (4) Will her department enable the visiting doctors to Bollon to assess and approve applications for the Patient Transit Scheme?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99):

(1) (a) I am advised that the current phone arrangements are working satisfactorily, and that it is not necessary to provide another phone connection at a cost of several hundred dollars per year. (b) Disabled access is provided through the main hospital into Community Health.

(2) Yes.

(3) This is not necessary provided the forms are forwarded to the Medical Superintendent at either St George or Dirranbandi.

(4) Personnel authorised to assess and approve applications for the Patient Transit Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) and have expenditure of public moneys are Medical Superintendents and District Managers. In the case of Bollon, either the Medical Superintendent at St George or at Dirranbandi consider PTSS applications. The forms may be forwarded to the appropriate Medical Superintendent. One option is for the PTSS forms to be faxed through from the Bollon Bush Nurse Centre either to the St George or Dirranbandi Health Service and faxed back to Bollon once signed by the respective Medical Superintendent.

1631. Business Name Registrations

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (10/11/99)—

With reference to business name registrations in Queensland since January 1998 up to and including October 1999—

Will she provide a monthly breakdown of the (a) total number of applications received each month, (b) number of applications approved each month, (c) number of applications declined each month, (d) number of applications deferred each month and (e) average time (in days) of processing business registrations?

Ms SPENCE (10/12/99): In reply to the question from Mr Davidson I table the information sought in relation to the registration of new business names. The information tabled does not refer to deferred applications, as new business name applications are not deferred. They are registered, rejected or requisitioned due to the non-availability of the name or the incompleteness of the application. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1632. James Cook University

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Education (10/11/99)—

With reference to the James Cook University in Townsville and a decision by the University Council to axe the free bus service between the Vincent and Douglas campuses and to charge students \$8 a semester for Internet access next year, regardless of whether or not they use the service and in light of these facts—

Will he investigate the council's decision to award University hierarchy an obscene 14 per cent pay rise, backdated two years?

Mr WELLS (10/12/99): It would not be appropriate for me to investigate a University salary decision, and indeed, I have no authority to do so. University Governing Bodies are empowered under their Enabling Acts to determine the salaries of their staff, and to manage the affairs of the University.

1633. HOME Scheme

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/11/99)—

With reference to the HOME scheme, including the HOME Loan and Rental Purchase Plan (RPP) at 31 October—

- (1) What was the total number of repossessions and converted "loans to rent" for both schemes listed above since their respective introductions?
- (2) What were the total losses realised from loan write-offs for both schemes listed above since their respective introductions?
- (3) What was the total capital gains or losses realised on the department's share of RPP properties since the schemes introduction?
- (4) What was the total of revaluation decrements for RPP properties since the schemes introduction?
- (5) What was the total value of additional assistance measures for (a) HOME Loan—interest subsidy, (b) RPP—lease subsidy and (c) RPP—insurance costs since their respective introductions?
- (6) What is the total number of loans and repossessions currently on hand?

Mr SCHWARTEN (10/12/99):

- (1) See Attachment A for the total number of repossessions and converted "loans to rent" for the HOME schemes.
- (2) See Attachment A for the total losses realised from loan write-offs for the HOME schemes since their respective introductions.
- (3) See Attachment A for the total capital gains or losses realised on the department's share of RPP properties since the HOME schemes' introduction.
- (4) See Attachment A for the total of revaluation decrements for RPP properties since the HOME schemes' introduction.
- (5) See Attachment A for the total value of additional assistance measures for (a) HOME Loan—interest subsidy, (b) RPP—lease subsidy and (c) RPP—insurance costs since their respective introductions.
- (6) See Attachment A for the total number of loans and repossessions currently on hand.

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1634. Q-Build

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/11/99)—

With reference to Q-Build within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for October?

- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for October by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory at 31 October?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Q-Build for October?

Mr SCHWARTEN (10/12/99): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1422 answered on 25 November 1999, due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to business units of the Department of Public Works and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1635. WorkCover

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/99)—

With reference to the significant reductions in WorkCover staffing of the fraud detection function and to claims that these reductions will be "offset" to some extent by the diversion of two staff to fraud detection in respect of self-insurers and in view of the substantial reduction in the number of businesses willing and able to self-insure (as a result of his restrictive amendments to WorkCover legislation) and the substantial financial sureties already required from the few remaining, highly regulated self-insurers—

Why are two more people required for this function, at a time when resources are being reduced in respect of fraud detection against the public fund, which affects all Queensland employers?

Mr BRADY (10/12/99): WorkCover has the power under the legislation to investigate and prosecute. This has resulted in the necessity to ensure a balanced approach with regard to both detection of fraud in relation to workers and compliance by employers.

I am advised by WorkCover that it maintains a strong commitment to pursuing all cases of genuine fraud whether injured workers or employers perpetrate it. As part of this commitment, WorkCover has advised that it has recently reviewed the operation of the Loss Investigation Unit. This review was driven by a desire to refocus WorkCover's fraud efforts and to ensure fraud investigations were managed efficiently and appropriately.

WorkCover further advise that the review has now been completed and implementation of the new processes will result in a targeted approach to the investigation and prosecution of fraud. In addition, a clearly documented prosecutions policy will ensure that WorkCover is perceived as a fair prosecutor. The new processes identified have resulted in redefined roles and resource requirements. The review identified the need for six investigators and 2 administrative support staff to specifically target statutory claims across WorkCover and self insurers.

Fraud detection for self-insurers has, since the introduction of self-insurance licences, been undertaken by WorkCover's Claims Investigations Branch. There are currently 22 self-insurers and this number has not decreased since the announcement of the legislative amendments. Following a decision by WorkCover that responsibility for fraud investigations for WorkCover claims should be within the commercial area of WorkCover, it was necessary to establish a small fraud unit within the Regulatory Functions Division to investigate referrals by self insurers. The review recommended that two investigators and one administrative support staff would be required within the Regulatory Functions Division.

The two investigators will be responsible for investigation of all self-insurer referrals and will also monitor any scheme wide fraudulent activities. WorkCover has assured me that this approach will not diminish their strong commitment to detecting and prosecuting workers' compensation fraud.

1636. Roma, Plant Hire Services

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/11/99)—

- (1) Is he aware that RTCS at Roma are hiring out earthmoving equipment to the general public?
- (2) Is RTCS hiring a 22 tonne excavator at a rate of \$22 per hour and a D5 dozer at \$25 per hour?
- (3) As the commercial rate for hiring this equipment is \$95 per hour and \$80 per hour respectively, is he satisfied that competitive neutrality is being adequately applied to RTCS operations?
- (4) Are there appropriate practices in place to ensure that suitably qualified operators operate any equipment hired by RTCS?
- (5) Is he aware of the significant damage being done to commercial earth moving operators in the Roma area by the pricing policies of RTCS?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/99):

- (1) Point of Clarification: It is Plant Hire Services, not RTCS, hiring out the earthmoving equipment.

The primary customers of Plant Hire Services are the RTCS group within the Department of Main Roads and local governments where they actively market their plant hire and leasing products to maintain high levels of utilisation. The private sector also has access to the plant assets on a "sole invitee" basis if plant is available and not being used for government-controlled civil work.

- (2) No.
- (3) I am satisfied that competitive neutrality principles are being applied.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) I am satisfied that Plant Hire Services complies with the requirements of the Queensland Government's Competitive Neutrality Policy.

Plant Hire Services is committed to rural and remote communities by offering customer focused support, including timeliness and quality. When Plant Hire

Services does supply under a "sole invitee" arrangement, it is at current market rates with a hire or leasing product that meets its customers' needs.

1637. Suncorp-Metway Stadium

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (10/11/99)—

With reference to page 79 of Budget Paper No 5 in which it showed \$31,024,000 as having been spent on the Suncorp Metway Stadium Redevelopment to 30 June—

Will he provide details of the redevelopment work carried out for that amount of money and when that work was done?

Mr GIBBS (9/12/99): The amount of \$31.024M as disclosed in Budget Paper No. 5 in relation to expenditure on property, plant and equipment for the "Suncorp Metway Stadium Redevelopment" was an estimate at the time of its preparation. The actual figures are detailed below, and represent life-to-date costs (rather than just 1998-99 financial year costs). As such, capital expenditure was primarily incurred between December 1993 and September 1994, in which period the Stadium now known as "Suncorp Metway" was constructed.

Building—\$24.454M
 Fixtures and Fittings—\$3.119M
 Plant and Equipment—\$1.767M
 Ground Improvements—\$1.740M
 TOTAL—\$31.080M

The figure of \$31.080M includes a revaluation reserve of \$359,600 in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard, AAS10 'Accounting for the Revaluation of Non-Current Assets'.

1638. Minor Sports and Recreation Facilities Program

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Minor Sports and Recreation Facilities Program—

What is the break-up by State electorate of funding for each round since June 1998?

Mr GIBBS (9/12/99): As the Minor Sport and Recreation Facility Program (MSRFP) is advertised once a year and the projects are to be completed within a financial year, only one round of MSRFP has been approved since June 1998. The MSRFP 1999 was approved in March 1999 and money became available from 1 July 1999. A total of \$5,437,262.25 was provided to organisations in 68 electorates, and to one organisation that had venues in 2 electorates.

In summary \$1,876,665.25 was allocated to 67 projects in 30 Government electorates. A further \$2,443,951.00 was allocated to 94 projects in 26 Coalition electorates. One Nation electorates received \$415,518.00 for 18 projects in 5 electorates and Independent electorates received \$693,128.00 for 27 projects in 7 electorates. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1639. Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund

Mr HEGARTY asked the Treasurer (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund—

What is the break-up by State electorate of funding for each round since June 1998?

Mr HAMILL (10/12/99): The Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund is an independent Committee that allocates grants according to 39 regions across the State. Applications are not assessed on the basis of electoral boundaries.

Areas close to the city appeal to many organisations—statewide, Brisbane-wide and local—as a preferred location for establishing their central agency/head office. Since Brisbane Central and South Brisbane electorates capture many central areas of Brisbane, this is reflected in the number of grants and total amount of grants attributed to these electorates. For example, areas captured by Brisbane Central and South Brisbane electorates include the City and Fortitude Valley, Spring Hill, Herston, New Farm, West End, Annerley, Stones Corner, Woolloongabba, Buranda and East Brisbane, all of which are central locations that attract a heavy concentration of head offices for a number of organisations, including a number of ethnic organisations.

The Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund has provided the following figures for the break-up by State electorate of funding for each round since June 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1640. WorkCover

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/99)—

With reference to concern among many employers that the change to the definition of injury means easier access for those who may wish to wrongfully claim workers' compensation and as there is a real employer concern that premiums will rise further as a result of this Labor Government initiative—

What measures does the Government propose to ensure workers' compensation fraud does not increase as a result of this definitional change?

Mr BRADY (10/12/99): I am advised by WorkCover that it does not believe that the definition change will result in an increased potential for fraud.

WorkCover advises that it is introducing new processes which will result in a targeted approach to the investigation and prosecution of fraud being developed with a clearly documented prosecutions policy that will ensure that WorkCover is perceived as a fair prosecutor.

Staff from WorkCover's regulatory and commercial areas are participating in workshops to establish criteria for proceeding with an investigation. WorkCover has also established a vetting committee

to assess the suitability of matters for prosecution. Vetting procedures are aimed at ensuring earlier identification and targeting of resources for prosecutions within the timeframes stipulated in WorkCover's legislation.

WorkCover has assured me that emphasis will be placed on the training of claims officers in relation to early detection and identification of potential fraud matters—the aim being to achieve appropriate referrals.

WorkCover further advises that it is refocusing its resources to ensure fraud investigations are managed efficiently and appropriately. This approach will not diminish WorkCover's strong commitment to detecting and prosecuting workers' compensation fraud.

In early 2000, WorkCover will conduct a series of industry forums to educate employers and workers about its statutory and common law fraud strategies, including its biannual key stakeholders forums. This will coincide with WorkCover's forecasting cycle in the business calendar. This campaign will be reinforced with appropriate media and published material.

1641. WorkCover

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/99)—

With reference to the dramatic increases in workers' compensation premiums being suffered by many employers, especially those unfortunate enough to have common law claims lodged against them that are exaggerated, or in some cases fraudulent—

Will he advise whether he considers this an issue of significance and how the problem is to be addressed now that WorkCover has downgraded its fraud investigation capacity?

Mr BRADY (10/12/99): Under the Experienced Based Rating premium calculation method introduced by the former Coalition Government, employers premiums are impacted by their common law claims. While some of these claims may be exaggerated or fraudulent, WorkCover advises that their anti fraud activities are achieving results.

WorkCover advises that it prosecuted 94 people for fraud in 1998-99. This was two more than the previous year. In 1997-98, there were 92 prosecutions and 91 in 1996-97.

WorkCover advises that the number of fraudulent and exaggerated claims are not significant. WorkCover further advises that it is not downgrading its fraud investigation capacity. It is refocusing its resources to ensure fraud investigations of statutory claims are managed efficiently and appropriately. This approach will not diminish WorkCover's strong commitment to detecting and prosecuting workers' compensation fraud.

WorkCover has assured me that since May 1997 it has increased staff resources committed to the Damages Claims Branch, with a further two additional positions recently being approved.

In the past WorkCover fraud investigation for statutory and common law claims were undertaken by two distinct areas. Following consideration of the recommendations of the review of the Loss Investigation Branch, WorkCover is in the process of integrating statutory investigations into the Claims Investigation Branch, increasing the investigatory capacity of WorkCover under one Branch.

WorkCover has assured me that its fraud investigation capacity has not diminished but will in fact improve significantly.

1642. Public Housing

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Public Housing Capital Works Program on existing dwellings (excluding the urban renewal and community renewal program) (10/11/99)—

Will he provide a breakdown of capital expenditure by State electorate for 1999-2000?

Mr SCHWARTEN (10/12/99): The Public Housing Capital Works Program on existing dwellings (excluding the urban renewal and community renewal program) for the 1999/2000 financial year consists of various ongoing projects as well as new initiatives. These projects are allocated by priority and geographic region. For example, the air-cooling program is allocated for housing in the Western Queensland regions and the HomeSafe program is allocated to regions where there are high levels of crime. The provision of disability modifications is on an "as needs basis" and cannot be determined in advance. The capital expenditure programs are allocated to individual Area Offices throughout the State each financial year and are not divided by State electorate. Further to this, departmental systems are unable to provide a future breakdown of information based on State electorates at this time.

1643. Ipswich, Rugby League

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (10/11/99)—

With reference to his decision to honour his election promise by approving an \$800,000 grant to the Ipswich Rugby League—

Will he advise (a) out of which funding program was this grant sourced and did those funds come from the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund, (b) was the project in total accordance with the guidelines of that program, (c) when were those guidelines drawn up, (d) when were applications for projects under that program called, (e) when were projects under that program announced and (f) when was the Ipswich Rugby League project funding approved and announced?

Mr GIBBS (9/12/99): The financial assistance approved to the Ipswich Rugby League Inc was special initiative funding initially approved by the Treasurer.

(a) The project was administered in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy. A full tender process was undertaken, a qualified project manager managed the project, and staff from my Department monitored the progress through regular contact with the project manager and the client. Additionally, the project was reported on the Capital Works Reporting System in accordance with the requirements of Government.

(b) The State Purchasing Guidelines have been in place for some years.

(c) See my response to (a).

(d) See my response to (a)

(e) The project was approved on 24 August 1998. The expenditure received Executive Council Approval on 3 December 1998. The Ipswich Rugby League Inc was advised of this approval as soon as it was received.

1644. Cooktown, Electricity Supply

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (10/11/99)—

With reference to Cooktown which has had problems with maintaining a power supply and as people in the region are frustrated with the numerous outages—

As Minister for Mines and Energy, how does he intend to ensure that a reliable supply of power is being provided to the Cooktown region as it is obvious the measures that have been implemented are inadequate?

Mr McGRADY (10/12/99): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Rowell, I can advise as follows:

Since the outages in January 1999, Ergon Energy has continually sought to improve the reliability of the electricity supply to Cooktown. I am advised that a 1.25MW standby diesel generator has been installed at Cooktown to provide back up supply in the event of an outage. This generator has sufficient capacity to provide supply to one third of the load on a rotational basis. Extensive maintenance on the line has recently been undertaken. These works have included vegetation clearing, pole and crossarm replacement, and maintenance of access tracks to improve access to the line. Tree clearing works are continuing, and should be complete prior to Christmas, weather permitting.

I am also advised that Ergon Energy is progressing work on a \$1.8 million project to construct a new 66kV/22kV sub-station at Helensvale, a second 22kV feeder (to be built to 66kV standards) from the sub-station to Lakeland Downs, and the installation of a set of pole-mounted capacitors at Lakeland for voltage support. This is intended to significantly improve the electricity supply from Cooktown out through Lakeland towards Laura.

Ergon Energy is also currently preparing further options to improve supply to the area and these options will be discussed with the local community prior to a final course of action being determined.

As a long term solution, Ergon is investigating the possibility of re-routing the line from Mossman inland, to provide greater reliability. Installation of this transmission line requires heritage and cultural assessment, and management of Native Title and landowner issues, prior to the determination of its final route.

1645. Goprint

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/11/99)—

With reference to Goprint within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for October?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for October for (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory at 31 October?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Goprint for October?
- (5) What was the value of spoilage for October?

Mr SCHWARTEN (10/12/99): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1428 answered on 25 November 1999, due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to business units of the Department of Public Works and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the required information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1646. Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (10/11/99)—

- (1) What criteria does she utilise to determine the success or otherwise of the transition of young people from the care of the department after they turn 18 years of age?
- (2) As clearly from her own comments she has a number of categories including one described as "enormously successful", specifically what criteria apply to this category?

Ms BLIGH (9/12/99):

- (1) The measures used for determining success of the transition of young people from the care of the Department include that:

every young person preparing to leave care has a plan in place to identify and address their needs in transition from care including living skills, accommodation and support, educational or employment, health and personal networks;

young people have a community network able to support them in an ongoing way; and

young people, their carers and significant others are directly involved in identifying

needs, planning the transition and evaluating the outcomes.

- (2) In January 1999, a pilot program for young people aged 15-17 years was commenced with particular focus on responding to the needs of specific target groups. The success of the Leaving Care initiative was evidenced in the overwhelming positive response to the pilot from young people, staff and foster carers. It was successful in identifying and responding to the needs of young people and for providing a framework for future work with young people as they prepare to leave care. The Leaving Care initiative has proved to be very successful in assisting young people to prepare to leave care and will continue to be a priority of the Beattie Government.

1647. Health Department

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (10/11/99)—

With reference to the Public Service Commissioner's Annual Report which indicates there were 1066 fewer full-time equivalent jobs in June in the Health Department compared to last year and as she has disputed this reduction—

- (1) Were these indicated positions medical or administrative?
- (2) In which hospitals were these positions recognised?
- (3) Has there been a transfer of staffing mix where this number previously were medical and are now administrative?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/99): (1-3) The full-time equivalent figures for Queensland Health contained in the Public Service Commissioner's Annual Report were based on an analysis of individual employee data performed by the Office of the Public Service Commissioner (OPSC). The data were taken from a single payroll period in May 1998 and a single payroll period in May 1999. Queensland Health had supplied this data to the OPSC as required. Due to the tight timeframes imposed by the OPSC, the datasets provided by Queensland Health contained preliminary data that had not been completely quality assured. This fact was made clear in correspondence from Queensland Health to the OPSC. Further, making comparisons between single points in time without regard to underlying trends in the data is fraught with danger due to the possibility of unexpected irregularities.

Two data anomalies have contributed to the OPSC reporting which stated that there had been a decline in full-time equivalent positions in Queensland Health. The June 1998 full-time equivalent figure published by the OPSC, and used as the base point for year to year comparisons, overstated the number of casuals working in Queensland Health by 689 full-time equivalent positions. This was due to coding that reported all casuals as being employed full-time, which was not the case. Ensuing payroll collections were used to statistically estimate the amount of time that was actually worked, and all incorrect individual records were subsequently adjusted on the

Queensland Health database. Now that the system has been computerised there should be no similar error in the future.

In addition, the June 1999 full-time equivalent figure published by the OPSC excluded a total of 1,147 full-time equivalent staff in two Health Services Districts who were incorrectly coded as being on extended unpaid leave. This appears to have been caused by a leave reconstruction process on the payroll systems in those Districts. Neither of these coding errors affected the correct payment of staff.

Adjusting for the above-mentioned anomalies, the full-time equivalent staffing figures for Queensland Health increased between June 1998 and June 1999, as opposed to the reduction of 1,067 full-time equivalent positions reported in the OPSC Annual Report. Data published in the Ministerial Program Statements, which showed an average increase of 733 full-time equivalent positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99, should be relied on as the most accurate measure of staffing levels available. Queensland Health staff were not given the opportunity to verify and sign off the OPSC analysis of 1998/99 staffing data. Had this occurred, the errors would have been rectified prior to publication, and the incorrect conclusion of a reduction in staffing levels for Queensland Health would not have been reported.

In light of these findings, the questions asked by the Member are not relevant because there was no such reduction in full-time equivalent jobs in Queensland Health.

1648. Injune, Parthenium

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/11/99)—

With reference to a deputation he received earlier this year from landowners of Injune who were prepared to work with his department to arrest the spread of Parthenium this summer—

- (1) What funding was spent by his department in the Injune area during 1998-99?
- (2) What funding will be spent in the same area in 1999-2000?
- (3) What action will his department take in the same area to honour the promise he and the Premier made to accept responsibility for noxious weeds on all Crown lands across the State?

Mr WELFORD (13/12/99):

(1) During 1998/99, landholders received 410 kilograms of free herbicide valued at approximately \$6000. The Injune Washdown Facility was completed during 1998/99 at a total cost of \$150,000. Bungil Shire Council contributed \$30,000 of this. In addition, a Quikspray Unit was purchased by my Department of Natural Resources for landholders use when spraying Parthenium. This Unit cost approximately \$8000.

(2) The Parthenium Summer Rust is to be released into the Injune area in 1999/2000. Approximately \$750,000 has been spent to date on introduction and

quarantine procedures for the importation of this bio-control agent. The cost of distributing the Rust will depend upon weather conditions but an amount of \$6000 is budgeted for 1999/2000. Free herbicide will continue to be available to landholders.

(3) My Department of Natural Resources has embarked on a project to coordinate pest control activities on State lands, involving the five main agencies responsible for managing State lands.

1649. Contaminated Meat

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/11/99)—

With reference to an article on page 7 of The Courier Mail of 6 November on a contaminated shipment of meat—

- (1) Was the meatworks involved with this contaminated shipment the AMH works at Dinmore; if not, which works was involved; if so, why has this Government poured in millions of dollars to assist a foreign owned meat works, which has produced a contaminated product while virtually ignoring the South Burnett Meat Works with their excellent record of product purity?
- (2) What date was the contamination discovered and when was the Government notified of the contamination?
- (3) What action has this Government undertaken to rectify the damage done to our export industries reputation for providing uncontaminated product?

Mr PALASZCZUK (9/12/99): The meatworks involved was not AMH at Dinmore. However, I am not at liberty to reveal the actual identity of the meatworks concerned. In any case, the particular abattoir in this sort of case is largely irrelevant. The chlorfenvinphos residue would almost certainly have resulted from inappropriate treatment for ticks or buffalo fly by a cattle producer. Abattoirs have little control over this apart from insisting on vendor declarations giving details of prior treatments.

DPI was notified by AQIS on 4 November 1999 that USA had confirmed the detection of this chemical in a consignment of Australian beef. I do not have information regarding when the detection was made in the USA. However, you can be assured that Australian authorities have responded promptly. Regarding this incident, DPI (in conjunction with AQIS) has conducted a thorough traceback investigation to clarify the possible source of contamination. Also, additional samples from cattle slaughtered in Queensland have been tested for chlorfenvinphos. Since 1989, over 52,000 samples have been tested under the national residue survey, with no detections of this chemical during that period. This gives considerable confidence that this finding in the USA is an extremely rare event.

1650. Townsville General Hospital-Upper Ross Area Bridge

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/11/99)—

With reference to the proposed bridge to link the new Townsville General Hospital to the Upper Ross area in Thuringowa—

What progress has he made to date on this issue?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/12/99): The proposed Douglas Arterial, extending from Angus Smith Drive to Upper Ross River Road at Condon via a new bridge across the Ross River, comprises Stage 1 of the proposed Townsville Ring Road being planned as part of the future National Highway System, for which funding responsibility rests with the Federal Government. Construction of the Douglas Arterial will be warranted in the period 2003-04 when it is expected that the Nathan Street/Ross River Road intersection, which forms part of the existing National Highway System, reaches its traffic capacity.

The Project Proposal Report for Stage 1 of the Townsville Ring Road has been submitted to the Federal Government for funding approval at a total estimated cost of \$40.7 million. I discussed the issue of Federal funding with the Honourable John Anderson MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services on Saturday 20 November 1999. He undertook to consider this matter following detailed analysis of the Project Proposal Report by his department. In the interim, the State Government has committed \$7.1 million as part of the Roads Implementation Program towards pre construction activities, \$3.14 million of which was expended as at 30 June 1999.

It should be noted that provision of traffic access to the new Townsville Hospital is not dependent on construction of the Douglas Arterial. Appropriate traffic connections will be provided to coincide with the hospital opening in 2001.

1651. St George Irrigation Area

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/11/99)—

With reference to the St George irrigation area and claims by the channel farmers' consultant that the NCC (commission) has not taken issue with the off-stream storage but with the Government's failure to keep its commitment to rigorously assess the economics of the proposed development and that provided the Government does its homework and addresses the issues by the commission's deadline (end of December) then the NCC will not be an obstacle to the development proceeding; the consultant also points out that the Government has not responded to the commission's request for further particulars—

- (1) Is the NCC just an excuse to pull out of the development?
- (2) Is he proposing to address the concerns of the commission?
- (3) Why is he taking so long to respond?
- (4) If the issues can be addressed to the commission's satisfaction, is he prepared to give the farmers an undertaking that the development will proceed?

Mr WELFORD (13/12/99):

(1) The Federal Government's National Competition Council has refused to approve the construction of the proposed Beardmore Western Cell Storage. Whilst the Queensland Government will maintain other projects also questioned by the Council without financial penalty, the Council could not be convinced on the proposed extension to the St George system. As a result of this intervention by the Federal Government's National Competition Council, the Queensland Government will announce a plan to improve the reliability for primary producers in the St George irrigation area.

(2) The Queensland Government provided all relevant information on the St George project to the Council. It was evident, however, that the Council could not be convinced on the project.

(3) The Government responded with detailed information to the Council some months ago.

(4) The Government has always intended to proceed with this project. In view of the trenchant position of the National Competition Council in opposing the storage the Government will spend \$6m buying back allocations on a market basis to ensure more water is available. The Government will also meet the request of the St George irrigators for a new start to the water year and will introduce capacity sharing as an option for producers.

1652. Hervey Bay, Booral Road

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/11/99)—

With reference to Booral Road at Wondunna and the representations that I have made supported by a recent petition I tabled—

- (1) What progress has been made into the repair of this road?
- (2) Will he supply me with a copy of the reports that have just been sent to him from Albert Chew from the Mains Road Department in Bundaberg?
- (3) What action does he plan to take and when, as this matter is a matter of urgency for the safety of the thousands of tourists who use this section of road for their departure to Fraser Island?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/99): (1-3) A road safety audit has been completed on Booral Road, between Garden Drive and River Heads Road. The audit recommended a number of high priority measures:

- lowering of the speed limit between Beck Road and Don Adams Drive from 100 to 80 kilometres per hour;
- improving the condition and location of road warning and speed limit signs;
- installing additional road edge guide posts and improve line-markings, especially on curves;
- selectively clearing vegetation to improve visibility on curves.

Cost is estimated at \$12,000. The Department of Main Roads will liaise with Hervey Bay City Council to reassess priorities regarding current work allocations so that work on some of these measures can be implemented at the earliest opportunity.

The southbound lane currently narrows in width to 2.6 and 2.8 metres in some sections, while the northbound lane is consistently 3.3 metres throughout. The safety audit recommends widening the southbound lane of Booral Road between Round Island Road and Don Adams Drive to 3.3 metres throughout. Currently, Main Roads is preparing an application under the Federal Government's Blackspot Road Safety Program which would enable widening of this section of road to be undertaken in the 2000-2001 financial at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

Subject to Federal Blackspot funding approval of this project, the provision of bus stops between Round Island Road and Don Adams Drive will be addressed at the time the widening of the southbound lane takes place. The provision of other bus stops will be addressed in future discussions between Main Roads, Queensland Transport and the school bus operators. Depending on the outcome of these discussions, consideration for improved facilities will be reviewed in future roads programs.

Main Roads does not generally release reports of Safety Audits but this answer and my recent media statement adequately summarise the major findings of the Safety Audit Report.

1653. Amberley/Walloon, Western Connection

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/11/99)—

With reference to a proposal for a western connection, a highway connector, between the Warrego and Cunningham Highway via Amberley/Walloon—

- (1) At what stage is this proposal?
- (2) Who are the consulting engineers performing a study for his department?
- (3) What route is it likely to take?
- (4) What is the time frame for this connection to be started?
- (5) What Federal funding has been applied for, for this particular project?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/99):

- (1) On 11 October 1999, the Department of Main Roads commissioned independent consultants, to undertake a study into the possible provision of a new road link to the west of Ipswich connecting the Warrego and Cunningham Highways.
- (2) No routes have been chosen at this early stage in the process.
- (3) There is no intention to construct a road in the short to medium term. The primary aim for the current study is to identify and protect a future road corridor so that general land-use planning can be carried out in the area with certainty.

(4) The Western Ipswich Bypass Study is being funded by the State Government. However, if the road is to be constructed, the State will seek Federal Government contributions towards the connections with the Cunningham and Warrego Highways. Such requests cannot be made until this planning study is complete and details of the connections and their locations become known.

1654. Cunningham Highway, Accidents

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Emergency Services (11/11/99)—

With reference to the numerous accidents on the Cunningham Highway at Cunningham's Gap that often result in motorists being trapped in the wreckage requiring the use of specialised retrieval equipment only carried by the volunteer SES road rescue vehicle at Aratula—

- (1) Is she aware that these volunteers are placing their lives in danger to reach these crash sites due to the indifference of other motorists to their flashing amber lights?
- (2) With the time frame in these accidents between life and death often very short, why is this intractable situation, where these rescue vehicles are not permitted to flash emergency red lights or use sirens, allowed to continue?
- (3) When will her department rectify this situation to allow these rescuers to save more lives?

Mrs ROSE (13/12/99): A working group of staff from the Department of Emergency Services and representatives of the Commissioner of Police have recently discussed the issue of fitting red flashing lights to State Emergency Service (SES) vehicles. In particular, the working group has been developing policy and procedures concerning the use of red flashing lights on SES Road Accident Rescue (RAR) vehicles.

The fitting of red flashing lights to an emergency vehicle is subject to the Traffic Regulation 1962. This regulation states that permission to declare a motor vehicle as an "emergency vehicle" and to fit it with a siren and red flashing lights requires written permission from the Commissioner of Police.

On 8 December the Commissioner of Police formally authorised the use of red flashing lights on State Emergency Service Road Accident Rescue vehicles operating as emergency vehicles for the purpose of primary response at serious road crashes in nominated locations across the state in accordance with defined conditions.

1655. Gympie Health District

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Gympie Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1656. Gold Coast Health District

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Gold Coast Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

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Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1657. Mater Health District

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Mater Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

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1658. Charleville Health District

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Charleville Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its

commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1659. Sunshine Coast Health District

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Sunshine Coast Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1660. Toowoomba Health District

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Toowoomba Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1661. Innisfail Health District

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Innisfail Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland

Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1662. Logan-Beaudesert Health District

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Logan-Beaudesert Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1663. Hospital Budgets

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

What is the budget overrun or "carry over" for Royal Brisbane Hospital, Toowoomba Hospital, Gold Coast Hospital, Nambour Hospital, Redcliffe Hospital and Caboolture Hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): Overall Queensland Health had a balanced budget for the period ending 30 June 1999. Individual hospital budget information is not readily available.

1664. Methadone Program

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to the methadone program—

What statistics are kept by the Health Department in regard to (a) morbidity of clients, (b) length of stay in the program and (c) mortality rates of clients?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99):

(a) The Monitoring of Drugs of Dependence (MODD) computerised system provides demographic information methadone patients. MODD reflects information obtained from the methadone program admission and discharge forms.

(b) The MODD system has the capacity provide this information.

(c) Methadone related deaths are monitored via a separate database using information obtained from all drug related post mortem reports.

1665. Methadone Program

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to the methadone program—

What statistics does the Health Department collect in regard to people using methadone and other illicit drugs concurrently in Queensland?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): Individual methadone program patients in Queensland are monitored on an ongoing basis by their methadone prescriber and/or counsellor. Statistics in relation to a methadone patient's extra drug use are recorded in individual case notes which are held by the patient's methadone prescriber.

1666. Moranbah Health District

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Moranbah Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with

respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1667. Mount Isa Health District

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Mount Isa Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1668. Bayside Health District

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Bayside Health District for the various specialties available in that district and

how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1669. QE II Hospital

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and District Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer

picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1670. Northern Rural Health Training Unit

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

What is the cost of cross cultural training in each of the various health districts?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): Cross cultural awareness training is a key strategy for improving health service delivery to Indigenous people. The training aims to increase sensitivity among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queensland Health staff to the similarities and differences between Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people. Queensland Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cross Cultural Awareness Minimum Standards were established in 1998. The standards aim to provide managers with a guide for organising cross cultural awareness training.

A total of \$360,000 has been allocated to support Districts in the implementation of cross cultural awareness training for Queensland Health staff. The Northern Rural Health Training Unit has responsibility for in-house provision of the training and a number of sessions have already been run. Four cross cultural awareness training facilitators have been recruited and are located in the southern, central and northern zones of the State. As well as providing training to staff across services directly, they will adopt the train the trainer model to facilitate the training.

Health Service Districts are responsible for meeting any additional participation costs including salary and associated travel costs. They are also free to purchase the training from other providers as long as it is in line with the minimum standards. The training forms the foundation for implementation of Queensland Health's Indigenous Workforce Management Strategy. This Workforce Strategy seeks to recruit and develop more Indigenous staff. By doing so, Queensland Health will better position itself to build relationships with Indigenous communities. It is through these relationships that Queensland Health will be able to support communities to take the lead in improving the health status of their members. This training and the Workforce Strategy reflect Queensland Health's new strategic approach to making a real difference in our efforts to improve Indigenous health status in Queensland.

1671. Banana Health District

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to the Banana Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent

review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1672. Justice Department, Director-General

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (11/11/99)—

With reference to travel undertaken by his Director-General commencing 28 October 1998 to Adelaide and Melbourne and I specifically refer to the travel application form where his Director-General has provided reasons for travelling to Adelaide yet no reasons for travelling to Melbourne which coincided with that State's Melbourne Cup public holiday—

- (1) Was the travel to Melbourne work related or private?

- (2) If it was private, how much of the travel costs were reimbursed by the Director-General and when was this travel reimbursed?
- (3) Was any of this time in Melbourne deducted from the annual leave entitlement of the Director-General; if so, how much and when was the leave application made?
- (4) In the event that the travel was work related, what duties did the Director-General undertake on behalf of the State of Queensland in Melbourne and specifically, what did the Director-General hope to achieve on the four day stay in Melbourne which included a weekend and a public holiday?

Mr FOLEY (10/12/99): The implication that the Director-General has acted improperly is scurrilous. The purpose of the travel to Adelaide was to attend a meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General. The purpose of a return flight is self-evident and never stated on a travel application by anyone.

Nearly all flights between Brisbane and Adelaide touch down at either Melbourne or Sydney. The saving in fare on a 21 day advance purchase ticket to Adelaide and return with a Saturday night away on route was \$550 on the price of a return economy class ticket. It was the Director-General's intention to travel on such a discount ticket.

However, due to the amount of confidential material the Director-General was to work on during the flight, she travelled business class to Adelaide and economy class return. The net saving of breaking the journey in Melbourne was \$204 and less than the price of a return economy class ticket. Had the Director-General travelled business class both ways, as she was entitled, the cost would have been almost \$400 more to the public purse. The Director-General applied for and was granted 2 days recreation leave at the time for purposes unrelated to the Melbourne Cup.

1673. Disability Services Queensland

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/11/99)—

Which positions will be moved from head office of her department into regional offices in connection with the setting up of Disability Services Queensland and to which regional offices will they be transferred?

Ms BLIGH (9/12/99): To date, resources equivalent to seven positions have been identified for transfer to regions. The allocation of these resources is still being finalised.

1674. Bundaberg, Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/11/99)—

- (1) What is the staffing level of Family Service Officers (FSOs) and other workers in the Bundaberg office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care?

- (2) How many workers at the Bundaberg office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care are off on stress leave?
- (3) How many child protection notifications to the Bundaberg office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care are still outstanding (ie. they have not been attended to)?
- (4) For how long have they been outstanding?

Ms BLIGH (9/12/99):

(1) The current staff establishment of the Bundaberg Area Office of Department of Families, Youth and Community Care is eight family services officers, one family resource worker and one family and community worker who are supervised by two team leaders and supported by a resource officer (part time), two administrative staff and a manager. An additional 2.5 family services officers will be appointed from the additional frontline positions being funded this financial year as a response to the Forde Inquiry.

(2) I am advised that, as at 1 December 1999, there was one staff member absent on stress leave.

(3) I am advised that there are currently no notifications that have not been attended to.

(4) See answer to (3) above.

1675. Public Housing

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (11/11/99)—

With reference to public housing identified as "untenable" for October—

Will he provide, by area office, a total and a breakdown of houses by the following categories (a) houses awaiting planned maintenance, (b) houses awaiting upgrade, (c) houses included as part of an urban renewal, (d) houses beyond repaid and (e) houses awaiting disposal?

Mr SCHWARTEN (13/12/99): I refer Mr Laming to Question on Notice No. 1527 forwarded to the Bills and Papers Office on 29 November 1999, in which I stated the following: Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1676. Brisbane River, Traffic Crossings

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/11/99)—

With reference to the traffic chaos which recently occurred in Brisbane as the result of a traffic accident on the approaches to the Story Bridge—

- (1) Did the ensuing paralysis of traffic highlight the need for additional traffic crossings of the Brisbane River?

- (2) Has the Government any plans for additional traffic crossings of the Brisbane River?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/99): No. It is not economically efficient or even desirable to build enough bridges across the Brisbane River merely to provide free-flow conditions during peak periods when a major accident occurs on one of the bridges. The inevitable result of excess capacity infrastructure provided for this purpose would be to encourage even more peak-period car travel, which is completely counter to the objectives of the Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland. These objectives include the need to reduce the growth of car dependency and increase the use of public transport, cycling and walking as alternative transport modes.

Apart from a pedestrian/cycle bridge between South Bank and the city, there are no current plans for any additional traffic crossings of the Brisbane River. However, the issue of future capacity enhancements at the Gateway Bridge will receive planning attention over the next few years.

1677. WorkCover

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/99)—

With reference to the 1998-99 WorkCover Annual Report and to the \$6.1m in extra premium identified during 1998-99—

Will he advise, in respect of the \$6.1m in additional premium in 1998-99, what part of that amount was the total amount of the fines levied on the underinsured or uninsured employers?

Mr BRADY (13/12/99): I am advised by WorkCover that: The amount of \$6.1m referred to in WorkCover's 1998-99 Annual Report represents additional premium only. This premium was identified by WorkCover through compliance activities as premium payable from underinsured or uninsured employers. The amount does not include any penalties or surcharge.

1678. Toorbul Boat Ramp

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/11/99)—

With reference to the building of a floating walkway/pontoon at the Toorbul boat ramp and the replies given by his office to the Toorbul Progress Association—

- (1) Considering the engineering appraisals have been going on for over 18 months, when will the full engineering appraisals of the floating walkway be completed and the design deficiencies corrected?
- (2) When can Toorbul expect the construction of their promised floating walkway?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/12/99):

(1) The study has been in progress for approximately nine months. This ongoing process will continue until Queensland Transport officers are satisfied that

structures are suitable for public use, represent good value for money and meet Government's duty of care responsibilities when providing public infrastructure.

(2) This government has not given any commitment to providing a walkway/pontoon at this location. When the outcomes of the study are known, this project will be given appropriate consideration in light of other priorities for marine infrastructure.

1679. Southern Downs Health District

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Southern Downs Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1680. Sunfish

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/11/99)—

With reference to a letter sent to Cabinet Ministers from a group of commercial fishermen expressing concern with his position as patron of Sunfish Queensland—

- (1) Will he confirm he holds this position: if so, has he declared this position to his Cabinet colleagues when resolving fishing issues?
- (2) What assurances can he give those fishermen that his administration of the fishing industry is completely impartial?

Mr PALASZCZUK (9/12/99): I confirm that I am presently the patron of Sunfish Queensland Inc. The position of patron is an honorary position and involves absolutely no conflict of interest with my ministerial responsibilities. Several present and past Ministers from both sides of politics in Queensland have held the position of patron of Sunfish, for example, Mr Trevor Perrett, whilst the Minister for Primary Industries was the patron of Sunfish. Mr Ed Casey also carried out these functions.

The position of patron of Sunfish is not involved in any fisheries management planning discussions or decisions. I believe that there is no reason for me to formally notify Cabinet that I hold the position of patron of Sunfish.

I can certainly give an assurance to all the various sectors of the fishing industry including the commercial fishing sectors that I am interested in their welfare and their long term sustainability. I will treat all the fishing sectors fairly in my capacity as Minister responsible for fisheries in this State.

1681. Gold Coast Rail Line

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/11/99)—

With reference to his recent press release concerning patronage on the Gold Coast Rail line in which he stated that Queensland Rail (QR) carried 2.2m passengers in 1998-99, a 70 per cent increase on its first twelve month operation—

- (1) What are the actual station by station passenger numbers carried during 1998-99?
- (2) Are Beenleigh station numbers included in the Gold Coast figures given?
- (3) Are passengers travelling to major race meets carried FOC (free of charge)?
- (4) Are passengers travelling to Gold Coast theme parks carried FOC (provided an entry ticket is purchased from QR)?
- (5) What is the cost of operation of the trainlink bus feeder services to the various Gold Coast rail stations?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/12/99):

- (1) GOLD COAST RAIL PATRONAGE

Carrara—2,000
 Broadbeach—69,000
 Surfers, Jupiters—131,000
 *Robina—650,000
 *Ormeau—62,000
 *Nerang—494,000
 *Helensvale—673,000
 *Coomera—105,000
 Robina Town Centre—15,000
 TOTAL: ORMEAU TO ROBINA/SURFERS—
 2,201,000

*Highlighted figures denote stations whilst the remainder are bus connections

- (2) Beenleigh figures are not included in the 2,201,000 total.
- (3) Passengers do not travel free of charge to race meets.

(4) Passengers travelling to theme parks do not travel free of charge to theme parks when entry ticket is purchased from QR.

(5) Trainlink is a commercial joint venture between QR and Surfside Buslines Pty Ltd.

1682. Mackay Health District

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Health (11/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Mackay Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1683. St George Irrigation Area

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (12/11/99)—

With reference to the enormous uncertainty amongst St George irrigation area farmers over their future viability—

Why is he refusing to agree to their request to limit the quantity of water that an irrigator can accumulate in public storage?

Mr WELFORD (13/12/99): My Department of Natural Resources has been working with the St George irrigation community on the issue of operation and allocation rules for a number of years.

My Department will continue to work with the local community in developing a new system of

management at St George combining both Capacity Sharing and Announced Allocations systems. This would make it possible to allow each irrigator to choose which system will be used to manage their water allocation without impacting upon others.

Requests of irrigators are not being refused per se. The Government is consulting with the community, to find a workable solution to the particular problems at St George, within the existing legislative framework.

1684. Bribie Island, Dingoes

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (12/11/99)—

With reference to a spate of recent attacks on domestic pets by dingoes and crossbred dingoes on Bribie Island and the inaction of the Department of Natural Resources' rangers to either remove or humanely destroy these pests—

- (1) What will he do to prevent further attacks, especially with Christmas fast approaching and Bribie Island being a preferred holiday destination for families with young children who may themselves be the subject of such an attack?
- (2) Is he prepared to use the same culling procedures as was used on Fraser Island to reduce the numbers of these pests?

Mr WELFORD (13/12/99):

(1) In response to previous problems with dingoes on Bribie Island, my Department of Natural Resources instigated articles in local papers in September asking that any sightings or incidents involving dingoes be reported to the Departmental office in Caboolture. There have been no direct reports of any dingo attacks since that time.

The information collected will be used to plan the most effective way to deal with the dingo problem on Bribie Island by identifying problem animals and areas. Once these problem animals and areas have been identified then a trapping program may be implemented. It is anticipated that this will be a coordinated program in conjunction with the Caboolture Shire Council.

(2) The procedure for identification and destruction of problem dogs will be similar to that followed in the program conducted on Fraser Island.

1685. St George Irrigation Area

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (12/11/99)—

With reference to a claim by a consultant for the St George channel irrigators that the main concern of the NCC is that the Government has failed to commit to a rigorous economic assessment and that, if the Government meets the December deadline, the NCC will not be an obstacle and he further claims that the Government has not responded to the commission's request for further information—

- (1) Are these claims accurate?
- (2) If these issues can be addressed, is he prepared to give the farmers an undertaking that the development will proceed?

Mr WELFORD (13/12/99): (1-2) The Government acknowledges the enormous uncertainty amongst St George irrigation area farmers in recent months regarding the future of the Western Cell off-stream storage. In response to the entrenched opposition to this project by the Federal Government's National Competition Council, which has been successful in stopping the dam proceeding, the Government will focus on improving the reliability of water in the area. This will include meeting the request of St George irrigators for new arrangements regarding the storing of water.

1686. South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (12/11/99)—

With reference to the widespread concerns in the community of Gympie over the RFA, with expectations that it will impact very severely on that city's economy—

- (1) Is there any proposal to ensure continuing resource supply for Wayne Morris' Dagon sawmill?
- (2) Does the Government have a strategy that may provide employment opportunities for Gympie based Boral contract harvester Brian Gentry and his workforce of approximately 10 staff?
- (3) Has the Social Impact Assessment team really identified the flow-on effect, in view of the fact that these two operations alone would spend several hundred thousand dollars in Gympie on fuel etc?

Mr ELDER (9/12/99):

(1) The Queensland Government's Plan for the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement (SEQRFA) provides unprecedented long term Crown native hardwood resource security to the timber industry in South East Queensland at current allocation levels for a 25 year period to the end of the year 2024.

Most recently DPI Forestry have liaised closely with the timber industry to develop a harvesting schedule for the year 2000. As part of this process Mr Morris has been consulted regarding continuing adequate supply of salvage timber for his sawmill at Dagon near Gympie. Mr Morris has indicated to these officers and to officers from the Forest and Timber Industry Task Force in my Department of State Development both his satisfaction with the consultation process and the estimates of future resource that will be available for his sawmill. It is envisaged that continuing consultation with the industry will occur to ensure adequate continuing supply of both sawlog and non-sawlog forest products.

(2) Mr Gentry's timber industry contracting operation provides employment for two full-time workers and three subcontract cutting operators based in the Gympie region. Representatives from my Department of State Development and officers from the Department of Primary Industries, Forest Industries Development Assistance Program have consulted with Mr Gentry regarding his business operation as part of a strategy of engaging with contract operators for the implementation of the Queensland Government's SEQRFA Plan. Extensive discussions with Mr Gentry, his financial advisers and subcontractor operators are on-going with a view to identifying issues and providing appropriate business support for their operations in a changing environment.

The SEQRFA Plan has identified a range of alternative timber industry employment opportunities for contract operators within the region. My Department of State development will continue to liaise with Mr Gentry and his subcontractors with a view to identifying appropriate assistance measures that may enable them to reposition their business operations and capture other opportunities as necessary.

(3) Any possible changes faced by timber industry operators and contractors must be considered in the light of the high level of uncertainty faced by the Crown native hardwood timber industry prior to the Queensland Government's delivery of the historic SEQRFA Plan.

Impact assessment for the industry is being undertaken as an on-going process of consultation in involving officers from the Forest and Timber Industry Task Force, the Department of State Development, the Department of Primary Industries, the Department of Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Employment, Industrial Relations and Training.

In particular officers from my Department of State Development the Forest and the Timber Industry Task Force are working collaboratively with representatives from the timber industry and the Gympie community to maximise value adding opportunities in both the hardwood and softwood sectors that have the potential to provide positive economic development outcomes and increased employment opportunities in the area.

1687. Gatton, DPI Research Station

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (12/11/99)—

With reference to the budgetary allocation of a further \$466,000 (out of a total of \$716,000) to be spent on laboratory development at the Gatton DPI Research Station—

- (1) What research projects will be undertaken at this new laboratory?
- (2) Is his department contemplating research in biotechnology; if so, will some of this research be undertaken at this laboratory?

- (3) How many DPI staff are located at this research station and what position do they hold?
- (4) On completion of this laboratory, how many more staff will be required for research?
- (5) Does this research station interact in research projects with the neighbouring Gatton campus?

Mr PALASZCZUK (9/12/99):

(1) The multipurpose laboratory at Gatton Research Station will provide facilities to undertake post-harvest, integrated pest management and general agronomy research in vegetables.

(2) The post-harvest scientists will be undertaking work on Leafy Asian Vegetables in relation to biochemical measurements associated with modified atmospheres.

(3) At present, the majority of the staff at the Gatton Research Station are aligned to the Queensland Horticulture Institute, including the Vegetable Program Leader and Administrative Assistant, 14 Professional Officers, 9 Technical Staff, Research Station Manager, 5 Farm Staff and 3 Administrative Support and Cleaning Staff. In addition there is one Professional Officer aligned with the Farming Systems Institute, 2 Professional Staff aligned with Rural Industries Business Services (RIBS) and one Post Doctoral Fellow from the University of Queensland.

(4) On completion of the office and laboratory, four professional and 3 technical staff will relocate from DPI Hamilton. In addition, a Post Graduate Lecturer from the University of Queensland Gatton Campus will be provided with office accommodation and laboratory space. Office accommodation and laboratory space is allocated to 12 Post Graduate students. These positions will be determined as projects are developed. Office and laboratory space has been allocated for Overseas Visiting Scientists associated with an ongoing collaborative project.

(5) The focus of the post-harvest relocation to Gatton, is based on a co-operative approach between the Queensland Horticulture Institute and the Gatton Campus of the University of Queensland, involving collaborative projects. Staff at Gatton Research Station have been collaborating with Gatton College on a number of projects, the most recent being an ACIAR funded project in IPM in Brassica Vegetables, where a University Entomologist has been located at Gatton Research Station. Other collaborative activities include the supervision of post-graduate students by GRS staff, provision of work experience to Gatton Campus undergraduate students, and ad hoc lectures to undergraduate classes.

1688. Toowoomba, Ambulance Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (12/11/99)—

- (1) Has her attention or that of her Director-General or the Ambulance Commissioner been drawn to persistent claims of staff discontent and allegations of irregularities concerning some appointments to the staff of the Queensland Ambulance Service, Toowoomba station?

- (2) Will she guarantee that no reprisals will be instigated against any staff member who makes genuine allegations about the appointment of staff or provides evidence of inappropriate behaviour by certain senior Queensland Ambulance Service officers based in Toowoomba?

Mrs ROSE (13/12/99):

1. The QAS Commissioner is aware of concerns raised with regard the appointment of individuals in the Toowoomba Region.
2. QAS procedures provide a mechanism to raise legitimate concerns and for those concerns to be addressed. Those same procedures ensure that officers making a legitimate complaint or grievance will continue to be treated fairly and impartially.

1689. Northern Downs Health District

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Health (12/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Northern Downs Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1690. Mud Crabs

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (12/11/99)—

With reference to my Question Without Notice on 3 March, regarding the discovery of the red-spot disease affecting 10 per cent of Queensland mud crabs—

What is the result to date of research investigations into the disease?

Mr PALASZCZUK (9/12/99): The Queensland Government considers the state of health of Queensland mud crabs an important matter. There have been some reported outbreaks of red-spot disease in mud crabs at Gladstone, with incidence levels of up to ten percent of the commercial catch in that region alone. Currently, other coastal centres in Queensland do not appear to be affected. In conjunction with researchers from the University of Central Queensland, officers of the Department of Primary Industries have been researching diseased specimens at the veterinary laboratories based at Oonoonba, Townsville since September 1998. This research has been supported by research funds provided through the Fisheries Research Development Corporation.

Preliminary studies indicate that the symptoms are not caused by an infectious organism, appearing to be a localised response to some form of structural weakness in the shell of the affected crabs. A direct cause of the condition has not yet been demonstrated and research is ongoing.

Because of the restricted occurrence of the red-spot condition in crabs, and its apparently non-infectious nature, red-spot disease is not considered to be a threat to the overall health of mud crab stocks in Queensland.

1691. Tarong Power Station

Mrs PRATT asked the Premier (12/11/99)—

With reference to the welcome announcement from him on 12 November where he stated that the Tarong Power Station extension would go ahead—

- (1) How many local short term jobs will be available during construction?
- (2) How many long term permanent positions would be available after construction?
- (3) What company has been awarded the contract to commence construction?
- (4) By what date will the extension be completed and come on line?

Mr BEATTIE (8/12/99):

(1-2) On 15 November 1999, the Minister for Mines and Energy and I announced that my Government has given approval for Tarong Energy's expansion of its coal-fired power station and development of a new gas-fired plant.

This project will utilise the latest technology to minimise emissions and is part of the Government's strategy to secure more reliable, competitive and cleaner energy. Construction of the Tarong expansion is expected to inject \$1.54 billion into the Queensland economy during its projected 25 year project life, benefiting both the local region and Queensland.

At this early stage, it is difficult to provide accurate estimates of the split between short term and long term employment, which will be created over the duration of the project. However, it is estimated that

approximately 500 Queenslanders will be directly employed on the project, with an average over the construction period of approximately 370. The great majority of these jobs will be based at the construction site.

Local people with appropriate skills will be employed wherever possible for short term and long term jobs. The flow on impact of the project is estimated to create more than 1,800 jobs. Operation of the new unit over the life of the Tarong Power Station will create around 170 locally based direct and flow-on jobs.

(3) The names of the selected contractors can not be made public until the construction contracts have been executed.

(4) The coal-fired power station expansion and gas-fired plant development are planned to commence operating in commercial service in January 2003, with operation for testing and commissioning purposes commencing earlier.

1692. Cooloola-Sunshine TAFE Institute

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/99)—

- (1) Will he table the record of the internal audit of photocopy equipment situated at various campuses of the Cooloola-Sunshine Institute of TAFE and each photocopy service contract entered into by the institute over the past three years?
- (2) Will he indicate (a) the brand name and value of each item or contract, (b) the value of each contract, (c) the chosen supplier of each item or contract, (d) how many other suppliers bid to supply each item or contract were there and (e) what standing offer arrangement underpinned each decision to purchase equipment?

Mr BRADY (13/12/99):

(1) I am advised by the Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE that there is no document "record of the internal audit of photocopy equipment situated at various campuses of the Cooloola-Sunshine Institute of TAFE". Cooloola-Sunshine Institute of TAFE does not have any photocopy service contracts.

(2) (See attached table): (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1693. Gladstone Health District

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (12/11/99)—

With reference to her statement of about a year ago in which she said that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Gladstone Health District for the various specialties available in that

district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (13/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1694. Bundaberg, Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (12/11/99)—

With reference to the Budget of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care—

- (1) Of the \$10m of extra funding provided in the 1999-2000 Budget, how much will be allocated to the Bundaberg office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care?
- (2) Noting the Ford Inquiry recommendation of spending an extra \$100m on child protection and the extra \$10m which was this year's allocation, does this Queensland Government accept the need for increased spending for the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care; if so, when will the budget reach this recommended amount; if not, why not?

Ms BLIGH (9/12/99):

(1) Allocations to Area Offices were determined according to a needs based formula which includes demographic information, workload and local area issues. Bundaberg Area Office will initially receive an additional 2.5 direct service delivery positions. These additions build on those positions previously provided in the 1998-99 financial year from the "Boosting the Frontline" initiative. Bundaberg Area Office received an additional three direct service delivery staff from this initiative. This represents a 60% increase in frontline staff positions in the past 12 months. Bundaberg Office will also access additional resources from other initiatives to be funded from the \$10m additional funding.

(2) The initial allocation of \$10m for this year, which builds to \$40m per annum over the next four years, is the single biggest commitment of additional resources provided to improve child protection and youth justice services in the history of this State. This is a substantial increase in funding for my Department. Queensland's current expenditure on child protection services totals approximately \$80m per annum. The Beattie Government remains committed to improving funding to welfare services in this State. The Forde Inquiry recommendations to increase spending by \$103 million per annum will continue to be addressed in future State Budgets.

1695. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/99)—

What percentage of (a) trainees and (b) apprentices, employed under the Labor Government's employment initiatives in Government departments and agencies (including local government and indigenous councils), have left such employment prior to the completion of their traineeship or apprenticeship?

Mr BRADY (13/12/99): The Public Sector Apprenticeship and Traineeship program has been a resounding success not only in the numbers involved but the spectacular retention rates so far achieved. The attrition rate is extremely low with more than 95% continuing in their apprenticeship or traineeship at this stage. The specific answers to your questions are as follows:

(a) A total of 3.6% of trainees appointed under the Public Sector Employment Initiative have left their traineeship position prior to completing the qualification. Of these:

2.6% left without notifying the agency of a further employment opportunity;

1.0% left to go to another job;

(b) A total of 4.4% of apprentices appointed under the Public Sector Employment Initiative have left their apprenticeship position prior to completing the qualification. Of these:

4.2% left without notifying the agency of a further employment opportunity;

0.2% left to go to another job.

1696. TAFE Handbook

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/99)—

With reference to a 'Dorothy Dixer' from the Member for Mount Ommaney on 26 August, and his answer which indicated with some display of self-satisfaction that the latest TAFE handbook lists 800 courses—

When compared with the 1999 Handbook, how many of the 800 courses in the Year 2000 Handbook have increased fees associated with them?

Mr BRADY (13/12/99): All of the courses in the year 2000 handbook are subject to fees, apart

from those traineeships at Australian Qualification Framework levels 1 and 2.

In respect of these fees, on 23 September 1999 the Governor-in-Council approved an increase in tuition fees for government funded training in accordance with the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Amendment Regulation (No 2) 1999. This increase is in line with the Consumer Price Index movements for the period March 1997 to June 1999 and equates to a 3.6% increase. These fee increases are effective from 1 January 2000.

The collection of fees in respect of these courses has been endorsed by successive governments, except in the case of traineeships where the Borbidge government introduced fees for traineeships at Australian Qualification Framework level 3 and above.

In all cases, provisions exist for partial and full exemptions so as not to financially disadvantage students. In cases of financial hardship, the decision to allow exemptions is at the discretion of each respective Registered Training Organisation.

1697. WorkCover

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/99)—

With reference to WorkCover's 1998-99 Annual Report which refers to one of the outcomes of the service project being an enhanced organisational structure—

Will he advise WorkCover's organisational staffing structure in each of the individual 24 offices and also the functions of each individual office at 30 June 1998 and the staffing structure and functions of each individual office following full implementation of the three phases of the service project?

Mr BRADY (13/12/99): I am advised by WorkCover that up until the implementation of the Service Project recommendations, each District Office carried out a full range of business functions including insurance services, claims processing, case management and customer service.

The Service Project has seen the implementation of processing hubs which carry out the full range of services with case management and satellite offices attached as appropriate. Case management offices carry out case management services and customer service activities. Satellite offices carry out customer service activities.

These three office types are identified in the establishment analysis attached. The comparison shows a reduction in overall establishment reflecting the impact of self insurance as well as the structural, job role and business process changes associated with the Service Project. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1698. Environmental Protection Agency

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (12/11/99)—

With reference to staffing in each of the regional offices of the Environmental Protection Agency—

- (1) What is the breakdown of the public service classification for staff at each office?
- (2) Have any staff been transferred from these offices to Brisbane; if so, which ones?
- (3) Which positions are vacant in each office and when will each be filled?

Mr WELFORD (13/12/99):

(1) EPA Northern: AO8 x 1.0; AO7 x 2.0; AO6 x 6.0; AO5 x 1.0; AO4 x 6.0; AO3 x 7.0; AO2 x 3.0; PO4 x 7.0; PO3 x 10.0; PO2 x 6.0; TO4 x 1.0; TO3 x 4.0; TO2 x 1.0; OO3 x 1.0

Total: 56.0 employees

EPA Central: AO7 x 1.0; AO6 x 1.0; AO4 x 5.0; AO3 x 5.6; AO2 x 4.0; PO4 x 5.0; PO3 x 5.0; TO3 x 1.0

Total: 27.6 employees

EPA Southern: SO2 x 1.0; AO8 x 2.0; AO7 x 4.0; AO6 x 7.0; AO5 x 4.8; AO4 x 4.0; AO3 x 12.0; AO2 x 11.0; PO5 x 3.0; PO4 x 13.5; PO3 x 14.8; PO2 x 12.0; TO4 x 3.0; TO3 x 18.4

Total: 110.5 employees

(2) EPA Northern: No staff have been transferred to Brisbane.

EPA Central: No staff have been transferred to Brisbane.

EPA Southern—Prioritisation of projects resulted in the following being reassigned to the State Coastal Plan Project in Central Office: PO4 x 1.0; PO3 x 1.0; PO2 x 1.0; AO5 x 1.0; AO2 x 1.0; TO3 x 1.0

Total: 6.0 positions.

(3) EPA Northern: AO8 x 1.0; AO7 x 2.0; AO6 x 1.0; AO5 x 2.0; AO4 x 1.0; AO3 x 1.0; AO2 x 3.0; PO4 x 4.0; PO3 x 4.0; TO3 x 2.0; TO2 x 1.0

Total: 22.0 positions. Positions will be filled in accordance with Agency priorities.

EPA Central: AO7 x 1.0; PO4 x 1.0; PO3 x 3.0; AO3 x 2.0

Total: 7.0 positions. Positions will be filled in accordance with Agency priorities.

EPA Southern: AO3 x 1.0; AO2 x 3.3; PO4 x 1.0; PO3 x 3.0; PO2 x 2.0; TO3 x 1.0

Total: 11.3 positions. Positions will be filled in accordance with Agency priorities.

1699. Alpha, TAB

Mr JOHNSON asked the Treasurer (12/11/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of the proposed closure of the Alpha TAB?
- (2) As this proposed closure represents yet a further example of facilities being removed from rural and remote Queensland, will he ensure that this facility remains in place until the matter can be examined by the privatised TAB which may have a more enlightened view of the importance of these facilities?

Mr HAMILL (15/12/99): TAB Queensland Limited (TABQ) distributes its wagering products through a mix of channels including agencies, branches, hotels and clubs, MiniTABs, racetrack agencies and telephone and internet accounts. In recent years, the retail mix has changed from a predominance of dedicated outlets to placing a greater reliance on licensed premises and telephone wagering. Any move to close a distribution outlet is entirely a commercial decision for the Board of TABQ. The Government has no involvement with this decision making process.

1700. Bundaberg, Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (12/11/99)—

How many children and youth in care and protection are being attended to by the Bundaberg office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care?

- (2) How many case workers are looking after these children and youth?
- (3) How many foster parents are there associated with the Bundaberg office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care?
- (4) At the Bundaberg office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, how many Family Service Officers or other employees do they have providing support for foster parents?

Ms BLIGH (9/12/99):

(1) I am advised that, as at 9 December 1999, there are 136 children in the Care and Protection of the Director General of my Department, which includes several large sibling groups, and that 114 of these children are in the care of foster carers.

(2) There are a total of 13 workers, consisting of eight family services officers, one family resource worker, one family and community worker, two team leaders and one area office manager providing case work support to the children and youth in Bundaberg.

(3) I am advised that, as at 9 December 1999, forty-nine foster carers and their families are associated with the Bundaberg Office of my Department.

(4) All staff of the Bundaberg Area Office support foster carers as part of their casework with children and young people placed with them.

1701. Vocational Education and Training

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/99)—

With reference to the ANTA Newsletter "Australian Training" for December 1998 in which it is announced that there are an additional 70,000 student places expected in vocational education and training this year—

How many of these places will be in Queensland?

Mr BRADY (13/12/99): I refer the Honourable member to the answer for Question on Notice 1526, part (c).

1702. Project Services

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (12/11/99)—

With reference to Project Services within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for October?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for October by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Project Services for October?
- (4) What was the total number of chargeable hours for Project Services for October?

Mr SCHWARTEN (13/12/99): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1427 answered on 25 November 1999, due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to business units of the Department of Public Works and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the required information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1703. National Parks and Wildlife Service

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (12/11/99)—

With reference to staffing in each of the regional offices of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service—

- (1) What is the breakdown of the public service classification for staff at each office?
- (2) Have any staff been transferred from these offices to Brisbane; if so, which ones?
- (3) Which positions are vacant in each office and when will each be filled?

Mr WELFORD (13/12/99):

(1) Northern: TO2 x 1; AO2 x 5; PO2 x 3; TO3 x 3; AO3 x 5; PO3 x 7; TO4 x 1; AO4 x 8; PO4 x 2; AO5 x 4; PO5 x 1

Total: 40 positions

Central: Trainees x 2; AO2 x 2; AO3 x 3; AO4 x 3; AO5 x 3; PO2 x 1; PO3 x 5; PO4 x 6; TO3 x 2

Total: 27 positions

Southern: Trainee x 1; AO3 x 1; AO4 x 1; AO5 x 1; AO6 x 1; PO2 x 2; PO3 x 8; PO4 x 1; TO2 x 1; TO3 x 1; TO4 x 1; OO5 x 1

Total: 20 positions

(2) Northern/Central/Southern: No positions from these offices have been transferred to Brisbane.

(3) Northern: AO3—Customer Services Officer; TO2—Technical Officer; TO3—Snr Technical

Officer; TO3—Snr Technical Officer; TO3—Snr Technical Officer; TO3—Technical Officer; PO2—Conservation Officer; PO2—Snr Interpretation Officer; PO4—Manager; PO4—Principal Planning Officer

Total: 10 positions

Positions will be filled in accordance with agency priorities.

Central: No vacancies

Southern: PO3 x 1; PO4 x 1; TO2 x 1; AO5 x 1

Total: 4 positions

Positions will be filled in accordance with agency priorities.

1704. Gaming Machines

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (12/11/99)—

With reference to the reported record returns to the Government of \$251m from gaming machines in 1998-99, up 27 per cent on the previous year and the Government's commitment to providing 23 per cent of that revenue to the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund, which equates to more than \$57.7m and given that Treasury's estimate for gaming machine revenue for the 1998-99 Sports and Recreation Benefit Fund was \$47m and there was no increase in the funding for the major programs, these being the National Standard Sports Facilities Program, the Minor Sport and Recreation Facilities Program, the Community Sport Development Program, the Statewide Sports Development Program and the Local Government Recreation Planning Program—

Will he provide exact details of where the additional revenue of more than \$10m was spent?

Mr GIBBS (13/12/99): The additional funding provided in the mid-year budget review will be spent on the Dairy Farmers' stadium.

1705. ATSI Housing

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (12/11/99)—

With reference to the ATSI construction program (which includes the carryover from 1998-99) (12/11/99)—

Will he provide a breakdown of capital expenditure and the number of dwellings to be commenced and/or completed by State electorate for 1999-2000?

Mr SCHWARTEN (13/12/99): See Attachment A for a breakdown of capital expenditure and the number of dwellings to be commenced and/or completed by State electorate for 1999-2000. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1706. Toowoomba, Ambulance Service

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Emergency Services (12/11/99)—

Will she confirm that all formal advertising, selection and appointment processes were followed with the

recent appointment of two ex-Northern Territory officers to the Queensland Ambulance Service, Toowoomba station?

Mrs ROSE (13/12/99): I requested the Commissioner, Queensland Ambulance Service to undertake an immediate investigation of the claims made by Honourable Members of this House.

The paramedic program intake was advertised on 5 March 1999 and closed on 6 April 1999. None of the applications received were interested in taking up positions in the South Western Region. Three Intensive Care paramedics had requested transfers out of the region.

In order to maintain the high level of ambulance service within the South Western Region, interstate applications from appropriately qualified persons were considered.

The applicants were selected based on a closed merit selection. The officer's applications were on the transfer file and as I have stated previously no other transfers at paramedic level were available to maintain a 24 hour service to the community of the region. The officers were offered positions after assessment of suitability was conducted.

1707. National Standards Sports Facilities Program

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (12/11/99)—

With reference to his answer to a question in the House on 10 November in which he claimed many sport facility building projects were delayed because of the lack of ability of local governments or local authorities to be able to give approvals on time to get building projects under way—

- (1) Which of the 1997-99 National Standards Sports Facilities Program projects were delayed significantly by local authorities which were unable to give approvals on time and thereby caused major carryovers of funds?
- (2) Which local authorities caused these significant delays in projects getting under way because of an inability to give approvals on time?
- (3) At 30 June, what was the total dollar amount carried over under the 1997-99 National Standards Sports Facilities Program as a result of the inability of local authorities to give approvals on time?
- (4) At 30 June, what was the total dollar amount carried over under the 1997-99 National Standards Sports Facilities Program?

Mr GIBBS (13/12/99):

(1) Under the 1997-1999 National Standard Sports Facilities Program, development approval and building approval for projects had to be gained prior to the development proceeding. This contributed to the delay experienced by proponents, however it was not the sole contributing factor.

Projects such as the Belmont Shooting Complex approved by the former Government were delayed pending the receipt of development and building

approvals. The Brisbane Basketball Stadium at Auchenflower also experienced some delays in meeting all the conditions of development. The Neumann Oval Development by Queensland Cricket experienced some delay due to the development being staged.

(2) Delays were mainly experienced by projects in the Brisbane City Council area. However, in some cases, projects approved by the former Government had not lodged applications for approvals until after the projects were approved by the Government.

(3) Carry-over funds directly attributable to the delay in building approvals is estimated at \$3.5m.

(4) Carry-over funds under the National Standard Sports Facilities Program 1997-1999 as at 30 June 1999 were \$9M.

1708. Toowoomba, National Parks and Wildlife Service

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (12/11/99)—

With reference to staffing in the southern regional office of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service in Toowoomba—

- (1) What is the breakdown of the public service classification for staff at this office?
- (2) Have any staff been transferred from this office to Brisbane; if so, which ones?
- (3) Which positions are vacant and when will each be filled?
- (4) Why has the regional service director been relocated to Moggill when the position was advertised in Toowoomba?

Mr WELFORD (13/12/99):

(1) Trainee x 1; AO3 x 1; AO4 x 1; AO5 x 1; AO6 x 1; PO2 x 2; PO3 x 8; PO4 x 1; TO2 x 1; TO3 x 1; TO4 x 1; OO5 x 1

Total: 20 positions

(2) No positions have been transferred to Brisbane.

(3) PO3 x 1; PO4 x 1; TO2 x 1; AO5 x 1

Total: 4 positions

Positions will be filled in accordance with agency priorities.

(4) The Regional Service Director, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Southern Region is responsible for the area of Queensland extending from Coolangatta in the south, north to Miriam Vale and west to the South Australia border. This region includes two World Heritage Areas, Fraser Island and Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia as well as Moreton Bay Marine Park and island national parks, and major national parks at Cooloola, Noosa, Sunshine Coast Hinterland, Gold Coast Hinterland, Main Range, Girraween, Bunya Mountains, Carnarvon Gorge and Currawinya.

The contract of employment for the Regional Service Director identifies a number of possible locations for the position including Nambour, Brisbane, Moggill

and Toowoomba, as agreed from time to time to meet the demands of the position.

The decision to relocate to Moggill reflects the work load and travel commitments created by the heavily used and complex parks on the eastern portion of the Southern Region.

1709. WorkCover

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/99)—

- (1) What is the number of WorkCover employees who are involved in the day to day management of claims and the number of WorkCover executive staff at 30 June 1998 and 30 June 1999?
- (2) Will he supply these figures as State totals and also for each of the regional offices?

Mr BRADY (13/12/99):

- (1) I am advised by WorkCover that:

Staff involved in claims management:
30/6/98—263; 30/6/99—241

Senior executive staff: 30/6/98—6; 30/6/99—7

- (2) The regional breakdown is attached. Figures for 30/6/98 are not available for each office, only by region as a result of the transition from a structure based on four geographical regions to a functionally based structure as part of the Service project, so only regional comparison shown.

Senior executive staff were located in Brisbane. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1710. Environment and Heritage Department

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (12/11/99)—

With reference to his statement during the Estimates Committee hearings that "during the recent rearrangement of the Department and its functions and positions, I made sure that a number of temporary staff, to the extent that they had been around for a number of years, were able to be offered permanent employment." (page 315, Hansard, Estimates D) (12/11/99)—

- (1) How many staff were transferred from temporary to permanent employment and at what public service classification?
- (2) Under which programs were these positions previously funded and at what cost?
- (3) How are they being funded now and what is the cost to the department?

Mr WELFORD (13/12/99):

- (1) 369 temporary positions were considered for conversion to permanent status. Of these, 179 employees were automatically appointed due to either being employed at base grade level or acting in positions for greater than two years. Another 186 positions were filled through closed merit selection

process. The remaining positions were recommended to be filled through open merit selection processes in accordance with agency priorities.

(2) The EPA/QPWS is now funded under output budgeting and not programs. All positions are funded against the two outputs and form part of the based funding arrangements for the Agency.

(3) There is no additional cost to the Agency and funding is through consolidated revenue. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1711. TAFE

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/99)—

With reference to his response to a 'Dorothy Dixier' from the Member for Mount Ommaney on 26 August in which he indicated that, "this year over a quarter of a million local and international students have enrolled with TAFE Queensland"—

- (1) Is he talking about the 1999 calendar year to date or is he talking about actual individual students or about student enrolments (which count the same individual student 10 times if they enrol in 10 learning modules)?
- (2) If TAFE is booming as he indicates, why does it need to have a continuous freeze on any competition?

Mr BRADY (13/12/99):

(1) The figure refers to the 1999 Calendar Year and applies to students who have a module start of study date in 1999. Each unique student number is counted.

(2) This Government made a commitment to maintain User Choice and competitive initiatives at January 1998 levels for a three year period to allow TAFE time to adjust without disruption to other providers in the training market.

The level of competitive funding remains at January 1998 levels of almost \$150 million over 1998-99 and 1999-2000 financial years, proportionately the highest of any state in Australia.

1712. Environmental Protection Agency, Director-General

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (12/11/99)—

With reference to the Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency—

- (1) What is this officer's public service classification?
- (2) Is this officer eligible to receive any merit bonuses as part of his salary package; if so, what are the performance criteria?
- (3) Have any merit bonuses been paid to this officer; if so, on what basis?

Mr WELFORD (13/12/99): As with all Departments, the contract of employment of the Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency is with the Premier. Information regarding his appointment and remuneration arrangements should be sought from the Honourable the Premier.

1713. Fair Trading Office, Business Registration System

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (12/11/99)—

With reference to the conversion of the Office of Fair Trading from the ASCOT to the BACHCO business registration system—

- (1) Was CITEC engaged to draft the initial design specifications for the new system; if so, (a) what was the fee payable to CITEC for such work, (b) how long did it take to design the system specifications and (c) was CITEC engaged (for the design work only) through a competitive tender?
- (2) What was the date and place/s of advertisements for this tender?
- (3) What was the closing date for tenders?
- (4) Will she list all parties who actually or were invited to tender for this specific part of the project?
- (5) Will she list the prices tendered by each of the tenderers?

Ms SPENCE (13/12/99):

1. CITEC was engaged to draft the user specifications for the BACHCO system. 1(a) The fee paid to CITEC for the preparation of the specifications was \$63,000. 1(b) The preparation of the specifications took five months. Q1(c) CITEC was not engaged through a competitive tender process. An exemption from the State Purchasing Policy was sought and authorisation was granted by the then Director-General, Department of Justice, Mr Kevin Martin on 17 February 1998.

Questions 2,3,4 and 5 are not applicable, in terms of my answer to Q1(c).

1714. Fair Trading Office, Business Registration System

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (12/11/99)—

With reference to the development and programming of BACHCO business registration system—

- (1) What was the date and place/s of advertisements for this tender?
- (2) What was the closing date for tenders?
- (3) Will she list all parties who actually or were invited to tender for this specific part of the project?

- (4) Will she list the prices tendered by each of the tenderers?
- (5) What were the dates of receipt of each of the tenders?
- (6) What are the names of the people (including their position title, public service classification and department/agency) on the evaluation panel?

Ms SPENCE (13/12/99): I am not in a position to answer Mr Quinn's six questions, as an invitation for competitive offers was not made in relation to the development of the business names BACHCO system.

An exemption from the State Purchasing Policy was sought and authorisation was granted by the Acting Director-General, Department of Equity and Fair Trading on 20 August 1998 to engage CITEC to develop the new computer system for business names and incorporated associations.

1715. Kirwan High School Special Education Unit

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Education (23/11/99)—

With reference to the promised new building for Kirwan High School Special Education Unit—

- (1) When will construction begin?
- (2) Will he ensure the Kirwan High School will have input into the design and planning of the building?

Mr WELLS (24/12/99): The Department informs me that a construction program will be established by the end of January 2000 with construction expected to begin around mid year. The Department informs me that the initial stages of consultation have taken place and will continue into 2000.

1716. Kilkivan Mine Sites

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (23/11/99)—

With reference to the mine shafts associated with the Kilkivan mining sites—

- (1) What methods were used to locate the shafts?
- (2) How many shafts were located and by whom?
- (3) Was local assistance sought in shaft location; if so, who gave assistance?
- (4) How many of the shafts located have been made safe?
- (5) What method was used to make them safe?
- (6) Who was the project officer overseeing the procedure?
- (7) At what cost were these shafts made safe?
- (8) If all shafts have not been made safe at this time, when will they be?
- (9) Will this Government guarantee that all shafts that have been reported as now safe, are safe?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): The Government with the assistance of residents identified a number of shafts in the Kilkivan area that required attention. High fencing was erected around four shafts and warning signs placed in the area. Appropriately \$1425 was spent on actual safety work. Regular inspections of the shafts are undertaken to ensure the ongoing integrity of the safety measures implemented.

1717. Firearms

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (23/11/99)—

With reference to recent representations from my constituents concerned over apparent restrictions on the quantity of firearms a licence holder can own—

Will he detail under what section of the Weapons Act there is (a) a limit on the quantity of firearms a licence holder can own and (b) a limit that applies to category B firearms?

Mr BARTON (23/12/99): The Weapons Act 1990 does not limit in number the quantity of firearms available to be owned by a licence holder. Section 40(2) of the Weapons Act does, however, require an applicant for a Category B, C, D, or H weapon to provide a genuine need for the firearm and an explanation why the need cannot be met in any other way. Section 39 of the Act provides for "Limitations on issue of permits to acquire". Sub-sections 39(2)(a)-(d) require that a permit to acquire a weapon only be issued to an (otherwise authorised) person where that person, for a Category B, C, D, or H weapon has a need to possess the weapon. There have been no changes to the Act in this regard since 1997, during the time of the previous Government.

1718. Building Services Authority

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (23/11/99)—

- (1) Is she aware that because of staffing inadequacies in the Building Services Authority (BSA), customers are being asked to wait an extra 21 days before commencing the complaint process?
- (2) Although the legislation requires a complaint to be lodged with the BSA, the Mackay office, due to staff shortages, is telling customers to contact their builder in the first instance to try to resolve the issue and the builder has 21 days to respond from the date the complaint is lodged with BSA, so the BSA staff shortage is actually giving builders extra time to address complaints, how does she justify giving builders, (because of inadequacies in the BSA), more time than is stipulated in the legislation?
- (3) When does she intend to make sure that the commitments the Government made to protect customers, will be honoured?

Ms SPENCE (23/12/99):

- (1) The purpose of the 21 day period is not related to BSA resources. It is a clear strategy to force

contractors to take ownership of the dispute and undertake a process of dispute resolution with their clients prior to BSA intervention.

(2) As part of the Building Better Industries (BBI) reforms, the BSA has adopted a new disputes policy which will place greater emphasis on contractors and consumers resolving their own disputes, in the first instance. If they cannot resolve the dispute within 21 days, BSA inspectors will make an assessment of the dispute and where the contractor is deemed responsible, a direction to rectify the work may be issued. The contractor will generally be allowed a minimum of 28 days to satisfy the requirements of the direction unless there is a health and safety issue included in the disputed work.

The direction to rectify would then become part of the contractor's public record and is information which is available to all potential clients. Clearly it is in the contractor's best interests to resolve the matter within the initial 21 days, before the BSA becomes involved.

(3) I believe the BBI reforms and this structure are already providing significant benefits to consumers and contractors, particularly in relation to the timely resolution of building disputes.

1719. Yarrilee State School

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Education (23/11/99)—

With reference to Yarrilee State School that is currently being constructed in the Hervey Bay electorate—

- (1) Is it compulsory for students to change schools to prop up enrolment figures?
- (2) Will any family be financially disadvantaged if they choose not to change to the new school?
- (3) Does he agree that change of school can have some negative effects and disruptions to a child's education?
- (4) What precautions have been put in place to assure that the children will not have their health jeopardised by the risk of catching Ross River Fever and/or suffer from midge and sandfly bites?
- (5) Why was the site chosen that is almost surrounded by natural wetlands (the breeding grounds for mosquitoes)?

Mr WELLS (24/12/99):

1. No
2. The Department informs me that the standard transport assistance arrangements will apply.
3. Yarrilee State School will provide for students and teachers alike a new and attractive learning environment. The quality of teaching will be of the same high standards found in all state schools throughout Queensland.
4. The Department informs me that residential development has taken place over many years around the site of the new Yarrilee State School. The Department also informs me that there is no evidence to suggest that there will be any

heightened risk at the school compared to that experienced in the urban developments adjacent to the school.

5. Departmental standards are used to determine the need for new schools. The standards are applied objectively throughout the state. The Department informs me that a number of school transport routes pass near this site, and that it is also close to the road travelled by buses from the south west of Hervey Bay city. The Department also informs me that major residential development is planned between the school site and the coast to the north, and that the location of the new school will assist management of enrolment levels at Pialba and Kawungan State Schools.

1720. Bribie Island Bridge

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (23/11/99)—

- (1) Will he explain to the pedestrian and cycling public who use the Bribie Island Bridge, especially the communities of Pebble Beach and Ningi whose children use this bridge every day, how reducing the width of the strip of concrete used as a walkway on the northern side of the Bribie Island Bridge to less than 800 mm, by erecting a metal barrier on the walkway will assist the cycling and pedestrian traffic?
- (2) Due to the narrowness of the strip, how will the disabled in wheelchairs, mothers with prams or the elderly access and use this walkway when completed?
- (3) How will two bicycle riders travelling in opposite directions on the narrow strip of concrete pass each other in safety?
- (4) Will the erection of this barrier the complete length of the Bribie Island Bridge discourage heavy vehicles and older drivers from travelling as close as practicable to the left hand side of the road?
- (5) Will this barrier in fact push these vehicles and drivers closer to the centre line increasing the risk of a head-on collision or sideswipe?
- (6) What was the extent of the 'extensive' public consultation over the avenues explored with respect to the walkway over the Bribie Island Bridge as alluded to in his previous correspondence?

Mr BREDHAUER (22/12/99):

- (1) Design of the installation will ensure that a width of 900 millimetres is available, which is the minimum width required for a walkway. The installation of this barrier, while sacrificing a very small amount of the existing available width, will provide restraint for cyclists and pedestrians from inadvertently accessing the roadway.
- (2) The barrier will not prevent any current users from using this facility. Paths will be provided onto the bridge and these groups will be able to access and use this facility in safety and with confidence.
- (3) Signs will be placed at either end of the bridge to direct cyclists to dismount when passing other

bridge users. The barrier will assist cyclists in passing others safely.

(4 & 5) The barrier will be placed on the existing kerb with minimum incursion into the roadway and, whilst it may provide a visual narrowing of the roadway to drivers of low vehicles such as cars, it is more likely that motorists will reduce their travelling speed to suit their level of comfort, rather than move towards the centre of the road. In fact, with the barrier in place, motorists would be less likely to veer towards the centre of the road when approaching pedestrians and cyclists (allowing for the unexpected).

(6) Main Roads solicited public comment in local newspapers and conducted interviews with local focus groups, including numerous schools and community groups, the local tourism association, the Chamber of Commerce and the local government. Main Roads received numerous responses from the public. The issues raised and considered included the type and number of bridge users, options for the walkway, vehicle speeds, heavy vehicle usage, bridge lighting and appearance. Options discussed and considered included bridge duplication, bridge widening and barriers and bridge lighting. During interviews, all parties believed that widening the bridge would be the best outcome; however, when considering the ability to fund such an option, most conceded that the barrier option still would be a practical and positive outcome. Investigations found that only one pedestrian accident had occurred in the past 5 years and this was at night; current peak usage of the bridge by cyclists and pedestrian is 16 over two hours in the morning and 14 over two hours in the evening.

1721. Maroochy River, Beach Erosion

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (23/11/99)—

With reference to beach erosion around the mouth of the Maroochy River and the associated beaches—

- (1) What cost sharing arrangement has been entered into by the Maroochy Shire Council and his department to investigate this problem?
- (2) (a) What has been the total cost of building a hydrological model to study these erosion effects, (b) what are the ongoing costs of this model and (c) how much of this cost was covered by the Maroochy Shire Council?
- (3) If the results of this study show human intervention has caused problems in this area, will his department recommend Government assistance in any rectification needed to correct the problem?

Mr WELFORD (23/12/99):

(1) There is no cost sharing arrangement between the Maroochy Shire Council and my Environmental Protection Agency. The Queensland Government Hydraulics Laboratory has been contracted by engineering consultants WBM Oceanics Australia, to construct and test a hydraulic scale model to investigate the erosion problem at the mouth of the Maroochy River. It is understood that WBM

Oceanics Australia has been commissioned by the Maroochy Shire Council to investigate the erosion problem. The Queensland Government Hydraulics Laboratory is operated and managed by my Environmental Protection Agency.

(2)(a) The cost of model construction is \$75,404. (b) The cost of run model tests and all model administration is \$48,808.

The total contract costs between the Queensland Government Hydraulics Laboratory and WBM Oceanics Australia is \$124,212.

(3) The model study is not investigating the cause of the erosion problem but is focused on evaluating possible remedial measures. The Maroochy River mouth is a dynamic area, as are nearly all river mouths. Channels and sand shoals in the Maroochy River mouth frequently change due to the combined influence of both estuarine and coastal hydraulics.

1722. Ipswich State High School

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Education (23/11/99)—

With reference to the Ipswich State High School, Hunter Street, Brassall—

- (1) When is the work to begin on the construction of the promised bus shelter?
- (2) When is the second access road off Vogel Road to be constructed into the grounds of this large school to alleviate the dangerous fire and ambulance access that is gained only from Hunter Street?

Mr WELLS (24/12/99):

1. The Department informs me that funding of \$100,000 (from the SafeST (Safe School Travel) program) has been allocated towards work at Ipswich State High School to overcome the concerns of the school community about the potential exposure of students to inclement weather. This funding, scheduled for the 1999-2000 financial year, is intended for the resolution of the current bus set-down and pick-up arrangement in Vogel Road, Brassall on the western boundary of Ipswich State High School.

Consultation between Ipswich City Council, the department and the school community has explored possible options for resolving the situation. The school community has expressed a preference for an option that is being further developed by the Ipswich City Council. Education Queensland is currently investigating a possible resolution of a funding shortfall in order that a timely resolution may be expedited.

2. The Department advises me that a gate already exists in the perimeter fence in Vogel Road, near the southern end of the school oval, which is currently available for use in the event of an emergency situation. I am advised that other options are currently being investigated.

1723. Tablelands Health District

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to the Tablelands Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochy during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1724. Livingstone Shire Council, Road Funding

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (23/11/99)—

Will he, as Minister, make a special tourist grant available to the Livingstone Shire Council to fully

bitumen the important tourist road between the Emu Park-Rockhampton Road and the Rockhampton-Keppel Sands Road (called the Coowonga Road) as the present road is in poor condition and has 35,000 tourists pass over it per annum?

Mrs ROSE (Minister for Tourism and Racing) (23/12/99): My Department is not funded to provide special tourist development grants.

1725. Torres Health District

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to the Torres Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospital as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1726. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (23/11/99)—

For 1998-99, will he provide full details of the costs of overseas air travel and any associated accommodation, taxi or hire car costs, conference registration fees etc, officially incurred by officers (a) of TAFE and (b) of other divisions of his department, whilst travelling overseas on official business?

Mr BRADY (23/12/99): To provide this information would result in an unreasonable divergence of departmental resources.

1727. SAP Financial Accounting System

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (23/11/99)—

With reference to the implementation of the SAP Financial Accounting System in his department—

- (1) What has been the total cost of implementing the SAP Financial Accounting System in the department?
- (2) How has the cost of establishment, implementation and operation been distributed across the department?
- (3) What actual costs of the SAP Financial Accounting System were debited against each division of the department in 1998-99 and what are the estimated costs to each division in 1999-2000?

Mr GIBBS (9/12/99):

(1) It is difficult to provide a figure on the total cost of implementing the SAP Financial Accounting System in the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing as its implementation began and concluded in different organisations and over different financial years. The various divisions which came together to form my Department, were at different stages of implementation prior the change of Government. The divisions which came from the Police and Tourism, Small Business and Industry portfolios were either already using SAP or were ready to convert, while the Sport and Recreation Division of Emergency Services were not in the same state of preparedness.

(2) The method of allocation differed in 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(3) In 1998-99 the cost of SAP was met by the corporate services budget, but in accordance with Treasury's requirements to allocate Corporate Services costs across programs, was reported in that way. In 1999-2000, the corporate budget for SAP

was devolved to the divisions. Accordingly associated costs will also be charged directly to user divisions.

1728. State Schools

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Education (23/11/99)—

With reference to the management of State schools—

- (1) What schools are being considered for closure and what are the reasons for this consideration?
- (2) What schools has he approved for closure since becoming Minister and what were the reasons for his approval?
- (3) What recommendations for closure has he rejected and what were the reasons for this rejection?
- (4) What is the present enrolment in each of the schools listed above and, where applicable, what are the projected enrolments at these schools for the next five years?

Mr WELLS (24/12/99):

1. Education Queensland regularly reviews the situation of schools with declining numbers of students to ensure that the children are being offered the best education possible in the circumstances. The proximity of other schools and the availability of transport are also factors in the decision to conduct community consultations. Eight school communities were recently consulted: Cockatoo, Boondooma, Dalbeg, Yuleba Creek, Yellowbank Junction, Septimus, Somerset Dam and Yarraman Upper.

2. As Minister for Education I have agreed to the closure of the following schools for the following reasons:

1998:

Mondure State School (3 children) and Bancroft State School (5 children)—both with low and falling enrolments.

1999:

Ogmore State School—the families of the only children enrolled moved out of the area in April.

Gunpowder State School near Mount Isa—closure of the mine and associated township and hence no more children.

Boondooma State School near Kingaroy (4 children)—at the request of the majority of parents who wished to combine with nearby Durong South State School.

Yuleba Creek near Roma (3 children)—low enrolments and with the agreement of the parents.

The following schools have been mothballed pending the possibility of an increase in enrolments in the future:

Dalbeg State School near Ayr (6 children)—steadily declining enrolments, only 15 minutes drive from nearest school over sealed roads.

Septimus State School (6 children)—declining enrolments, two choices of school within 10 kms and Mirani a 25 km bus trip.

The enrolments at Cockatoo State School have recently fallen to 2 children and it is now proposed to mothball this school also if enrolments do not increase before the beginning of the 2000 school year.

3. A decision to close the following schools was not taken for the following reasons:

Yellowbank Junction—enrolments come primarily from mining activity taking place in an isolated location. There is a possibility of additional families employed by the mining company moving into the area next year.

Somerset Dam—the school services a largely transient population and it is therefore difficult to gauge student numbers for the future. The township is also relatively isolated and the nearest alternative schools are over difficult roads.

Yarraman Upper—on the basis of current and projected enrolments.

4. The official demographic forecast enrolments for each of the schools above are listed in the table below. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane) The estimates of the community (which can vary from official figures) are also taken into account at the time of consultations. I am advised that the previous Minister for Education closed a total of 26 schools in the period from May 1996 to December 1997. Five (5) of these schools were special schools for children with disabilities.

1729. Education Department, Capital Works

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Education (23/11/99)—

With reference to actual capital works expenditure by Education Queensland for 1998-99—

How much was expended in each State electorate (listed by electorate, description and cost of project and any available/estimated start and completion dates)?

Mr WELLS (24/12/99): The Department informs me that the information provided has been obtained from records held by Education Queensland and based on information available at this time. The attachment details Education Queensland Capital Works projects that incurred expenditure during the 1998-99 financial year. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1730. Bundaberg Abattoir

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (23/11/99)—

With reference to the feasibility studies announced for the redevelopment of the Bundaberg former abattoir site, possibly as an innovative food processing precinct—

- (1) When will each of the studies to assess the economic feasibility of value-added opportunities and the costs of redeveloping the abattoir site be completed and when will they be released to the public?
- (2) Have working groups, drawing on the community's expertise in these areas, been established; if so, how regularly do they meet and what is their charter?
- (3) Is the Bundaberg Abattoir Land Redevelopment Committee still meeting regularly and how often have they met since formation and who currently are the committee members?
- (4) Are there any early indications as to the possible success of this worthy project for Bundaberg and who is undertaking the consultation work for the feasibility studies?

Mr ELDER (23/12/99):

1. Two consultant studies have been conducted to establish the economic feasibility of the value-added opportunities and the infrastructure costs of redeveloping the abattoir site for a possible food-processing precinct.
2. The consultant who undertook the economic feasibility study conducted two workshops involving horticultural producers and potential precinct occupants to assess the potential for food value added opportunities in the Bundaberg District.
3. The Bundaberg Abattoir Land Redevelopment Committee has met eight times. The Committee last met on 10 December 1999.
4. The Committee Members are:
 - Bundaberg Region Business Persons: Cr Bill Trevor, Isis Shire Council; Mr Phil Ainsworth, Jabiru Aircraft Pty Ltd
 - Bundaberg City Council: Mayor-Cr Kay McDuff, Bundaberg City Council
 - State Government Departments: Mr Nigel Brown, (Chair), Department of State Development, Brisbane; Mr Michael Whiting, Bundaberg State Development Centre; Mr Craig Mathiesen, Dept. of Primary Industries
5. There is strong commercial interest in the Bundaberg District for the establishment of a food precinct.

1731. Aurion Human Resources System

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (23/11/99)—

With reference to the implementation of the Aurion Human Resources System within his department—

- (1) Does Tourism Queensland use this Aurion Human Resources System; if not why not?
- (2) Does the Queensland Events Corporation use this Aurion Human Resources System; if not, why not?
- (3) How has the cost of establishment, implementation and operation been spread across the department?

- (4) What actual costs of the Aurion Human Resources System were debited against each division of the department in 1998-99 and what are the estimated costs to each division in 1999-2000?

Mrs ROSE (Minister for Tourism and Racing) (23/12/99):

(1) No. Tourism Queensland uses a human resources management system known as Prism. This system effectively meets Tourism Queensland's needs.

(2) The Queensland Events Corporation is a relatively small organisation, currently employing a total of 13 staff. With such a small staffing structure, Queensland Events outsources its payroll function to Pay Connect Solutions.

(3) The establishment and operation costs of the Aurion system were funded by a special allocation from Queensland Treasury. The Department of Tourism Sport and Racing has distributed the operation cost of the Aurion system equitably across all Divisions.

(4) The actual costs of Aurion were as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

It should be noted that the high costs for Sport and Recreation and Racing in 1998/1999 were associated with system set-up and machinery of government changes.

1732. Tully State High School

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Education (23/11/99)—

With reference to the Tully State High School which has 43 science classes and only two laboratories when departmental guidelines specify five are required with the current school numbers and as the Department of Education made a commitment on 26 February 1997 to construct a science building within three years to come to terms with the desperate needs of such facilities at Tully high school and despite constant submissions to the Facilities Services and prioritisation by district and regional offices 2.5 years after the commitment was made, no activity has occurred—

With the Beattie Government's constant reference to improving educational facilities particularly in the science and technology arena, why has the planning not been completed and building under way to honour this commitment?

Mr WELLS (24/12/99): The Department informs me that a need for science improvements to Tully State High School was recognised several years ago and included in the Department's forward planning process.

The three-year forward planning program is a planning tool only, not a funding program. The department informs me that each new financial year requires a new prioritisation process to determine which projects will be considered for program inclusion, subject to the level of funding available and other competing needs in that year.

In the case of Tully State High School, the preparation of "planning documents" only was instigated, with the actual construction dependent on funding availability on a future Capital Works Program.

The prioritisation process for 2000/ 2001 will be undertaken shortly and Tully State High School's requirements will be included in this review and the project will again be considered as a contender for draft program inclusion, subject to the level of funding available and other competing needs.

1733. Toowoomba, Ambulance Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (23/11/99)—

- (1) Will she provide details of the formal advertising, selection and appointment processes followed in the temporary, then permanent, appointment of the current finance manager of the Queensland Ambulance Service, Toowoomba station?
- (2) Will she provide the names of the members of the selection panel who recommended the appointment?

Mr ROBERTSON (Minister for Emergency Services) (24/12/99):

(1) The position of finance manager, QAS Toowoomba Station was first advertised in the gazettes dated 14 August, 21 August and 28 August, with the closing date for applications being 31 August 1998. The position was also advertised in the Toowoomba Chronicle on 15 August 1998 and in the Courier Mail on 22 August 1998. Full merit selection process was followed in accordance with Government policy on recruitment and selection.

(2) The members of the selection panel who recommended the appointment were the QAS Regional Executive Director, Eileen Calway Pridham (co-chair), QFRA Regional Commissioner, Darryl Pepper (co-chair), A/Director, HR, Geraldine Cavallo and Executive Manager, Strategic Services, Finance & Asset Services, Sash Thompson.

1734. Environmental Protection Agency; National Parks and Wildlife Service

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (23/11/99)—

With reference to the staffing within the Environmental Protection Agency and Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service—

- (1) What are the public service classifications and office location for the management of each division with the department?
- (2) Have any of these positions' packages been altered; if so, which ones and from what levels?

Mr WELFORD (23/12/99):

- (1) DIVISION (CLASSIFICATION)—LOCATION
Environmental Operations (SES 3)—Brisbane
Environmental Planning (SES 3)—Brisbane

Environmental Policy and Economics (SES 3)—Brisbane

Environmental and Technical Services (SES 2)—Brisbane

Sustainable Industries (SES 2)—Brisbane

Corporate Performance and Risk (SES 2)—Brisbane

Public Affairs (SES 2)—Brisbane

Corporate Development (SES 2)—Brisbane

Policy and Operations (SES 3)—Brisbane

Commercial and Community Services (SES 2)—Brisbane

Planning and Research (SES 2)—Brisbane

(2) No

1735. Education Department, Capital Works

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Education (23/11/99)—

With reference to the capital works budget for Education Queensland for 1999-2000—

What are the details of planned expenditure in each State electorate (listed by electorate, description and cost of project and any available/estimated start and completion dates)?

Mr WELLS (24/12/99): The Honourable Member is referred to 1999-2000 Budget Paper Number 5—Capital Statement that details those projects with and estimated expenditure in 1999-2000 of \$250,000 or greater.

Refer to Attachment A.

The Department informs me that with respect to the balance of projects, Education Queensland's Capital Works program is subject to changing emergent requirements and needs generated throughout the year. It would be misleading to provide list of projects that have not yet proceeded to tender stage.

The Department informs me that it should be noted that the information provided in this response has been obtained from records held by Education Queensland and is based on information available at this time. However, this information is subject to change over time in accord with new and emerging Departmental needs and priorities. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1736. Aurion Human Resources System

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (23/11/99)—

With reference to the implementation of the Aurion Human Resources System within his department—

- (1) What were the major factors that led to the decision to implement the Aurion Human Resources System?
- (2) What were the identified savings?
- (3) What actual savings have been achieved to date, how have they been measured and have they been audited?

Mrs ROSE (Minister for Tourism and Racing) (23/12/99):

(1) The Aurion Human Resources system was selected by the Department of Tourism Small Business and Industry.

(2) The Aurion system allowed the Human Resource Management unit to reduce its Full Time Equivalent (FTE) by one AO2 level staff member.

This was achieved through a reduction in administrative processing in payroll, the automation of recruitment recording, improved functionality and the compatibility of the Aurion product with the SAPR/3 system.

(3) The Aurion system was implemented in two stages.

Stage 1 consisted of system design and configuration, which involved adding all employee details to the system and finally paying them through a standard product.

Stage 2 of the Aurion project is the roll-out of the product to all employees which will enable them to apply for leave, check payroll details, update personal contacts and view other personal information at their desktop.

Stage 2 is the main area where savings are expected. Stage 2 will be audited to identify efficiency gains in the Department.

Savings have been measured in the following ways: a decrease in time taken to process payroll; a reduction in the number of staff required to process payroll; and ease of access to information from an integrated system. The system has been thoroughly audited by internal audit branch in terms of its functions, security, reporting capabilities and accuracy. This audit found that the system was efficient and met the requirements of the Queensland Audit Office and other authorities such as the Australian Taxation Office, Office of the Public Service Commissioner and Q Super.

1737. National Parks, Entry Fees

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (23/11/99)—

With reference to a report from New South Wales which indicates that, from 1 December, entry charges to some national parks will be introduced, day passes will be issued from automatic dispensers at park entries (\$5 per car and \$3 per motorcycle) and passes must be displayed on vehicles where they can be clearly seen by National Parks and Wildlife Service staff—

Is consideration being given to the introduction of such fees for entry into Queensland's national parks?

Mr WELFORD (23/12/99): No. The Government is not considering the introduction of entry fees for Queensland's national parks.

1738. Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (23/11/99)—

With reference to the 1998-99 Annual Report of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care—

(1) What was the total cost of this report, including the cost of the plastic casing?

(2) How many copies of the report were produced?

(3) What was the total cost of the 1997-98 Annual Report?

(4) How many copies of the 1997-98 Annual Report were produced?

(5) Which companies/consultants/contractors were involved in the production of this report?

Ms BLIGH (23/12/99):

(1) The total cost of all components of the 1998-99 Annual Report, including the recyclable plastic case, was \$18,356.

(2) Approximately 1,200 copies of the Annual Report (book one) were produced along with 900 copies each of the Grants Report (book two) and the Financial Report (book three). In total, approximately 3000 reports.

(3) The total cost of the Annual Report was \$17,855.

(4) Approximately 17,00 copies of the 1997-98 Annual Report were produced.

(5) Departmental staff carried out all design work on the report for 1998-99. Printing for the 1998-99 Annual Report was carried out by Screen Offset Printing and Bayfield Printing. The 1997-98 Annual Report was reviewed by Arthur Delbridge at a cost of \$500 to provide feedback for the development of the 1998-99 report. The 1997-98 Annual Report was designed by staff within my Department and printed by Inprint.

1739. Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

What is Queensland Health's estimated allocation for patient transit scheme assistance in each of the health districts and what was the actual for 1998-99 per district?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99): The estimated allocation for Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) in 1999-2000 is \$15.7m. The expenditure for 1998-99 was \$14m. The expenditure for 1997-98 was \$13.3m.

1740. Arundel State School

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Education (23/11/99)—

With reference to the Arundel State Primary School which has reached saturation point as far as accepting new students in the future (1340 last week), a fact backed up by Teachers Union representative, Ian Mackie, on a recent visit—

(1) Will he tell the teachers, students and parents when the building of a new primary school in the area will commence?

(2) When will teachers be given rooms or an area to have their lunch or morning breaks as some, at present, have none available?

- (3) When will the Arundel State Primary School be reduced to the correct numbers, ie 800-900 it was designed to accommodate so that the students and teachers can be correctly accommodated for studies?
- (4) When will the deputy principals be given individual offices as there are two deputies per office at present, which makes confidentiality impossible?
- (5) How many more demountables can he expect this school to accommodate before total breakdown in the education system occurs?

Mr WELLS (24/12/99):

1. The Department informs me that the earliest opportunity for a new school to be opened would be 2002. Officers of Education Queensland are currently analysing new school needs for 2002. I will consider the recommendations when they are made.

The Department informs me that Education Queensland has sought to accommodate the demand for places at Arundel State School by investigating options for the acquisition of additional land. Recent negotiations with the Gold Coast City Council have resulted in additional land being leased to meet short-term accommodation needs. The necessary additional accommodation for the forecast enrolment increases will be located on this area, and thereby contribute to a reduction in the congestion presently being experienced.

2. The Department informs me that the Arundel State School is presently provided with a staff room in the administration block which is available for use by staff during lunch and morning tea breaks, as well as for other purposes. This space is recognised as being under pressure because of the number of staff at the school. Additional accommodation for the administration area at the school will be considered for inclusion in the 2000-01 Capital Works Program.

3. I am pleased to be able to advise the Honourable Member that his fears in relation to congestion at Arundel State School are based on exaggerated reports of student numbers. Arundel State School presently has 1168 primary students, not the 1340 he has cited. It also has 50.5 equivalent full-time preschool students. Enrolment projections indicate that the school's enrolment will peak at about 1200 primary students and decline slowly after that. These projections could be affected by the possible opening of a new school as referred to in my response to Question 1. It is not anticipated that student numbers would decline to around 800, even under optimistic scenarios, in less than five years, hence the action to acquire access to additional land for the school.

4. At present, there are two offices available for the deputy principals as well as a number of other rooms within the administration block which are also able to be utilised. Current school enrolment numbers allow for four deputy principals to be on staff and decisions on office accommodation rest with local management. As previously indicated, additional administration accommodation will be considered for the 2000-01 Capital Works Program.

5. Two additional modular buildings will be constructed at the school shortly. They will be built on the land being leased from the Gold Coast City Council. As the enrolments at the school are expected to peak at an enrolment of about 1200 students, these should be the last classroom blocks that will need to be provided to the school. Additional relocatable toilets will also be provided. As with any other enhancements that may occur, it is intended that the new buildings be able to be relocated when the current accommodation pressures have been reduced. This will meet the needs of the school in a responsible manner, as well as avoid any potential systemic overload or breakdown.

1741. Charters Towers Health District

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Charters Towers Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1742. Banana Health District

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Banana Health District

for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1743. Prince Charles Hospital

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Prince Charles Hospital and District Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer

picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1744. Royal Brisbane Hospital; Royal Women's Hospital

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Royal Brisbane Hospital and Royal Women's Hospital Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1745. Fraser Coast Health District

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Fraser Coast Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical

officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1746. Central West Health District

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Central West Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1747. Royal Children's Hospital Health District

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Royal Children's Hospital Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1748. Princess Alexandra Hospital

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Princess Alexandra Hospital Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the

systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1749. Roma Health District

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Roma Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services. New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation. Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services. These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1750. Health Strategy Advisory Project

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

- (1) How many people are employed by or seconded to the Health Strategy Advisory Project?
- (2) What are their public service classifications?
- (3) What are the terms of reference of this project?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99):

- (1) Nil.
- (2) See (1).
- (3) The project was completed some time ago.

1751. Central West, Electricity Supply

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (23/11/99)—

- (1) Is he aware that Yaraka and other communities in the Central West have been without power since a storm on Saturday evening?
- (2) As the lack of power has a significant impact on the community including school and water supply systems, will he advise what caused the outage and the delay in rectifying it?
- (3) Is he aware of community concern that power lines in the region are in such a bad state of repair that even minor storms are likely to disrupt power?
- (4) What action does he propose to take to rectify this situation?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Johnson, I can advise as follows:

(1) I am aware that the Yaraka area was without power for a total of 41 hours and 40 minutes from 9pm on Saturday 20 November 1999.

(2) I am advised that a number of storms hit Central West Queensland on that weekend. The faults on the Yaraka feeder on 20 November occurred when lightning strikes caused damage to two lightning arresters located on isolated sections of the SWER feeder. As this feeder traverses sparsely vegetated country, during electrical storms, the feeder unfortunately is the target of lightning strikes. The isolation, and the fact that this feeder is 314 kilometres in length, made the fault extremely difficult to locate. A helicopter was dispatched from Emerald to assist in locating the fault, and once located, a ground crew was immediately dispatched. However, as the damage occurred at night, it took until Sunday morning to locate the fault. Once repaired, supply could still not be restored, and it was then discovered that there was a second fault on the feeder. This fault was located and repaired by 2.40pm on Monday 22 November.

(3) Ergon Energy has assured me that power lines in this region are in a satisfactory condition. Ergon Energy has a well established maintenance plan where lines are patrolled at least once every year, pole inspections are completed on a regular five-yearly cycle, and vegetation regrowth is cleared as required. I am advised that pole inspections on the Yaraka feeder were last completed in the 1997/98 year. However, in conjunction with the fault finding activities on 20 November, an aerial patrol of the feeder was again completed.

(4) Ergon Energy has been working to reduce the impact of storms and lightning strikes on this feeder by installing lightning arresters and sectionalisers which will allow supply to be returned along part of the line if multiple faults occur. However, considering the overhead nature of the feeder, there will always be external influences such as storm activity and wildlife, which will have the potential to impact on the reliability of the power supply.

1752. School Nurses

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to school nurses—

- (1) What is the full-year implementation cost of school nurses?
- (2) Is there any accredited training in counselling provided?
- (3) Has any independent assessment of their programs been undertaken; if so, what are the results?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99):

(1) Implementation of the school nurse program has been divided into four phases (one phase for each financial year until completion of implementation.) In total, 100 nurses will be appointed by the year 2002, with 25 nurses appointed each financial year. The progressive implementation is reflected in the annual budgets. Program funding allocation per financial year: 1998/99—\$700,000; 1999/2000—\$3.5 million; 2000/01—\$4.2 million; 2001/02—\$5.6 million to provide wages and operational costs (travel, resources etc).

(2) No. Accredited training in counselling has not been provided to the school nurses. The school nurses do not undertake intensive counselling, rather referring clients to relevant counselling services internal and external to the school eg. guidance officers, social workers, psychologists. The school nurses program is preventive and health promoting rather than treatment focused. The role of the school nurse is to:

address health issues on an individual basis by the provision of information, advice, support, implementing brief interventions, and offering referral to other services as relevant for young people, their families and the school community;

support the school community to identify and address health issues;

engage and support the whole community to address contemporary health and social issues affecting young people;

develop and deliver services in conjunction with existing school and community based health programs and preventive activities.

(3) No. The first implementation phase of the school nurse program commenced in January 1999, with the second phase implemented in July 1999. Internal assessment and evaluation processes are in place with data collection by the school nurses identifying: the number of clients seen, reason for visit, who referred the client to the nurse, and to which service/agency the client was referred to (as relevant). The school nurses also collect data on health promotion activities they are involved in. More formal evaluation processes are presently planned to commence in the year 2000. A PhD student from the Queensland University of Technology is being jointly funded by Queensland Health and the Australian Research Council to undertake an evaluation of the impact of the school nurse program on schools within the World Health Organisation's "Health Promoting Schools" framework.

1753. Parenting Courses

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Health (23/11/99)—

With reference to Queensland Health's parenting courses—

- (1) What is the full-year implementation of these parenting courses?
- (2) What independent assessment of the various programs has been undertaken?
- (3) Will these results be published publicly?

Mrs EDMOND (23/12/99):

(1) The full year implementation involves the provision of free parenting programs from at least 30 locations across the State (mostly child health centres). The core component of the parenting programs is the Positive Parenting Program—Triple P. At four parenting locations the Family CARE Home Visiting Program and the Young Parents Support Program will be trialled, and at ten parenting locations, Save the Children's Future Parents Program will also be offered. Two locations will specifically target parenting issues in Indigenous communities

(2) Over the last 20 years, Triple P has been evaluated in a series of controlled randomised clinical trials at The University of Queensland and funded largely by the National Health and Medical Research Council. A review of the latest scientific evidence concerning the effectiveness of Triple P was published in the June 1999 edition of Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review. An independent evaluation completed by the Western Australian Department of Health through the TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research involving more than 1600 families, specifically supported the efficacy of the group program currently being implemented by Queensland Health.

The Family CARE Home Visiting Program has been subjected to the acknowledged rigours of empirical research, the latest results of which were published in the June 1999 edition of the Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health. Moreover, the Family CARE home visiting approach, is grounded in the Prenatal/Early Infancy Project in the United States led by Professor David Olds. The outcomes of this project are internationally recognised as demonstrating the effectiveness of home visiting in improving parenting, lowering child abuse, reducing behavioural problems and promoting infant health and development.

The Young Parents Support Program is based on extensive research and consultations (including Queensland Health Health Outcomes Planning, 1999; Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, Youth Participation Strategy, 1999) indicating that many 'at risk' young people avoid mainstream government services.

(3) Yes, as outlined above and other evaluation data will be released publicly once it becomes available.

1754. Wamuran, Queensland Rail Land

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/11/99)—

With reference to the recent correspondence from Queensland Rail, with respect to the sale of the designated Queensland Rail Crown land at the intersection of the D'Aguilar Highway and Atwell Street, Wamuran to the Caboolture Shire Council for the purpose of proclaiming it a National Serviceman's Association of Australia Memorial Park—

- (1) When will the sale of the land to the Caboolture Shire Council proceed?
- (2) Will the shire council still be designated to upkeep the portion of the park on the northern side of the Wamuran railway line, the portion still retained as Queensland Rail land as a corridor?
- (3) Are there any plans in process by Queensland Rail to terminate Atwell Street, an allegedly non-gazetted road that exists, at the crossing of the Wamuran railway line?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/12/99):

(1) Queensland Rail has written to Caboolture Shire Council indicating QR's interest in transferring the area of surplus freehold land as soon as possible. It is understood that Council has been utilising and maintaining the subject area for park purposes without formal agreement, therefore raising issues of liability. Negotiations for the transfer of the surplus area can commence upon notification from Council.

(2) The land designated as operational corridor will be excluded from the area to be transferred to Council. The maintenance of this area will remain QR's responsibility. Recent discussions between members from the National Serviceman's Association and QR indicate that it is likely, with their cooperation, maintenance of the corridor will be undertaken by the local group.

(3) It is intended to formally open the area of non-gazetted road known as Atwell Street, as a road to the boundary of the existing rail corridor. QR is aware that the corridor forms the link between Atwell and Station Roads, however, is not intending to formally open the corridor land as road but will be seeking to formalise the access with Council.

1755. Townsville General Hospital

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Health (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Townsville General Hospital's superseded computers—

- (1) Were these computers destroyed at the Townsville rubbish tip; if so, why were they destroyed?
- (2) If the hard drives were the problem, why weren't they removed and destroyed?
- (3) Why were the hard drives replaced and distributed to schools or other charitable organisations or sold at public auction?

Mrs EDMOND (24/12/99):

(1) Only non-reusable parts of computers were destroyed in accordance with policy. Reusable parts

ie CD-ROMs, floppy drives, CPUs, video cards etc were retained with the remaining case disposed of.

(2) Prior to destruction all hard disk drives were removed, registered and stored in a secure location.

(3) No hard disk drives were replaced and distributed to schools or other charitable organisations or sold at public auction.

1756. Rural Hospitals

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Health (24/11/99)—

With reference to the understaffing at country hospitals—

- (1) What incentives is her department offering Australian educated doctors to practise in country Queensland?
- (2) What is the number of hospitals that are currently understaffed with doctors?

Mrs EDMOND (24/12/99):

(1) Incentives for Full Time Specialists

Incentives created under the previous Labor Government to attract full-time specialists to Queensland country centres include an option A right of private practice allowance of 45% of base salary compared to 35% for metropolitan specialists; free accommodation, provision of communications equipment and private use of vehicles. As a result of these incentives and changes to the advertising of vacant positions, full-time specialist vacancies have fallen from 125 in March 1995 to 30 in October 1999 despite 26 new full-time positions being created since July 1998.

Incentives for Specialist Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs)

Queensland Health provides access to salary sacrificing and higher commencement pay rates for visiting specialists in rural areas. There were eight vacancies for Visiting Medical Officers as at October 1999.

Incentives for Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice (MSRPPs)

MSRPPs have access to accommodation, private use of a motor vehicle, communications equipment and the free use of a private surgery where available. Queensland Health indemnifies MSRPPs and MORPPs who perform procedures on private patients, a saving of over \$7,000 per medical practitioner. Recent improvements have included an additional half-day off per week and the introduction of Medical Officers with Right of Private Practice (MORPP) in locations where this is feasible.

State Scholarship Scheme

An increase in the Scholarship Fund from \$1.088m to \$2.443m and the introduction of four year scholarships to ensure longer bonded periods results in 30 medical scholarship holders graduating each year. Benefits include a living allowance of \$7,000 per academic year, a tertiary grant of \$3,500 and an annual travel allowance of \$500.

Rural Medical Indemnity Scheme for Rural Private General Practitioners

A subsidy of up to \$4,100 (increased from \$3,500 in 1998) is provided to private rural GPs who perform procedures such as obstetrics, anaesthetics and surgery, in towns where there is no specialist available to provide the required procedure/s. This assists country people to obtain services locally and prevents the deskilling of support staff, especially nurses.

Accommodation

A review on accommodation for rural doctors is currently being conducted by Statewide Asset Management Services, Queensland Health. The provision of accommodation of good standard aids recruitment and retention.

Junior Doctor Training Program

The Junior Doctor Training Program commenced in 1996 and was enhanced in 1998 with a 1998/1999 budget of \$622,040. It provides educational resources to improve the educational experience in the second and subsequent years following graduation. Procedural skills and essential knowledge to enable them to provide rural relief in country hospitals is included in the program.

Rural Health Training Units

Rural general practice training is provided through the rural health training units in Toowoomba, Rockhampton, and Townsville.

Rural Coordination Networks

Rural Coordination Networks are based in Brisbane and Townsville. These Units enable a more accurate placement of relief staff into locations for which they are suitably skilled. These networks have established databases of the requirements for each location, including available local equipment, staff and other resources.

Telemedicine

Facilities are now available in around 140 sites. This has potential to enable assessments of patients and mentoring in remote areas by specialist practitioners in major centres. Telepsychiatry has already proven to be highly successful.

Rural Registrar Program

A Commonwealth/State program supporting nine rural specialist registrar training positions and outreach dermatology services. These training positions provide additional back up for country doctors.

Rural Undergraduate Placement Program

This program provides opportunities for medical students to spend elective periods in certain rural and remote areas. The 1998/1999 budget was \$25,000.

Rural High School Students to the Health Professions Program

Workshops are held with rural and remote students; years 10 and 11 in Toowoomba, Rockhampton and Townsville and year 12 at The University of Queensland. Rural students are more likely to return to the country after graduating.

Medical Adviser—Rural Health Services

Dr. Denis Lennox has been appointed to this new position reporting to the Principal Medical Adviser, Queensland Health.

Pilot Remote Vocational Training Program

This program commenced in July 1999 with ten places funded by the Commonwealth Government throughout Australia. (two in Queensland). It will provide on site training in remote practice through distance supervision and education methods.

Conference Leave for Medical Officers

Conference leave is available to medical superintendents and medical officers with right of private practice. Full time senior medical staff are entitled to one week of conference leave on full pay with expenses for each year of continuous service.

Rural/Remote Accommodation Assistance

New and existing employees who have had to relocate their residence on appointment are eligible for free accommodation (where available) or \$75 per week rental subsidy for 17 months from the commencement of duty.

Doctors in the Bush Project

The Doctors in the Bush scheme is designed to recruit both Australian and overseas trained doctors. A significant aspect of the scheme is the development of postgraduate training towards Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners on location in rural practice. That is supervision and mentoring at a distance involving collaboration between Queensland Health, Queensland Rural Medical Support Agency, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and Queensland Divisions of General Practitioners.

(2) Queensland's Health Service Districts actively recruit Temporary Resident Doctors (referred to as TRDs) to ensure a sufficient supply of doctors for effective delivery of care to Queenslanders.

It was estimated that there were 371 TRDs working in Queensland Health on 1 March 1998. At least 80% were employed as house officers in public hospitals with 29 specialists, eight medical superintendents and nine senior medical officers. With the exception of the Gold Coast and Royal Brisbane Hospitals, Queensland public hospitals utilise a centralised recruitment process known as "Doctors Down Under". A sub-committee of medical superintendents and the Principal Medical Adviser oversees the process.

TRDs are employed in most country hospitals and fill those positions that are unable to be filled by local graduates. Any discussion on the number of vacancies of resident medical officers in Queensland's hospitals needs to be viewed within this context.

While vacancies occur in the public system throughout Queensland on an ongoing basis, the Government has been very successful in filling full-time specialist positions reducing the number of vacancies from 125 in June 1995 to only 30 in October 1999. This is in spite of the fact that 28 full-

time specialist positions have been created since June 1998.

1757. Ambulance Services Vehicles

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Ford ambulances used in Queensland, specifically the turbo diesel V8 models—

- (1) How many new ambulances were put on the road in Queensland in 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1999 until the present date?
- (2) Are the Fords currently in use, converted from left hand drive in Victoria?
- (3) Do these vehicles have any problems with the headlights eg adjustment?
- (4) Where does the cab chassis used for these new vehicles come from?
- (5) If not from Queensland, would she consider a Queensland based supplier and is she aware of the large number of jobs that would be created by buying locally?

Mr ROBERTSON (Minister for Emergency Services) (24/11/99):

- (1) The number of Ford turbo diesel V8 models ordered for Queensland in 1997-98 was 33, in 1998-99 were 24 and in 1999-2000 34 were ordered. All of the current year orders are in Australia and building has commenced but none of the vehicles are on the road as yet.
- (2) These vehicles are converted from left-hand drive in Victoria under a current Standing Offer Arrangement.
- (3) A headlight adjustment problem was identified. The manufacturer has provided a test approval report from the Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board on Headlight Intensity Distribution. This problem is being further investigated by QAS.
- (4) The cab chassis used for these vehicles is imported from the United States of America (USA).
- (5) The supply of cab chassis is provided under a Standing Offer Arrangement in accordance with State Purchasing Policy following an advertisement calling for Invitations to Offer from potential suppliers. The contract was awarded to Queensland based Denmac Ford of Darra, who contracted Billrich Industries (Ford US Importer and High Volume Compliance Converter) in Victoria for the supply of the cab chassis.

1758. Computer Viruses

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (24/11/99)—

With reference to newspaper reports of a new super Scrooge-like virus called W97M/PRILISSA which is timed to infect Microsoft Outlook Email programs and then to spread to other users via Email from Christmas Day—

- (1) Are any Queensland Government computers at risk; if so, how many systems and what will his department do to protect these systems?
- (2) Is the department actively informing public users of this new risk to Email use?
- (3) What investigations is his department undertaking to protect Australian users against viral infiltration of the Internet and Email systems?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00):

- (1) Computer viruses are a constant threat to all computer systems. All computers should be protected against virus infection by regularly running up-to-date anti-virus software. It is the accepted practice in Government departments and agencies to carry out regular upgrading of virus protection software. It is the responsibility of each department to ensure this checking occurs regularly and rigorously.
- (2) Industry sources indicate that a number of computer viruses are discovered each week. Given that computer viruses are a constant threat to computer systems, it would be impractical to run an information campaign on the effect of one particular virus. It is the responsibility of every computer user to ensure that they have adequate protection from computer viruses through the installation of robust antivirus software. This software should be regularly upgraded to keep abreast of the rapid changes which occur in information technology.
- (3) As previously stated, it is the responsibility of all computer users to maintain effective anti-virus software on their computer systems. The Internet is an "open" medium and as such it is not possible for anybody to "control" content in a way which would protect users without Government examining each and every Internet access. The implementation of such a system would be a massive undertaking and an invasion of privacy. Given the nature of the Internet, it would be impractical to attempt to protect computer systems against virus infection in the manner the Member has proposed.

1759. Toowoomba, Ambulance Service

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (24/11/99)—

With reference to public service appointments in the ambulance service in the south west region—

- (1) Was a person from Tasmania and another from the Northern Territory appointed to positions within the last three months?
- (2) Did these two persons go through the selection process or were they given direct entry; if not, why not?
- (3) Does this not go against the industry standards; if so, why were they given direct entry?
- (4) Were these persons known to the appointer prior to being appointed to their current positions?

- (5) Were these positions advertised and on what dates?
- (6) To what stations were these two persons appointed?
- (7) How many applicants were received for these two positions?

Mr ROBERTSON (Minister for Emergency Services) (24/12/99):

- (1) Yes
- (2) The paramedic program intake was advertised on 5 March 1999 and closed on 6 April 1999. None of the applications received were interested in taking up positions in the South Western Region. Three Intensive Care paramedics had requested a transfer out of the region.
In order to maintain the high level of ambulance service within the South Western Region, interstate applications from appropriately qualified persons were considered. The applicants were selected based on a closed merit selection. The officers' applications were on the transfer file and no other transfers at paramedic level were available. The officers were offered positions after assessment of suitability was conducted.
- (3) Under the circumstances outlined in (2), interstate applications from appropriately qualified persons were considered and deemed appropriate.
- (4) The appointer knew one officer.
- (5) See (2) above.
- (6) Toowoomba Station.
- (7) No applications were received for the two positions.

1760. Cape York Partnership Plan

Mr NELSON asked the Premier (24/11/99)—

Will he outline the full details as to why funding was not made available for aboriginal representatives from many areas in the Cape, including Injinoo, Coen and towns in the western alliance to meet in Weipa on Monday 22 November?

Mr BEATTIE (10/12/99): I understand that some Indigenous people in Cape York have raised concerns about the way consultation has taken place in the development of the Cape York Partnership Plan. My Government has taken these concerns on board and will continue to consult with people in the Cape York area, rather than funding groups on an ad hoc basis.

An application from the Injinoo Land Trust for funding to attend the meeting in Weipa on 22 November 1999 was considered and, on this occasion, funding was unable to be provided because the application did not clearly outline how the meeting would relate to the Cape York Partnership Plan.

My Government previously funded the Cape York Land Council to undertake consultation with the Cape York communities, including communities from the Western Cape, through a community meeting on 29 October 1999. This meeting was attended by

hundreds of Indigenous people from across the Cape York area and culminated in a meeting with me on 30 October 1999.

1761. Tilt Train; Sunlander

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/11/99)—

With reference to the tilt train and Sunlander time tables—

- (1) What are the total hours travelling time by tilt train from Brisbane to Cairns, including advising where the train will stop along the route?
- (2) What are the total hours travelling by Sunlander from Brisbane to Cairns including where the train stops along route?
- (3) What is the total cost of infrastructure in commissioning the tilt train and bringing it into full operation to service Brisbane to Cairns?
- (4) How long will the stop over be in Townsville for the tilt train?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/12/99):

(1) Following the completion of the track upgrading work north of Rockhampton, it is estimated that travelling time will be approximately 24 hrs. The timetable for the Brisbane Cairns tilt train has not been finalised.

(2) The Sunlander currently makes the following stops: Brisbane; Mackay; Caboolture; Proserpine; Nambour; Bowen; Cooroy*; Home Hill; Gympie North; Ayr; Maryborough West; Giru*; Bundaberg; Townsville; Miriam Vale*; Ingham; Gladstone; Cardwell*; Mount Larcom*; Tully; Rockhampton; Innisfail; St Lawrence; Babinda*; Carmila*; Gordonvale*; Sarina*; Cairns.

* As required stops

The total hours travel for the current Sunlander Service (including stops) is currently 31 hrs 55 minutes.

(3) The total cost of the 2 Trains and associated Infrastructure needed to run these trains is \$138 million.

The Infrastructure component of this is estimated at \$4.5 million, which covers the cost of modifications to the train servicing facility at Mayne, modification to the fuelling and provisioning facilities at Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns, speed boarding and track magnets to suit the higher speed and tilt operations north of Rockhampton.

The Tilt Trains will operate within the safe speed limits appropriate for the fixed infrastructure that will exist at the time of their introduction into service in 2002, and take advantage of further infrastructure upgrades beyond that time.

(4) The timetable for the Brisbane-Cairns tilt train has not been finalised.

1762. Oil Prices

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (24/11/99)—

With reference to the increase in oil prices announced in the last 24 hours—

What protection is there for consumers in Queensland against immediate application of this price rise to previously purchased fuel?

Ms SPENCE (23/12/99): There are no legal restrictions on commercial enterprises applying increased prices to existing stocks. For example, petrol retailers are no different than any convenience store holding stocks of a product which have increased in price. The convenience store may charge the new price without differentiating between existing and new stock. The final decision depends upon the goodwill that retailers wish to maintain with their customers.

Due to the sharp increases in petrol prices earlier in the year, the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs resolved at its meeting in August to request the Commonwealth to have the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) investigate how the movements in the barrel prices of international crude oil are translated into retail prices and whether there had been factors other than crude oil price increases at work in influencing the increases.

The ACCC report was released on 23 November 1999. The report found that over the period from January to August 1999, the average capital city unleaded petrol retail prices increased by about 1.8 cents per litre—less than the international average. The average country unleaded petrol retail price increased by about 3.7 cents per litre—less than the rise in international prices.

The Report concluded that the lesser increase in the average retail prices may be to some extent explained by the time lag in the flow through of the higher prices to wholesalers, retailers and consumers. Some major independents had the advantage in having supply contracts which involved some delay before the rise in international prices were passed through to them. This enabled them to sell at slightly lower prices and enhanced overall competition. Other retailers may have been in a position to absorb some of the increase in supply costs by operating on slightly lower margins.

Petrol pricing in Australia, and in particular the higher prices charged in country areas, is an ongoing concern to this Government. Prior to the Commonwealth Government's introduction of its petroleum industry reform package in August 1998, the ACCC had a role in the establishing maximum wholesale prices of petrol in Australia. Commonwealth reforms ended the ACCC's role in the regulation of wholesale prices. The Commonwealth Government intended to repeal legislation imposing limits on oil company service station site ownership and relating to franchising arrangements with oil majors. The reform package provided for a mandatory Oilcode to govern conduct between industry participants. Other features of the package were aimed at freeing up terminal access for bulk fuel purchasers and the posting of wholesale prices at terminal gates.

On 23 September 1999 the Commonwealth Government announced that its reform package was

not proceeding due to lack of agreement between industry participants. The small business operators of service stations opposed the repeal of the sites legislation and the oil majors linked their support for the Oilcode to the repeal of that legislation.

The proposal contained serious flaws which could have been detrimental to small fuel retailers, particularly family owned operations in regional areas. I am very concerned that after the Commonwealth failed to negotiate the reforms, the situation is now worse as we are left with the aftermath of removal of wholesale price control.

On 30 August 1999, Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MHR, the Commonwealth Shadow Minister for Small Business, introduced a private member's Bill into the House of Representatives. The Fair Prices and Better Access for All (Petroleum) Bill 1999 was designed to bring petrol prices down and to reduce the gap separating city and country fuel prices by giving service station operators the opportunity to shop around for their fuel. The Bill proposes to bring the benefits of competition into the wholesale level by allowing franchisees to secure up to 50% of their fuel supplies from parties other than their principal branded supplier. The Bill includes protection for resellers from retribution from oil majors by providing access to ACCC enforcement measures.

The Senate has agreed to refer the provisions of the Bill and the practice of multi-site franchising by oil companies to the Senate Economics Reference Committee for inquiry and report. The Senate has called for submissions by 30 November 1999. The Bill is a positive attempt to bring real reductions in prices by starting at the wholesale level rather than squeezing the "mum and dad" operators in the retail sector out of business by reducing already slim margins with their operations.

1763. Gold Coast Hospital

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Hartes and Associates report into the Gold Coast Hospital which indicates that funding for 1999-2000 was increased to a level of \$5m more than could have been anticipated on the basis of the case mix and in response to constituency queries as to the disbursement of this funding—

What additional funding has been allocated to improving conditions in the emergency assessment section of the hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (24/12/99): An additional \$603,000 has been provided in the 1999-2000 financial year to improve conditions in the Emergency Department of the Gold Coast Hospital. The major portion of these funds has been used to employ two additional Specialist Consultant Physicians and two additional Registered Nurses.

1764. Torres Health District

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (24/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Torres Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (24/12/99): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services.

New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation.

Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services.

These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1765. Townsville Health District

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Health (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Townsville Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (24/12/99):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1766. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (24/11/99)—

For 1998-99, will he provide full details of the costs of domestic air travel (both interstate and intra-state) and any associated accommodation, taxi or hire car costs, conference registration fees etc, officially incurred by officers of (a) TAFE and (b) other divisions of his department?

Mr BRADY (24/12/99): To provide this information would result in an unreasonable divergence of departmental resources.

1767. Queensland Transport, Customer Survey

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/11/99)—

- (1) When does the department propose to conduct the annual client satisfaction survey?
- (2) Does the survey include customer response to the Queensland Transport automated telephone system?

- (3) Is the department confident that its aim of 90 per cent customer satisfaction by year 2000 can be met?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/1/00):

(1) The customer satisfaction survey will be undertaken from 1 February 2000, with the final report due in April. Because of costs involved Queensland Transport decided to conduct the survey every two years rather than annually.

(2) Queensland Transport is currently preparing the survey questions and techniques that will be included in the February Customer Satisfaction Survey. The aim of the survey is to measure the overall satisfaction of Queensland Transport's customers and questions asked in this survey will reflect customer satisfaction in a number of service areas.

(3) Over the past twelve months, Queensland Transport has implemented a number of improved service initiatives with the aim of improving customer satisfaction. The 90 per cent satisfaction level is a target that the department actively works towards achieving. Whatever the outcome of the survey, Queensland Transport will continue to implement new service initiatives, and improve on existing services with the aim of increasing customer satisfaction.

1768. Queensland Biennial Festival

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Biennial Festival—

- (1) How much money was contributed by the Queensland Government to the festival out of (a) consolidated revenue and (b) other sources (listed by name of source)?
- (2) How much money was raised for the biennial from (a) ticket sales/box office and (b) corporate sponsorship?
- (3) What was the total budget for the biennial and will he provide the financial reports for the festival?
- (4) Where possible, will he provide attendance details for each event undertaken by the festival?

Mr FOLEY (24/12/99):

(1)(a) \$2M as stated in my Ministerial Statement on 23 November 1999.

(b) \$320,746 from other Queensland Government sources by way of partnerships, grants and cash sponsorships:

Department of Families, Youth and Community Care—\$20,000

Queensland Rail—\$15,000

Education Queensland—\$10,000

Multicultural Affairs Queensland—\$5,000

Youth Initiative (Arts Queensland)—\$100,000

Cairns Jazz Project (Arts Queensland)—\$9,000

Orchestral Services Fund (Arts Queensland)—\$100,000

Reconciliation Project (Arts Queensland)—\$50,000

Indemnity Claim—\$14,900 (of which \$11,746 has been accepted and included above).

(2)(a) \$215,400.

(b) \$494,100 in cash contributions and partnerships from all sources apart from those listed above.

(3) \$3,258,800 was the cost of the Festival. An extract from the Financial Statements is included in the 1999 Report of the Queensland Biennial Festival of Music which is publicly available from the office of the Queensland Biennial Festival of Music or from Arts Queensland.

(4) Available information is contained in my Ministerial Statement of 23 November 1999. As many events were free and unticketed, it is not possible to provide an accurate breakdown by event.

1769. Townsville, Zinc Refinery

Mr MITCHELL asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (24/11/99)—

With reference to the 1995 agreement between the State and Korea Zinc Limited which required the Government to nominate a supplier of approximately 100 MW for the production phase of Stage One of the smelter—

- (1) From which power station is the supply sourced?
- (2) Does the agreement provide for a subsidised power price?
- (3) Is this subsidy met by the generator or by the Government?
- (4) What plans are in place, if any, to meet the power requirements of Stage Two of the smelter?

Mr ELDER (23/12/99):

(1) Stanwell Corporation supplies electricity to the Sun Metals Corporation refinery.

(2) The Queensland Government signed a Heads of Agreement with Korea Zinc when the company, through its subsidiary (Sun Metals Corporation), committed to locating a \$530 million zinc refinery at Townsville. The Heads of Agreement imposes duties of confidentiality on the parties to the Agreement. As a result, the arrangements for electricity supply are commercial-in-confidence.

(3) Answer to question (2) refers.

(4) I understand that Sun Metals Corporation are keen to see progress which will ensure a secure future power supply for the refinery. I can guarantee that the Queensland Government is also committed to the same outcome.

1770. Walla Weir

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (24/11/99)—

With reference to difficulties being experienced by the Martell family of Walla Road, Gin Gin, caused by the inundation of the Walla Weir and associated backwater flows which flood the causeway on Eddington's Road—

- (1) (a) Are there any plans to raise the height of the Perry River causeway on Eddington's Road, (b) what would this project cost and (c) when would the department anticipate work could begin?
- (2) Has funding been included in the 1999-2000 year?
- (3) Will this work eliminate, or greatly reduce the regularity or inconvenience to the Martell family whose daughter is unable to attend school while the Eddington's Road causeway is flooded?
- (4) How many other families would benefit from this work?
- (5) What, if any, are the major hindrances to a start on this project and is it budget-related or are there other factors being considered?
- (6) Are there other causeways that need to be raised or relocated, or associated major road works that became necessary as a result of the inundation of Walla Weir?
- (7) What is the progress of these plans and when are all associated works anticipated to be finalised?

Mr WELFORD (23/12/99):

- 1(a) The upgrade or relocation of roads, structures and other infrastructure that were subject to inundation from the storage was included in the Walla Weir project.

The causeway on the Perry River at Eddington's Road is not subject to permanent inundation, being about 600mm above the Fully Supply Level of the Weir. No upgrade of this crossing was undertaken as part of the initial Weir development.

It was assessed that the flood immunity of this internal farm crossing would not be substantially reduced by the backwater effects from the Weir but it was acknowledged that an alternative arrangement would be required for any future raising (Stage 2) of the Weir.

- (b) No detailed estimate on the cost of this work has been made. The cost will be determined as part of the Stage 2 Weir raising.
- (c) Work on the crossing will coincide with the Stage 2 Weir development. A number of factors need to be considered before an assessment on the Weir raising is undertaken including the finalisation of the current studies on water supply options for the Burnett catchment.

2. No separate funding for the crossing has been provided in 1999-2000. Funding for this work will be programmed as part of the Stage 2 development.

3. Any alternate arrangements for the crossing arising from Stage 2 of the Weir will provide a level of flood immunity similar to the pre-weir situation.

4. The Martell family is the primary user of the crossing.

5. Work on the Perry River crossing is dependent on the Stage 2 Weir development and consultation with the Kolan Shire Council about future access for adjacent properties.

6. All public road infrastructure proposed for relocation under the initial Weir development has been completed.

7. No detailed assessment on infrastructure impacted by Stage 2 has been undertaken. However, several minor items of road infrastructure as well as the Perry River crossing have been identified as being affected by a future weir raising.

1771. Q-Fleet

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (24/11/99)—

With reference to Q-Fleet within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for October?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for October by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory for October?
- (4) What was the total value of vehicle assets for October?
- (5) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Q-Fleet for October?

Mr SCHWARTEN (23/12/99): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1423 answered on 25 November 1999, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1772. Police Service Statistical Review

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (24/11/99)—

Will he detail the crime statistics for each police district for the past three years including also, clear-up rates?

Mr BARTON (23/12/99): The information the Honourable Member has requested can be found in the Queensland Police Service Statistical Review for the years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99.

1773. Tourism, Sport and Racing Minister

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (24/11/99)—

What was the total departmental cost in 1998-99 in providing support to the Minister (including duties such as replies to ministerial correspondence, briefings, answers to Questions on Notice, Cabinet briefings etc) and where are these costs identified in Budget papers?

Mrs ROSE (Minister for Tourism and Racing) (23/12/99): The preparation of replies to Ministerial correspondence, briefings and other documentation associated with the Cabinet, Executive Council and Parliamentary process is undertaken by all areas of the Department, depending on the nature of the issue.

These activities are not specifically costed, as they form part of the day to day work activities of all levels of management and staff.

The cost of these activities has been allocated across each of the Department's outputs identified in the budgetary papers.

1774. National Greenhouse Response Strategy

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (24/11/99)—

With reference to the indication by the Deputy Premier on 15 December 1998 that Queensland had endorsed the National Greenhouse Response Strategy which provided a "comprehensive nationwide framework for action to tackle greenhouse issues" and that Queensland was required to develop an implementation plan to be called the Queensland Greenhouse Response Strategy, which was to be finalised by June and as the Deputy Premier indicated in his answer that the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Natural Resources was the responsible Minister—

- (1) Why was the Queensland Greenhouse Response Strategy not finalised by June?
- (2) When will it be finalised?
- (3) When will it be released?

Mr WELFORD (23/12/99):

(1) The 1999 Queensland Implementation Plan of the National Greenhouse Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet on 18 October 1999. This is the Queensland Greenhouse Response Strategy referred to by the Deputy Premier.

All States and Territories endorsed the National Greenhouse Strategy in 1998. As part of that endorsement, States and Territories agreed to develop Implementation Plans for actions which would be undertaken in their jurisdictions. The Queensland Implementation Plan includes 48 measures from the National Greenhouse Strategy in which the Queensland Government is taking a role.

Only 3 other States have lodged similar plans, none of them by June 1999. In Queensland, finalising the Implementation Plan was reserved until after the State budget, to ensure measures were funded.

The Queensland Government will continue to examine the need and options for greenhouse responses. The measures in the Queensland Implementation Plan are a first step to addressing greenhouse issues in Queensland. Other major initiatives already considered include:

- the Tarong Power Station extensions based on gas and coal, rather than coal alone; and
- proposed controls on vegetation clearing.

The rate at which Queensland is able to take further actions will depend on the Commonwealth clearly identifying its greenhouse policy and providing assistance to the States.

(2) As mentioned above, the Queensland Implementation Plan was endorsed by Cabinet on 18 October 1999.

(3) I announced the release of the Queensland Implementation Plan in a press release of 17 November 1999. It is available on my Environmental Protection Agency's web site.

1775. State Schools

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (24/11/99)—

With reference to the management of State schools—

- (1) What schools are being considered for closure and what are the reasons for this consideration?
- (2) What schools has he approved for closure since becoming Minister and what were the reasons for his approval?
- (3) What recommendations for closure has he rejected and what were the reasons for this rejection?
- (4) What is the present enrolment in each of the schools listed above and, where applicable, what are the projected enrolments at these schools for the next five years?

Mr WELLS (24/12/99): Refer to answer given to Question on Notice 1728.

1776. Energex

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Energex Strategic Plan at page 7 of its Statement of Corporate Intent for 1998-99 which identified as a strategic imperative for the year achievement of 60 per cent of tranche one and two contestable customers and 75 per cent of tranche 3 customers—

What were the rates achieved for each tranche?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): I am advised that as of 30 June 1999, 12 or 54.5 % of the 22 Tranche 1 customers in Energex's area that had entered into contestable retail contracts were retained as Energex Retail customers. At 30 June 1999, 148 or 72% of the 206 Tranche 2 customers in Energex's area that had entered into contestable retail contracts were retained as Energex Retail customers. Overall, as at 30 June 1999 Energex Retail retained 160 or 70% of the 228 customers in Tranches 1 and 2 that had entered into contestable retail contracts. This exceeds the Energex target of 60% retention for Tranches 1 and 2 in 1998/99.

The contestable market for Tranche 3 customers did not open until 1 July 1999, so the Energex target for Tranche 3 customers in 1998/99 was not applicable.

1777. CS Energy

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

With reference to the CS Energy Annual Report for 1998-99 which at page 14 indicates the corporation has signed a contract for supply with ABB for a new 385 MW combined cycle gas turbine power generator at its Swanbank site—

- (1) What is the target date for commissioning of this unit?
- (2) What is the source of fuel for its operation?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

(1) CS Energy is continuing to investigate the feasibility of developing a 385 MW combined cycle gas turbine power generator at its Swanbank site. Until CS Energy issue a Notice to Proceed to the Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor, ASEA Brown Boveri, I am advised that work under the contract does not commence and no liabilities are incurred by CS Energy.

The target date for commissioning of Swanbank E is commercial-in-confidence due to the highly competitive situation with respect to investment in new generation capacity.

(2) CS Energy is currently undertaking negotiations with several potential gas suppliers. These negotiations are commercial-in-confidence and details therefore are not available.

1778. Powerlink

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Powerlink Queensland Statement of Corporate Intent for 1998-99 which at page 27 indicated a reduced workforce of 500 employees by the end of the financial year resulting from the cessation of QSO activities—

- (1) Was this targeted reduction achieved; if not, is it still intended that Powerlink achieve this reduction in 1999-2000?
- (2) If it was achieved, what was the fate of those workers?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

(1) The cessation of the Queensland System Operator and the associated workforce reduction occurred during 1998/99 as stated in Powerlink's Statement of Corporate Intent for 1998/99. The Statement of Corporate Intent did not imply that Powerlink would reduce the workforce by 500 employees. I am advised that as at 30 June 1999, Powerlink had 499 employees.

(2) 65 staff were employed by the Queensland System Operator. Powerlink has been successful in redeploying the majority of these staff after consultation to ascertain their preferences.

The National Electricity Market Management Company, the operator of the National Electricity Market, established a National Control Centre in

Brisbane, which provided employment opportunities for some Queensland System Operator employees.

Powerlink was also able to identify suitable positions elsewhere in Powerlink for some Queensland System Operator employees. Specialised training and job search assistance was provided by Powerlink for those Queensland System Operator employees who wished to take redundancy packages.

I am advised that as at 30 November 1999, 21 former Queensland System Operator employees are employed by the National Electricity Market Management Company, 25 are employed by Powerlink and 19 have accepted redundancies.

1779. Gas-fired Power Stations

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

Given that gas contracts signed by Energex and Ergon with Chevron for up to 180 petajoules per year for 20 years are on a take or pay basis and given that gas as a power generating fuel is at least 30 per cent more expensive than high quality black coal, under what criteria does the Government anticipate there will be any market whatsoever for gas fired baseload power?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): There are a number of factors which will influence the economic viability of gas-fired power stations, including the prices within each segment of the market (i.e. peak, intermediate and base), fuel and other operating costs, capital costs, distance to market and environmental compliance obligations as well as the costs and locations of competing plants.

The price of electricity usually varies significantly depending on which segment of the market being considered. Peaking and intermediate load prices are usually higher than base load prices, hence the economics of individual gas-fired projects need to be assessed in terms of which market segment is being targeted.

While coal-fired power stations enjoy a lower cost fuel, gas-fired generators have significantly lower capital costs of construction. These lower construction costs flow through to reduce gas-fired generators' overall costs of production. Gas-fired generation, when used in cogeneration mode, can also have significantly higher efficiency levels than coal-fired generation. These improved efficiency levels can mean lower fuel requirements per megawatt hour.

In an attempt to reduce their reliance on spot prices, gas-fired proponents are seeking to locate near potential customers and offer services such as steam as well as electricity (from cogeneration stations), to secure sufficient demand to underpin the economics of their proposals.

Gas-fired generation has the additional advantage of lower overall emissions (Carbon, Nitrogen Oxide and Sulphur Oxide) when compared to coal-fired generation. Should emissions trading (or similar regime) become established, gas-fired generation

would therefore enjoy lower emissions costs and would have an enhanced competitive position.

1780. Power Purchase Agreements

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

- (1) Why did the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation (QTSC) enter into Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with Tarong Energy for seven months of 1998-99?
- (2) What amount of power was involved in the PPA?
- (3) Why was this transaction not recorded in the QTSC Annual Report, despite an otherwise apparently detailed account of PPA activity?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

(1) The Power Purchase Agreement referred to in Tarong Energy's 1998/99 Annual Report was between Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation (and subsequently the Queensland Power Trading Corporation) and Tarong Energy. It covered the period between the formation of Tarong Energy (1 July 1997) and the commencement of the Queensland Interim Market (18 January 1998).

The Power Purchase Agreement was a transitional measure necessary for the operation and sale of electricity produced by Tarong Energy's generating plant at Tarong and Wivenhoe power stations prior to the start of the competitive electricity market. It was essentially an extension of the agreement between AUSTA Electric and the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation. This type of agreement was the standard mechanism for the purchase and sale of power before the advent of a competitive market. In January 1998, with the start of the Queensland Interim Market, the Power Purchase Agreement was terminated.

(2) The Power Purchase Agreement covered the output from the Tarong and Wivenhoe power stations for the period July 1997 to January 1998 which was approximately 6300 GigaWatt hours.

(3) The Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation was disaggregated in 1996/97, and its name changed to the Queensland Transitional Power Trading Corporation from 1 July 1997. Information relating to this past Power Purchase Agreement was disclosed on page 25 of the Queensland Transitional Power Trading Corporation's 1997/98 annual report. Details in the Power Purchase Agreement relating to price and volume are commercial in confidence information. I would also draw your attention to the fact that this Power Purchase Agreement was entered into during the term of the Borbidge Government.

1781. Electricity Supply

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

What level of dividend, as a percentage of after tax profit, has the Government set for each element of the Queensland Electricity Supply Industry for 1998-99?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the Government does not set levels of dividend, but rather, enters into negotiations with each Electricity Government Owned Corporation. These negotiations are ongoing for dividends arising out of the 1998/99 financial year.

1782. Oakey Power Station

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

- (1) Given that the Premier has identified the Oakey Power Station as one that will convert to gas and given that this will require a looping of the Roma gas pipeline, when will this looping be undertaken and will the cost be borne by the State or by the Oakey Power Venturers?
- (2) What is the cost of operating this power station on liquid fuel against gas?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

(1) Oakey Power Station is presently being commissioned using both distillate and natural gas as fuel. The gas pipeline has been sufficiently looped to meet the needs of its customers including the power station when operated as a peaking plant. I am advised that tariffs for the various services offered by the pipeline incorporate appropriate allowance for the capital and operating costs of the pipeline.

(2) The operating costs of the power station are commercial in confidence information, and therefore cannot be disclosed.

1783. Power Purchase Agreements

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

Has the Government ruled out engaging in any further Power Purchase Agreements given that the inherent price premium makes it difficult to trade the power on the NEM at a profit?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): The Government is not currently intending to enter into any further long term Power Purchase Agreements.

1784. Energex

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Energex Statement of Corporate Intent for 1998-99 which indicated that Energex intended to engage in business ventures during the year which included telecommunications, credit cards and the provision of home loans—

- (1) Will he advise which, if any, of these ventures were engaged in in 1998-99?

- (2) Will he advise which, if any, of these proposed ventures not entered into during 1998-99 may be entered into in 1999-2000?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

(1) During 1998-99, ENERGEX engaged in a telecommunications venture as partner in Downtown Utilities which is a consortium involving ENERGEX, EnergyAustralia and Citipower. Downtown Utilities is a partner in the telecommunications company PowerTel which is rolling out a telecommunications network linking the Central Business Districts of Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

(2) I am advised that ENERGEX has no immediate plans to enter into the provision of credit cards or home loans.

1785. Tarong Power Station

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Tarong Energy Annual Report which at page 51 indicates that Tarong Energy and Entergy Power Group signed a conditional agreement with an engineering firm to construct the Tarong Power Station extension and that the contract included financial penalty clauses for cancellation or increases to the contracted price, with a maximum financial penalty of \$6m and given that the Government recently announced that it had rejected Tarong Energy's proposal for a 900 MW coal fired expansion of the Tarong Power Station—

Have these penalty clauses been invoked?

Mr McGRADY (6/1/00): The Engineering, Procurement and Construction contract for turbines, generators and boilers for the original two unit expansion at Tarong Power Station proposed in partnership with Entergy included financial penalty clauses for delayed execution or cancellation of the contract.

Tarong Energy and Entergy were jointly liable to pay an increase in the original contract value of up to a maximum of \$6 million (which equated to approximately 0.7% of the project value) if execution of the contract was significantly delayed past the original contract validity date but was subsequently executed. As the two-unit development did not proceed, the contract was not executed and this \$6m escalation payment was not required.

The two-unit contract also provided that Tarong Energy and Entergy would be jointly liable to pay a contract cancellation fee if the contract was not executed by 30 September. Payment of fees for deferred execution or cancellation of large contracts is a common commercial practice. However, Tarong Energy has negotiated a full offset for its share of this cancellation fee, as part of the contract for the single unit 450 MW coal fired expansion.

1786. Millmerran Power Station; Kogan Creek Power Station

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

- (1) What reinforcements to the Queensland transmission grid will be required in order for the Millmerran Power Project and the Kogan Creek Power Project to trade effectively in Queensland and interstate?

- (2) What arrangements have been made with those private generators regarding the cost of accessing the grid?

Mr McGRADY (4/1/00):

(1) New transmission lines will be required to connect the Millmerran Power Station and the proposed Kogan Creek Power Station to the new interconnection being constructed between Queensland and New South Wales. The proponents of Millmerran and the proposed Kogan Creek Power Stations have made their own assessments of the adequacy of the Queensland transmission grid for trading activities in Queensland and interstate.

(2) Millmerran Power Station has a commercial contract with Powerlink under which Millmerran will fully fund the cost of their connecting transmission line. A similar arrangement is being finalised for the proposed Kogan Creek Power Station. All relevant costs for providing and maintaining these connecting transmission lines will be met by each private generator. Arrangements for generators accessing the main transmission grid, including any payment, are set down in the National Electricity Code.

1787. Electricity Tariffs

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Ergon Annual Report which indicates that the Government has placed a limit in 1999-2000 on the extent of its commitment to both Ergon and Energex in relation to Community Service Obligation (CSO) payments for maintenance of uniform tariffs—

What is the price set as the limit on the Government's commitment to directly fund uniform tariff CSO's for 1999-2000?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): The Government has negotiated with the Government-owned retailers and their respective distribution corporations (namely ENERGEX Ltd and Ergon Ltd) to set a fair and reasonable fixed electricity price for servicing their respective franchise load. Details of the exact electricity price negotiated with the retailers is strictly commercial-in-confidence information and cannot be publicly revealed.

1788. Boyne Island Smelter

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

With reference to the former Queensland Electricity Commission which determined that on the commissioning of the third potline at the Boyne Island Smelter, only approximately 500 MW of the 1680 MW output of the station would be available to the grid, as opposed to approximately 1000 MW

prior to the commissioning: the remainder would be required by owners Comalco and as the Queensland Power Trading Corporation Annual Report indicates at page 17 that the QPTC is required to bid the entire output of Gladstone Power Station into the electricity market under NEM ring-fencing rules which "effectively preserves the position of the private owners and operators of the Power Station as it isolates them from the substantial financial risks of trading whilst QPTC receives all of the revenues and meets all of the costs of trading."—

Under these circumstances (a) what number of generating units are typically available for the grid, as opposed to servicing Comalco's needs at Boyne Island and (b) under what form of contract, and from whom, is power purchased by the Boyne Island Smelter?

Mr McGRADY (4/1/00):

(a) I am advised that, typically, two units are available for the grid.

(b) Boyne Island Smelter is supplied with electricity by the Queensland Power Trading Corporation. Supply of this electricity is provided for under a contract between the Queensland Power Trading Corporation and the Gladstone Power Station Participants. The Gladstone Power Station Participants are: GPS Power Pty Ltd (owned by Comalco); GPS Energy Pty Ltd (owned by Comalco); Sunshine State Power BV ARBN (owned by NRG); Sunshine State Power (No. 2) BV ARBN (owned by NRG) SLMA GPS Pty Ltd; RYOWA II GPS Pty Ltd; and YKK GPS (Queensland) Pty Ltd.

Details of the contract are commercial-in-confidence and are not able to be made available.

1789. Powerlink

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Powerlink Queensland Statement of Corporate Intent for 1998-99 which at page 12 refers to the fact the entity was considering a cross border lease in relation to Powerlink's network assets in Queensland and that if a feasible structure and acceptable terms could be agreed, the transaction was expected to proceed in November 1998—

- (1) Did the transaction proceed; if so, what were the terms and to whom were the assets leased?
- (2) If it did not proceed on the schedule discussed in the statement, is the issue still under consideration?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

- (1) The transaction did not proceed.
- (2) I am advised that the issue is no longer under consideration.

1790. Tarong Power Station; Wivenhoe Power Station

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

- (1) When does he anticipate the regulator will be in receipt of an application from Tarong Energy in relation to both the Government approved 450 MW coal fired expansion of Tarong Power Station and the 700 MW gas fired power station at Wivenhoe?
- (2) How many permanent jobs will be created and what number of part-time jobs will be available?
- (3) Does the Government have a target date for the commissioning of this coal fired generator and when will the 700 MW gas fired power station come on line?
- (4) What value of the total cost of the project will be spent in the South Burnett?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

(1) An application for a generation authority under the Electricity Act 1994, for the new 450 megawatt coal-fired unit at Tarong was approved by the Regulator in December 1999. An application for a generation authority for the proposed 2 x 350 megawatt gas-fired units will be made at a suitable time in the project's feasibility program.

(2) The number of Queensland jobs directly related to the construction project for the new Tarong unit is estimated at an average of 370. Using the standard multiplier for the flow-on impact of the construction activity it is estimated that around 1865 indirect jobs will be created, making a total of 2235.

Tarong Energy expects that about 170 direct and indirect permanent jobs will be created by the new Tarong unit during its 25-year operating life span. At this stage, it is estimated that some of these jobs could be shared on a permanent part-time basis.

With regard to the proposed gas-fired units, preliminary estimates are that up to 1500 direct and indirect jobs could be created over the 2 year construction period and up to 200 direct and indirect permanent jobs over the 25 year operating life. Whilst gas-fired units require less work to build than coal-fired units, the difference in job creation between the two projects is not that great because the coal-fired unit can use existing infrastructure at the Tarong Power Station.

(3) Commissioning of the new coal-fired unit is scheduled for late 2002 with commercial load planned for early 2003. The first gas-fired unit would come on-line in the latter half of 2003 provided that PNG gas is available at this time.

(4) It is estimated that \$207 million of the expenditure will be sourced from Queensland. Tarong Energy's consultants have no direct method of calculating how much of this will be spent in the South Burnett, however it is to be expected that the bulk of the construction workforce will be spending much of their income on living in the area.

In addition, the project is working to source goods and services in Queensland and some of this would be from the South Burnett region. Overall, it is broadly estimated that at least \$40 million will be spent in the South Burnett region.

1791. Energex

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

With reference to the Energex Strategic Plan which at page 7 of its Statement of Corporate Intent for 1998-99, listed as a strategic imperative for the year a number of reported electrical accidents less than 410—

What was the number of reported electrical accidents?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): I am advised that there were 593 reported electrical accidents in 1998-99 in ENERGETX's distribution area.

1792. CS Energy

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/11/99)—

With reference to the CS Energy Annual Report which at page 47 indicates the corporation was "required to enter into a number of vesting contracts which provide a cap to retailers for the price of electricity per megawatt per hour"—

Who required CS Energy to enter into these vesting contracts?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): In response to the specific question made by Mr Springborg, I can advise as follows:

It was Mr Borbidge, as the then Premier and Acting Treasurer, and Mr Lingard, as the then Acting Minister for Mines and Energy, who on 15 January 1998 directed under section 299 of the Electricity Act 1994 the government owned generators (including CS Energy) and retailers to enter vesting contracts.

These vesting contracts help manage the transition to a competitive market and apply for the period ending 31 December 2001. They cover approximately 50 per cent of the State's generation capacity and have the effect of fixing the price received by generators and paid by retailers for that amount of energy to the strike price (\$37/MWh) contained in the contracts. They assist in limiting generator market power while preserving the price signalling properties of the wholesale (or spot) market.

Vesting contracts are commonly used by governments in managing the transition of electricity industries from regulated, integrated entities to competitive markets. These contracts were entered into during the term of the Borbidge Government.

1793. Mr N. Pearson

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (25/11/99)—

Will she detail any and all expenses, payments or any other form of remuneration incurred by and paid out by this Government to Mr Noel Pearson in his

capacity as an adviser on aboriginal affairs in the Cape?

Ms SPENCE (23/12/99): No expenses, payment or any other form of remuneration have been incurred by or paid to Mr Noel Pearson by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development or the Department of Equity and Fair Trading for the provision of advice on Aboriginal affairs in Cape York. I am unable to advise the Honourable member concerning whether or not any such payments have been made to Mr Pearson by any other Department. The Honourable member may wish to ask other Ministers about expenditure under their respective portfolios.

1794. Hampden State School

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Education (25/11/99)—

With reference to the Hampden State School in the Whitsunday electorate—

Will he finally put a time frame for the rebuilding of the toilet block which this school has been waiting for, for nine years?

Mr WELLS (5/1/00): The Department informs me that initial planning for the project has been completed, and that, subject to resolution of the Capital budget for 2000/2001, the Department expects the project will be undertaken next financial year.

1795. Condom Vending Machines in Schools

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Education (25/11/99)—

With reference to one of the first initiatives of the Education Minister in the newly elected Victorian Government which was to herald the lifting of the ban on condom vending machines in schools—

- (1) Will he give this House an undertaking that he will not follow suit?
- (2) Will he give us an assurance that the Queensland Education Department will concentrate on promoting improved standards of literacy and numeracy, as well as promoting an appreciation of traditional family values, rather than promoting illicit and gratuitous sex and encouraging the breakdown of societal standards?

Mr WELLS (5/1/00):

1. There are no plans by Education Queensland to follow the Victorian government in this regard.
2. The Queensland government is committed to ensuring that all students have access to quality education.

1796. Wivenhoe Power Station

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (25/11/99)—

With reference to Lake Wivenhoe and the impact of a gas fired 700 megawatt power station upon tourism of the beautiful, pristine area of Lake Wivenhoe that

is likely to be affected by blue green algae, a general growth as a result of recycled stagnant water and how algae would impact on tourism—

- (1) What is the estimated number of tourists visiting this area over a twelve month period?
- (2) What impact will this power station have on the kiosk picnic area?
- (3) What amount of noise level will impact on this total tourist area?

Mrs ROSE (Minister for Tourism and Racing) (11/1/00):

- (1) Lake Wivenhoe is a popular recreational facility and attracted approximately 689,000 visitors in the year 1997/98, up from 594,000 the year before.
- (2) The proposed development is to be situated in the vicinity of Split Yard Creek, an attractive but inaccessible location for most visitors to the Lake.
- (3) Issues with respect to environmental impacts such as noise and potential blue-green algae bloom should be addressed under the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development which would be subject to an open consultative process where community and industry concerns could be specifically raised.

1797. Fraser Island

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/11/99)—

With reference to a recent article in the Fraser Coast Chronicle dated 22 November, headed "Erosion, fire threat endanger island" referring to the World Heritage listed Fraser Island—

- (1) Is he aware of the comments made by Noel Playford, chair of the Advisory Committee for Fraser Island World Heritage Area regarding bush fires and erosion problems?
- (2) What steps are being taken to provide the additional much needed funding to attempt to overcome these ongoing problems?
- (3) Will he consider reintroducing the much needed selective logging program to Fraser Island?
- (4) Is he serious about creating jobs and is he aware of how many jobs the reintroduction of logging could create?
- (5) Is he aware that whilst logging took place, not only did it create a form of revenue for the island maintenance but assisted directly to the maintenance of fire breaks and controlled burn-offs?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00):

- (1) Yes. The Community Advisory Committee, of which Noel Playford is Chair, provides advice to the joint Queensland State Government/Commonwealth Ministerial Council which directs the management of Fraser Island.
- (2) The Government has allocated budgets to Departments in accordance with overall priorities across the State. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) will be addressing these issues to

the limits within its capabilities under the current budget allocation. On the issue of fires, Fraser Island has a three year rolling controlled burning program. The implementation of this plan is subject to favourable weather conditions required to achieve the types of burns planned. Unfortunately this last season has been too wet for suitable controlled burns.

The wet weather has also increased erosion on the sand roads on Fraser Island. On an ongoing basis, QPWS is researching and developing new techniques for managing roads to prevent damage from water erosion. These techniques are being implemented as resources permit.

(3) No.

(4) The Government is serious about creating jobs, and more jobs will flow from the significant tourism opportunities from Fraser Island and the Fraser Coast area.

(5) The revenue from logging did not cover the full cost of managing Fraser Island including maintenance of firebreaks and roads, controlled burns and recreation and tourism management.

1798. Wivenhoe Power Station

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (25/11/99)—

With reference to the proposed gas fired turbine power station for the Wivenhoe Dam in the Brisbane Valley—

- (1) If this is the preferred site, when will all studies, including environmental impact studies be expected to be completed?
- (2) What other sites were examined for such a power station?
- (3) Was a site near Lake Claredon, which lies adjacent to the Springdale sub-station and adjacent to the Roma gas line which could make use of recycled effluent water, examined in these studies?
- (4) If concerns regarding the effects on drinking water are realised, would such a site be then considered?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

- (1) At this early stage Tarong Energy has several potential sites under consideration. It is anticipated that the Feasibility Study will be finished by next February and that all studies will be completed by the last quarter of 2000, to fit with the PNG pipeline timetable.
- (2) Tarong Energy is considering a number of such sites in South East Queensland that fit these criteria.
- (3) Information relating to the sites which Tarong has been investigating as possible power station locations is commercially sensitive at this time.
- (4) Tarong Energy does not anticipate any environmental issues being raised during the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Mount England Project that will not be able to be fully

addressed. If built, the plant will be required to meet all applicable regulatory standards.

1799. Mary River and Tinana Creek Fish Ladders

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/11/99)—

During the last four years both the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) officers have assured concerned residents of the Maryborough electorate and the ZAC that funding was and is approved for the construction of improved fish ladders on the Mary River and Tinana Creek barrages. ZAC members and DNR officers travelled to inspect the "improved" ladder on the Ben Anderson Dam near Bundaberg. Due to restocking efforts of ANSA, the MRCCC and a member of the QCFO, unprecedented numbers of barramundi and bass are currently congregated downstream from both existing barrages, trying unsuccessfully to go upstream to complete the next stage in their life cycle. This has happened in each of the last three years. Currently, Sunfish, ANSA, the MRCCC and QCFO are concerned by the apparent lack of meaningful action and clear communication from the Government. QCFO members are worried about the survival of the mullet fishery and are embarrassed by the bass which they are inadvertently netting. Sunfish and ANSA and the public are concerned that their restocking efforts appear to be potentially highly rewarding, but this potential will not be realised because of Government inertia.

- (1) Have funds been allocated for the construction of these two new barrages?
- (2) Are the detailed construction plans completed?
- (3) When will the construction of each fishway commence?
- (4) When will each of the fishways be completed?
- (5) Considering the biology of these three species separately, how much longer does he calculate his Government inertia can continue before the mullet fishery is irreparably damaged and the restocking rewards are dissipated?
- (6) Will he fund renewed restocking efforts to compensate for voluntary effort wasted by the delay in building the two fishways?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00):

- (1) In 1999/2000 financial year my Department of Natural Resources intends to spend approximately \$3 million on improving fish passage throughout the State's river systems, including modifications to the Tinana Creek Barrage and the necessary monitoring programs to enable an effective performance of these fishways.
- (2) Both the existing Tinana Creek and Mary River barrage fishways are modified pool-and-weir designs which are capable of passing certain fish species but are not fully effective. It is proposed to replace them with vertical-slot type fishways.

\Preliminary investigations have been undertaken by my Department for both structures. These investigations have identified a number of issues that must be resolved prior to the commencement of final designs and/or construction activities. Issues that require further investigation include:

possible slot sizes, and other technical matters relating to fish biology;

fishway operating strategies to achieve the best result whilst minimising the impacts on water allocations; and

management issues associated with the proposed raising of the Mary River Barrage.

(3) Construction of the fishways will be able to commence following the resolution of the outstanding issues in 2.

(4) It is expected that the construction period for each fishway would be approximately 4 to 6 months subject to weather conditions.

(5) Judging from the success of the Ben Anderson Barrage fishway modifications, it would be reasonable to expect that all migratory fish species will take full advantage of the proposed improvements to the existing fishways on both the Mary River and Tinana Creek barrages.

(6) No. My Department will concentrate its efforts on drawing together knowledge of fisheries in the area and appropriate designs for fishways to achieve a long term enhancement of the local fisheries resources.

1800. Electricity Industry

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (25/11/99)—

With reference to the statement attributed to him in the Queensland Services Union leaflet Energy News, dated 21 October which stated "the Honourable Tony McGrady, has today advised the QSU that he is introducing legislation which will reinstate Award coverage to all Electricity Industry Employees"—

Is it his intention to include in the legislation those in the industry who have Common Law Contracts?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): It is my intention to amend the Electricity Regulation 1994 to restore award coverage to those electricity industry employees of all State electricity entities for whom classification and salary levels are prescribed under the Electricity Generation, Transmission and Supply Award—State or the Electricity Supply Industry Employees Award—State, whichever is the relevant award. These awards will provide a safety net of employment conditions and entitlements for those employees.

Employees, such as senior executives, employed on common law contracts, will not be affected by the amended regulation, as the awards did not previously cover them. For employees who will be affected, the relevant award will replace a common law contract of employment to the extent that the contract is less favourable than the award.

1801. Thuringowa, Dental Clinic

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to the three month trial to identify the need for a dental clinic in Thuringowa which ends on 30 November which I understand has been successful—

Will she ensure the expansion and continuation of this important service for Thuringowa residents?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The trial has just been completed this week. After the trial has been evaluated, due consideration will be given to providing a comprehensive oral health service to the eligible population of Thuringowa. A decision by the Townsville Health Service District is expected early in the new year.

1802. Director of Public Prosecutions

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (25/11/99)—

Will he provide a breakdown of the individual number of Prosecutors, Legal Officers, Legal Support Staff AO2 and other AO staff currently assigned to each individual court or circuit centre?

Mr FOLEY (4/1/00): As at 25th November 1999, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions employed 257 staff at the locations set out below. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1803. Targinnie, Research and Development Plant

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (25/11/99)—

With reference to the community of Targinnie which continues to suffer health impacts from emissions from Suncor/SPP and while we support industry in our region—

When will the Department of Mines and Energy, as the current regulatory body, act to protect these residents?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): This Government has taken action to protect the residents of the Targinnie Community. The Department of Mines and Energy, working in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health, is maintaining close contact with the Targinnie community and Suncor Energy in addressing health impacts from emissions from the Research and Development plant.

The Department of Mines and Energy issued Suncor on 8 November 1999 with a notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 requiring an Environmental Investigation into emission sources, community exposure and response, and necessary mitigating action. As a result a report on the

Environmental Investigation is to be lodged by 28 February 2000.

The Department of Mines and Energy on 29 November 1999 issued Suncor with an Environmental Protection Order under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The Environmental Protection Order requires that Suncor not start addition of shale feed to the ATP processor until further notice from the Department of Mines and Energy.

While the Stuart Oil Shale Project is supported by this Government and is considered a major project for Queensland, the health of the community is paramount.

1804. Crime Prevention Task Force

Mr HORAN asked the Premier (25/11/99)—

Will he detail the tangible results and actions instigated as a result of the Crime Prevention Task Force put in place by him in August 1998?

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99):

I launched the Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy on 20 December 1999. It is the first time a Queensland Government has produced a long-term, whole-of-Government crime prevention strategy designed to be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. While this is the most important outcome of the work of the Crime Prevention Task Force to date, it is only one element of the work that the Crime Prevention Task Force has undertaken.

The Crime Prevention Task Force and Senior Officers Group (a group comprising senior departmental officers formed to assist the Crime Prevention Task Force), have overseen the coordination and implementation of a wide range of crime prevention programs, with a commitment of more than \$80 million over three years to funding new, longer-term crime prevention programs across Queensland.

The Community Renewal Program—the major of these crime prevention programs—has begun work in improving the amenities of twelve disadvantaged communities in Queensland. The Crime Prevention Task Force has played an important role in this initiative.

Along with the development of the Crime Prevention Strategy, the Crime Prevention Task Force and associated bodies have adopted a systematic and coordinated approach to crime prevention based on community expectations. This includes:

- (a) The preparation of a discussion paper and consultation with 33 communities across Queensland from February 1999 to April 1999, as well as a series of focused consultations with interest groups like Indigenous people, women, and young people;
- (b) The development of a Community Crime Prevention Fund to help some communities develop local crime prevention plans, in addition to the Community Action Plans being developed as part of the Community Renewal Program;

- (c) The establishment of an evaluation framework to measure the effectiveness of the Crime Prevention Strategy. That includes a crime prevention evaluation course held in August this year, to inform departmental evaluators of the requirements of crime prevention evaluation, and the establishment of a program to evaluate crime prevention programs in a defined local area;
- (d) The commencement of a departmental action planning process, to ensure that new crime prevention programs are coordinated and integrated;
- (e) The preparation and oversight of a research agenda to determine where resources can be most effectively applied; and
- (f) The development of a statistical resource to help local communities understand their crime problems.

Fighting crime and the causes of crime is one of my Government's priorities, and we will continue to expand the initiative by implementing more programs aimed at reducing and preventing crime.

1805. Brisbane City Council, Bus Patronage

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (25/11/99)—

- (1) As the Brisbane City Council receives significant State Government subsidy based upon patronage levels, did patronage levels for Brisbane Transport bus operations increase or decrease over 1998-99?
- (2) What are the patronage levels so far for 1999 compared to the same period last year?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/1/00):

(1) Brisbane Transport provides the Department with quarterly reports of patronage. These reports are broken down by month.

For 1997/98 patronage on Brisbane Transport services totalled 39,147,125. Patronage in 1998/99 totalled 39,333,150—an increase of 0.48%.

(2) For the 1999/2000 year returns to date have been received for July 1999 and August 1999 only—the reports for the next 3 months are due prior to the end of December. These returns show an increase of 4.7% compared with the corresponding period in the previous year (ie July/August 1998).

1806. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/11/99)—

Will he detail what approaches he has received from landowners on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands relating to the Redland Shire Council's handling of applications for building and planning approvals?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport)

(4/1/00): Approaches have been made by letter, email, fax, telephone and deputation at Community Cabinet meetings.

1807. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/11/99)—

If he will not commit to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Land Use Study proposals, what other strategies does he have in mind to assist the Redland Shire Council, landowners and the community meet responsible planning objectives?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): I am presently considering the Study and its recommendations in order to achieve a balanced and responsible outcome for the Redland Shire, landowners and the community.

1808. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/11/99)—

With reference to the fact that he is on the public record as supporting reduction of the ultimate potential population of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands (Russell, Lamb, Macleay, Perulpa and Karragarra) and given that there are some 4,000 permanent residents of the islands at present and 11,000-12,000 absentee land-holders and that Redland Shire Council is acquiring island blocks on a nil-compensation basis by activating rates-arrears seizure provisions and given that the Department of Natural Resources has slashed UCV valuations on the islands—

How many blocks of private-title land have been compulsorily acquired on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands on the basis of outstanding rates exceeding the unimproved valuation of the land and how many of these acquisitions have resulted as a consequence of the most recent UCV figures?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): This is not information generated or retained by my Department.

1809. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/11/99)—

Will he detail if any additional funding has been outlaid on further work on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Land Use Study since the expenditure of \$500,000 on the process?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): No further funding has been expended on the study. Departmental resources have been expended on evaluating its findings.

1810. Moreton Bay Islands

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/11/99)—

- (1) Will he detail the extent to which Redland Shire Council is exposed to arrears of rates on land holdings on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands?
- (2) What was the total number of island blocks on which rates were owing at 30 June and what was the cumulative value of those arrears?
- (3) In relation to the arrears at 30 June, will he provide comparative figures for 30 June 1998 and 30 June 1997?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): These questions are not applicable to my Department. They are local government matters and the information should be sought from the Redland Shire Council.

1811. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/11/99)—

With reference to the recently completed Southern Moreton Bay Islands Land Use Study—

- (1) Will he detail what constituted the process of public consultation?
- (2) If it involved contacting all island property owners, what was the response?
- (3) What were the dates and locations of community meetings, the names of the representatives of the Government and/or the Redland Shire Council who were present and the names of any other facilitators?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): If Mr Cooper would care to read the report, he would find the information requested.

1812. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/11/99)—

If in relation to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Land Use Study process a letter was sent to every landowner, to their address for rate notices, will he

advise the number of "returned unclaimed" mail items and the number of responses from landowners who wished to be consulted as part of the study?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): As letters were sent by the Redland Shire Council, not my Department, to the address for rate notices of every landowner on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, I am unable to advise how many mail items were returned unclaimed and how many landowners wished to be consulted. It is suggested the Member contact the Redland Shire Council to obtain this information.

1813. Woongarra Marine Park

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/11/99)—

- (1) Will he confirm that a review is being considered or under way in respect of the boundaries of the Woongarra Marine Park?
- (2) Can he specify or define which beaches and what areas are being looked at in this respect, to this review?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00):

1. The Marine Parks (Woongarra Zoning Plan) Order 1991 will expire on 1 September 2002. It is anticipated that a review will be considered during 2000/2001.

2. Woongarra Marine Park consists of tidal lands and tidal waters along the Woongarra Coast between the southern headland of Burnett Heads and the northern headland of Elliott Heads. The boundary of the Marine Park extends along the coastline at the level of highest astronomical tide and out to 3 nautical miles offshore from the Woongarra Coast. Consequently, the following beaches, which are included within the boundary of the Marine Park, would be considered in any review of the Zoning Plan: Oaks Beach; Mon Repos; and Kellys Beach.

1814. Australian Wallabies, Energex Sponsorship

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (25/11/99)—

What was the dollar value of Energex Retail Pty Ltd's sponsorship of the Australian Wallabies in 1998-99?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): The value of this sponsorship is commercial-in-confidence due to the highly competitive situation with respect to electricity retailing and the fact that ENERGEX has entered into a confidentiality agreement with the Australian Rugby Union and the Wallabies.

1815. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/11/99)—

Will he detail what means of recovery of arrears of rates are employed by Redland Shire Council in relation to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and advise whether these means and procedures in terms of relief measures for rates defaulters in financial difficulty differ from the means employed by the council in other areas of the shire?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): This is not applicable to my Department. It is a local government matter and information should be sought from the Redland Shire Council.

1816. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/11/99)—

Will he detail how many blocks of land on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands forfeited by owners for unpaid rates have subsequently been sold by Redland Shire Council and list the purchasers?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): This is a matter for the Redland Shire Council and is not applicable to my Department.

1817. Moreton Bay Islands

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (25/11/99)—

Will he detail whether it is the case that no rates-default acquisition blocks on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands have been disposed of by the standard practice of going to auction since 1995 and has all such land been acquired under "notice of intention to acquire valueless land" provisions?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): This is a matter for the Redland Shire Council and is not applicable to my Department.

1818. South Burnett Health District

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to the South Burnett Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates

hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1819. Moranbah Health District

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to the Moranbah Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a

comprehensive response, I refer the honourable member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

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Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1820. Redcliffe-Caboolture Health District

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to the Redcliffe-Caboolture Health District—

- (1) What were the total staff numbers by type at 30 June 1998 and what are those same staff levels by type at 30 June 1999?
- (2) Have the patient bed numbers been reduced; if so, from what to what?
- (3) Will she advise all changes which have been made at the hospitals as a result of the recent review which to date has not been made public?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00):

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the Member for Maroochydore during the Estimates hearing. To prevent an unreasonable burden of work on Queensland Health staff and provide a comprehensive response, I refer the honourable

member to data published in the Ministerial Program Statements. There has been an increase of 733 full-time equivalent staff positions in Queensland Health between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

(2) Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number of beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the honourable member to a statement by the former Health Minister, the Member for Toowoomba South: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

(3) There have been no negative changes to the services, nor the standard of these services as a result of the review. Government policy initiatives are having a positive impact on hospital services to meet increasing demands. Hospitals attract the bulk of the health budget with hospital inpatient and non-inpatient outputs attracting over two thirds of the total health budget in 1999/00.

Of the 1999/00 total recurrent budget of \$3.45 billion, approximately 50% will be spent on acute inpatient services; and 23% will be spent on non-inpatient services, which covers hospital-based emergency medical and surgical treatment for non-admitted patients (This also includes community-based treatment support services).

Of the 1999/00 capital budget of \$563 million, approximately 74% will be spent on building and redeveloping state-of-the-art hospitals for Queenslanders with major redevelopments at 23 hospitals across the State. This will generate more than 8,300 full time equivalent positions in the building and construction industry.

1821. South Burnett Health District

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the South Burnett Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services.

New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases

are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation.

Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services.

These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1822. Rockhampton Health District

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Rockhampton Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services.

New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation.

Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services.

These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1823. North Burnett Health District

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the North Burnett Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services.

New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation.

Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services.

These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1824. Tablelands Health District

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Tablelands Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services.

New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised

reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation.

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These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1825. Bowen Health District

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Bowen Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services.

New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation.

Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services.

These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1826. Cape York Health District

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Cape York Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services.

New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation.

Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services.

These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1827. Cairns Health District

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Cairns Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services.

New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation.

Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic

Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services.

These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1828. Redcliffe-Caboolture Health District

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Health (25/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Redcliffe-Caboolture Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services.

New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation.

Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services.

These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1829. Toowoomba, Ambulance Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/11/99)—

Will she investigate claims that a number of staff appointments have been made to the Queensland Ambulance Service, Toowoomba Station during the past 15 months without positions being advertised or formal selection processes being followed?

Mrs ROSE (5/1/00): I refer to the Honourable Member to the response to his Question Without

Notice provided in Parliament by the Minister for Emergency Services on 8 December 1999.

1830. Abbott Point, Industrial Park

Mr KNUTH asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (25/11/99)—

With reference to the Bowen area—

- (1) Will he look very closely at establishing an industrial park in the vicinity of Abbott Point?
- (2) Does he agree that the site of Abbott Point is a suitable site, having regard that the area in question has available land, rail infrastructure, coal power and port access?

Mr ELDER (23/12/99): I shall answer the second question first. Bowen Shire is included in the Whitsunday Hinterland and Mackay Regional Planning Study area. Officers of my Department of State Development will be assessing the industrial land requirements for future economic development throughout this region in consultation with the Department of Communications and Information, Local Government and Planning, the member local governments, other agencies and stakeholders during the course of the project. The requirement for land with specific infrastructure and other attributes will be identified. The suitability of the Abbott Point locality for a major future industrial area will also be considered at this time. If it is determined that it is suitable for a future industrial estate the Bowen Shire Council will be requested to designate it as such in their Planning Scheme to protect it for the future.

In answer to your first question, should the Abbott Point area be identified and protected for specific industrial land uses, demand will dictate when it should be brought on stream for industrial purposes. My current advice is that there is no specific demand for any such development at Abbott Point, and consequently I will give the issue further consideration when the wider study is concluded and demand for an estate is established.

1831. Thuringowa Crime Prevention Partnership

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/11/99)—

With reference to Thuringowa Crime Prevention Partnership (CPP) and as the CPP is funded until 30 June 2000 and plans have been submitted for future direction—

- (1) Have the plans been approved?
- (2) Will funding be ongoing from 30 June 2000 to continue the CPPs important role in our community?

Mr BARTON (4/1/00): The funding for Crime Prevention Partnerships (CPP's) is no longer drawn from the Queensland Police Service budget. In line with Government policy, the Beattie Labor Government has placed responsibility for crime prevention under the control of the Premier to allow for an all of Government attack on the causes of

crime. As a result, CPP's are now funded from the budget of the Crime Prevention Taskforce. The Honourable Member's question would therefore, be more appropriately directed to the Premier.

1832. Vehicle Registration Fees

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/11/99)—

- (1) Why, when aged pensioners are all receiving the same amount of money, some have been hit with a price rise in vehicle registration while others have not?
- (2) Why has he chosen to discriminate by the dates pensions were received, instead of simply applying the price rise to all pensioners?
- (3) How will he explain such discrimination to the pensioners of Queensland?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00):

- (1) Registration fees were increased by a small amount in line with CPI as from 1 July 1999. The increase applied equally to all registration fees.
- (2) As noted above, there has been no price rise applicable to different groups of pensioners.

1833. Power Purchase Agreements

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (26/11/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Power Trading Corporation which says in its annual report for 1998-99 at page 37 that an analysis of the forecast cash flows generated by the Power Purchase Agreements for which it is responsible, in terms of trading electricity, values the portfolio at between negative \$575m and negative \$439m at October 1998 and as the generators whose power is subject to Power Purchase Agreements are identified at page 15 at Gladstone Power Station, Collinsville Power Station, Mt Stuart Power Station, Townsville Power Station, Barcaldine Power Station and Oakey Power Station—

- (1) What is the breakdown of the share of total negative value by power station?
- (2) From what date did each of the Power Purchase Agreements operate?
- (3) What is the length of each of the agreements?
- (4) Are there, or have there been other Power Purchase Agreements?
- (5) As there is media speculation that the total cash losses over the next 30 years will be between \$1.1 billion and \$2.2 billion, are these estimates factual, or possible?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

- (1) This information is commercial-in-confidence.
- (2) This information is commercial-in-confidence.
- (3) This information is commercial-in-confidence.
- (4) There were a number of power purchase agreements in place between AUSTA Electric and the Queensland Power Trading Corporation's predecessor, the Queensland Transmission and

Supply Corporation, but these were terminated at the start of the Queensland Interim Market. AUSTA Electric's obligations to supply power were assigned to the three generation companies (CS Energy, Stanwell Corporation and Tarong Energy).

(5) As reported in the 1998/99 Queensland Power Trading Corporation Annual Report (at page 37) the capacity charge commitments imposed on the corporation, on the basis of these long term contracts, total in excess of \$1.7 billion. These costs will be offset by revenue earned by the Corporation under the agreements.

1834. Caboolture, Transport Department

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/11/99)—

- (1) What is the status at the Caboolture State Transport Department drivers' licence testing centre with respect to the current waiting time for heavy vehicle practical driving licence examinations?
- (2) How many heavy vehicle licence testing officers are employed by the State Transport Department?
- (3) How many days per week are set aside by these examiners to test heavy vehicle licence applicants at the State Transport Department testing centre at Caboolture?
- (4) Does there exist some form of protocol where driving schools receive a higher priority than heavy vehicle drivers licence applicants not booked through a driving school?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/1/00):

- (1) The current waiting times for Heavy Vehicle test applicants and all other classes of vehicles is 32 working days (as at 15 December). During December I discussed the issue of waiting times with Senior Queensland Transport staff, representatives of the Driver Training Industry and the Queensland Public Sector Union. As a result of these discussions, it is expected that waiting times will be reduced over the next couple of months.
- (2) 76 of the 83 Driving Examiners (including temporary & casual staff) employed by Queensland Transport are qualified and conduct Heavy Vehicle driving tests. That equates to approximately 91.5% of Driving Examiners.
- (3) Heavy Vehicle testing is available for 3 1/2 days per week on average from the Caboolture Customer Service Centre.
- (4) Queensland Transport makes every effort to ensure an appropriate number of Heavy Vehicle times are made available at all times through close consultation with the Driver Training Industry and considering the expected needs of applicants who do not book through a Driving School.

1835. Granite Belt, Storm Damage

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (26/11/99)—

With reference to the recent hail storms that caused millions of dollars of damage to the stone fruit crops across the Granite Belt and associated areas—

- (1) How many growers registered as damaged in the following areas—Stanthorpe, Texas, Goondiwindi?
- (2) How many independent disaster stricken properties (IDSP) registered as damaged?
- (3) How many of these growers have actually applied for assistance with the QRAA?
- (4) How many actually qualified?
- (5) How many of these growers applying were share farmers and thus not eligible under the scheme?
- (6) Will the Government amend the scheme to allow these growers assistance?
- (7) Will the cotton growers at Cecil Plains be allowed to access this scheme for assistance?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/1/00):

1. Initially thirty growers from Stanthorpe and one grower from Texas registered as having suffered damage. No growers from Goondiwindi registered.
2. Department of Primary Industries assessed thirty applications for "independent disaster stricken properties" (IDSP). The grower from Texas did not proceed with an application for an IDSP.
3. No growers have yet applied for assistance.
4. No growers have yet applied for assistance.
5. Being a share farmer does not preclude producers from being eligible under the scheme. The Eligibility Criteria for the Natural Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme is:

"Applicants must be in working occupation of their properties and have:

 - Used up all liquid assets and all normal credit sources up to normal credit limits
 - Be considered to be viable with the assistance provided; and
 - Taken precautions to minimise or prevent the disaster."
6. Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority as agent for the Government assesses claims that they receive against the approved criteria. Share farmers whose properties are assessed to be IDSP are able to access this scheme for assistance.
7. Cotton growers at Cecil Plains whose properties are assessed to be IDSP are able to access this scheme for assistance.

1836. Children's Court

Mr PAFF asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (26/11/99)—

With reference to comments in the media attributed to Judge Robertson of the Children's Court claiming that Court is being bypassed and the implication that its existence is under threat—

- (1) What action or policy or direction does he propose?
- (2) Will he indicate how many times the Brisbane's Children's Court has sat over the last twelve months?
- (3) What number of juvenile offenders have been brought before this court?
- (4) How many cases have been referred to the District Courts in the last twelve months?

Mr FOLEY (4/1/00):

- (1) The Honourable Anna Bligh MLA, Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care is responsible for administering the Juvenile Justice Act 1992 which deals with the jurisdiction and proceedings of courts dealing with children.
- (2) The Queensland Childrens Court in Brisbane sat 29 times in the financial year 1998/1999.
- (3-4) This information can be found in the 1998/1999 Childrens Court of Queensland Annual Report.

1837. Abbott Point, Industrial Park

Mr BLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (26/11/99)—

With reference to the Bowen Collinsville area—

With unemployment running above 30 per cent in the Bowen Collinsville area, will he give an undertaking that he will give consideration to establishing a major industrial park at Abbott Point?

Mr ELDER (23/12/99): I have responded to a similar question from Mr Knuth. Establishing an industrial estate will not guarantee take up by business, unless there is a demand and it is located where industry wants to be. It is not a case of "build it and they will come".

The suitability of the Abbott Point land for industrial development will be assessed by officers of my Department of State Development in the Whitsunday Hinterland and Mackay Regional Planning Study. This has recently commenced. I can say that I will ensure that if these studies highlight inadequacies in the supply of industrial land in the area for existing or expected demand, then my Department will address the problem. Should the area prove to be suitable for a particular range of industrial uses, the Bowen Shire Council will be requested to protect it through its Planning Scheme until it is required.

1838. Gympie Fire Station

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Emergency Services (26/11/99)—

With reference to major concern within the Gympie community, (as evidenced by a petition currently circulating containing about 10,000 signatures) that downgrading of the Gympie Fire and Rescue Station is imminent due to staff cuts and cost cutting generally—

- (1) What has the Chief Commissioner planned for Gympie?

- (2) Will the station be manned by permanent staff 24 hours per day?
- (3) Will the 1+3 staffing plan be adopted?
- (4) Will she give an assurance that the department will not embark on any program to upgrade neighbouring stations by cost cutting and downgrading at the Gympie station?

Mrs ROSE (5/1/00):

1. The Chief Commissioner has not made any decision to downgrade Gympie Fire Station.
2. The Chief Commissioner has recently increased staff from three officers and seven firefighters to four officers and 11 firefighters. Additionally, Gympie station facilities, appliances and equipment have been upgraded at a cost of \$316,500.00 in the last 18 months. This represents a commitment to providing optimum services to the Gympie community.
3. Consultation with the United Firefighters Union (UFU) is continuing on the question of 1+3 staffing.
4. As stated previously Gympie has had an increase in staff and an upgrade in appliances and equipment totalling \$316,500.00. This represents a commitment to providing optimum services to the Gympie community.

1839. Marijuana

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (26/11/99)—

The Premier has suggested that persons found with less than 50 grams of marijuana should not be charged as pushers. How does he justify 50 grams, considering the following—

- (1) The usual active ingredient in marijuana is THC. But when the THC is manipulated then a 50 to 100 fold enhancement of potency can occur.
- (2) THC potency has increased from 0.5% in the 1960s to 30% in the 1990s.
- (3) A new hybrid of marijuana called "skunk" has emerged. Where standard cannabis can be expected to have a THC content of about 1 to 5%, skunk has been known to contain as much as 30%.
- (4) Skunk users have reported experiencing intense paranoia. A significant increase in hospital admissions is resulting from the sometimes unwitting use of stronger cannabis, including schizophrenia, a disease with a high suicide rate of around 10%.
- (5) In 1996 the average age for first time drugs use has reached 12.5 years for alcohol and 11.8 years for marijuana.
- (6) The THC in marijuana is fat soluble, and stores for long periods in lipid tissues. Thus significant withdrawal symptoms may not set in for a week or more, and may not be connected to previous marijuana use by the user.
- (7) Thus 50 grams of cannabis may contain a small or a potent dose of THC, and this difference is unlikely to be obvious to the purchaser and user.

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99):

My Government proposes to give police officers the discretion to divert minor cannabis offenders to assessment, education and treatment, where the alleged offender is in possession of an amount of cannabis not exceeding 50 grams, or a utensil. It is an initiative which has the support of Prime Minister John Howard.

This discretion will not be available to police where the alleged offender possesses the drug for the purpose of cultivation, manufacture, supply, or sale; that is "pushers". The proposed amendments will ensure that people suspected of cultivation, manufacture, supply or sale will continue to be charged with an offence.

To be eligible for diversion to education and treatment, the alleged offender must also:

- (a) have not committed another indictable offence related in circumstance to the possession of the drug, for instance, the alleged offender has not been charged with robbery to obtain money to purchase the drugs;
- (b) admit guilt to the offence during a tape recorded interview;
- (c) have not previously attended a drug diversionary assessment and subsequent program; and
- (d) agree in writing to undertake a drug diversionary assessment and any program nominated by a drug dependence assessment authority.

I do not propose to enter into a scientific debate with the Honourable Member about the potency of cannabis. However, the proposed amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 1997 will clearly state that 50 grams of cannabis is the maximum amount of cannabis for someone to be diverted to assessment, education and treatment. The police will have the normal level of discretion (consistent with the Act and other Queensland laws) when deciding to divert a person to a drug assessment. If it is obvious that the potency has been manipulated, the police have the capacity to take this into account.

1840. TAFE

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

What facilities for teaching science currently exist in (a) the campuses of the Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE and (b) the Dalby, Warwick and Charleville campuses of the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00):

(a) The Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality manages a Food Science Laboratory which is used to train apprentice chefs in the safe management and handling of food. This laboratory is also used to train local industry representatives in Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point. This program allows businesses to establish plans to manage the risks involved in food production and processing.

(b) The Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE has no facilities for teaching science at Dalby, Warwick or Charleville. However, science classes are conducted at Warwick College and when required Warwick College transports equipment from the Science Laboratory at Stanthorpe Campus. If required, Charleville Campus would be able to access the Science Laboratory at the Charleville State High School, under the "shared facility agreement" that the Institute has with the Charleville State High School.

1841. Construction Industry Prosecutions

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

How many successful prosecutions were undertaken by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations for breaches of Workplace Health and Safety regulations within the building and construction industry during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations initiated the following successful prosecutions within the building and construction industry:

1996-97—15
1997-98—12
1998-99—19.

1842. TAFE

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

What was the total amount earned by TAFE Queensland in 1998-99 from the charging of all fees to students and how much is TAFE Queensland expected to earn from the charging of fees during 1999-2000?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): Actual receipts as at June 1999 were \$18,018,724. The Annual Forecast as at July 1999 is \$17,855,700.

1843. TAFE

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

How many staff positions within TAFE Queensland have been abolished through the process of natural attrition in 1998-99—ie. by not replacing employees who have left the organisation for non-VER reasons?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): To provide this information would result in an unreasonable divergence of departmental resources.

1844. State Government Funded Training Courses

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

How many existing workers have undertaken training through Government funded courses and training during 1997-98, 1998-99 and how many have undertaken training during the period July 1999-September 1999?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): To provide this information would result in an unreasonable divergence of departmental resources.

1845. WorkCover

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

How many staff positions within WorkCover Queensland have been abolished through the process of natural attrition in 1998-99—ie. by not replacing employees who have left the organisation for non-VER reasons?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): I am advised by WorkCover that during 1998/99 83 employees left the organisation for non-VER reasons and were not replaced.

1846. TAFE

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

With reference to his media statement of 25 November where he states, "We must ensure that Queenslanders have the opportunity to embrace this great technological explosion of change and the TAFE Internet Training Day can help to do this"—

How many of the previously unemployed participants in the Government's CJP and CEAP employment programs were given access to Internet training, through the TAFE Internet Training Day?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): Any member of the public could access TAFE Institutes and/or campuses on Internet Training Day. The day was widely promoted to all sectors of the community throughout Queensland. There is no record of names who attended the Institutes to access the computers and, therefore, it is not possible to determine how many CJP and CEAP participants may have participated in this activity.

1847. Oxford Park TAFE Campus

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

- (1) Will he provide the Parliament with a guarantee that the Oxford Park Horticultural Campus of TAFE will be restored to a fully operational campus and that it will not be sold off by his administration?
- (2) Does he admit that this was a 1998 pre-election promise and is he prepared to keep this promise?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): Brisbane Institute of TAFE is currently developing a Physical Asset Strategic Plan with the assistance of the Department

of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations. This plan will identify long term facility needs of the Brisbane Institute of TAFE. Once completed, this plan will be available for public comment.

1848. TAFE

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

How many additional, full-time, permanent TAFE teachers does TAFE Queensland propose to employ during 1999-2000?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): The number of additional TAFE teachers cannot be predicted at this stage, as teacher staffing levels are aligned to business demands and commercial activities.

1849. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

How many trainees and apprentices have been employed by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and other departments during 1998 and from January to November 1999?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): Commencements of trainees and apprentices in DETIR and other State Government Departments are as follows;

1998: Trainees—176; Apprentices—9

January-November 1999: Trainees—1611; Apprentices—116

Note: The above figures do not include commencements in State Statutory Authorities or Local Government Authorities.

1850. Mobile Computer Training Unit

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

Is the innovative mobile computer training unit mentioned in his press release of 17 November the same as the innovative mobile computer training unit developed by the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE several years ago and used significantly in the Gladstone and Charters Towers areas as well as at numerous other centres throughout the north-west of the State; if not, in what ways does the current unit differ from the original?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): The mobile computer training unit is a completely new unit.

1851. Moreton TAFE Institute

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

How many VERs are planned to be offered by the management of the Moreton Institute of TAFE Queensland in 1999-2000?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): The Business Review currently being undertaken at the Moreton Institute of TAFE has identified that approximately 138 temporary positions will be translated to permanent positions. This represents an increase of approximately 37% in permanent positions in the Institute. At the completion of the Business Review process, Moreton Institute of TAFE will have increased its permanent staffing levels from 58% to at least 80% of its staffing level.

Additionally, the Business Review process has identified that some areas within the Institute have excess staff for the business demand.

Opportunities will be made available in early 2000 for excess permanent staff to redeploy to other parts of the Institute, redeploy to other TAFE Institutes, transfer to other Government departments, or be offered Voluntary Early Retirement (VER).

The number of VERs to be offered by Moreton Institute of TAFE in 2000 will be dependent upon two (2) factors. First, the capacity of those affected staff to redeploy/transfer either within Moreton Institute, TAFE Queensland and other Government Departments, and secondly, a willingness to accept a VER offer. There will be no forced retrenchment of permanent staff.

1852. Prince Charles Hospital

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Health (26/11/99)—

What action is being taken to overcome the health problems being experienced by Prince Charles Hospital staff who work in the new switch and mail rooms?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): I am advised that following reports of poor air quality in the PABX Room at The Prince Charles Hospital, an analyst from Scientific Services, Queensland Health visited the premises on 2 September 1999 and the air was sampled using pumps and absorbent tubes. The main problem was the presence formaldehyde, at less than half acceptable exposure levels. Practical steps have been taken to improve fresh air circulation in staff work areas. Monitoring has been conducted monthly showing progressive resolution of the odours.

1853. Hervey Bay, Methadone Clinic

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Health (26/11/99)—

What was the cost of renovating the old Hervey Bay Hospital to accommodate the Drug Rehabilitation Methadone Clinic that is no longer going ahead?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The only cost incurred was documentation for the renovation of the disused Operating Theatres at the old acute Hervey Bay Hospital by QBuild at a cost of \$2,075. The QBuild documentation will support the renovation of the area for other purposes. The remainder of the building has been renovated by QBuild and was recently occupied by the Public Health Unit.

1854. Innisfail and District Kidney Fundraising Group

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Health (26/11/99)—

With reference to the Innisfail Kidney Dialysis Fund Raising Group which has made numerous representations to her and the Department of Health to set up a haemodialysis unit at the hospital and as the group has rejected a draft proposal for patients to supply their own carers with Queensland Health possibly providing an enrolled nurse, the offer has fallen far short of equivalent services for a dialysis unit of having a registered nurse for those suffering kidney disorders from Deeral to Cardwell and due to the generosity of local people enough funds have been raised to purchase three dialysis units, a considerable saving for Queensland Health—

Is she prepared to make a separate budget allocation for a registered nurse with the assistance of an enrolled nurse at Innisfail to implement the necessary dialysis service at the hospital in conjunction with the substantial funds provided by the volunteer group?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): Queensland Health have commissioned a Renal Services Plan to assess the need for dialysis services across the Northern Zone, particularly for people in indigenous communities, small rural communities, and indigenous people living in large towns. The final report is due for completion in March 2000. Early reports strongly suggest that priority areas are Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait as indigenous groups from these areas have the highest incidence of End Stage Renal Failure in Queensland.

I am advised that at a meeting of 18 November 1999, the Innisfail and District Kidney Fundraising Group (IDKFG) were offered home equivalent dialysis services at the Innisfail Hospital. In 1995 this service model was available in nine country centres spanning the length and breadth of New South Wales. Consistent with this model, the enrolled nurse position was offered by Queensland Health to fulfil the role of a carer where a patient is without one. Additionally, it was stated in the draft document that a registered nurse would be available at all times during dialysis to back-up the enrolled nurse.

The IDKFG are effectively requesting a satellite/limited care dialysis service. Where these services have been established in Queensland, a much greater commitment both of a capital and recurrent nature has been necessary.

The offer of a self-care dialysis facility is still open to the IDKFG. There has been no formal response from IDKFG to my office, nor the office of the Member for Mulgrave (who attended the November 18 meeting) nor the offices of the Cairns or Innisfail Health Service Districts all of whom were represented at the meeting of 18 November 1999. The Health budget for 1999/00 is already fully committed.

1855. Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (26/11/99)—

With reference to the adverse effect of multiple placements of children under the department's care—
What strategies are proposed to minimise the number of such placements and to stabilise the lives of these children?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00): The Government has allocated \$10m this year building to \$40m over four years to reform child protection and respond to the recommendations of the Forde Inquiry.

A range of activities is being undertaken to improve placement stability for children by supporting carers more effectively. These include increased access to funds to meet the support needs of children, partnership forums, communication strategies and an enhanced focus on training. Research is also being undertaken collaboratively with the Foster Parents Association of Queensland on "Why foster carers cease fostering".

A major review is being undertaken of service responses to children with high support needs including disabilities. This will result in recommendations for improving service delivery and identification of enhanced models of service delivery.

Strategic directions developed in partnership with the community services sector will guide future developments and funding in subsequent financial years will assist to increase the quality and range of services available.

1856. Housing Queensland

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/11/99)—

With reference to the disposal/sale of housing (houses and/or vacant land) by Housing Queensland (including public, ATSI and community housing) from 26 June 1998 to 25 June 1999—

Will he provide by area office (a) the date of each transaction, (b) the address of each asset (house and/or block of land) sold, (c) the pre-determined (departmental) value of each asset sold, (d) how the asset was advertised for disposal (where and when), (e) method of disposal, (f) the sale price of each asset sold and (g) the name of each purchaser (if it is a company please provide the company name)?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): See Attachment A for information relating to the disposal/sale of housing (houses and/or vacant land) by Housing Queensland (including Public, ATSI and Community Housing), from 26 June 1998 up to and including 25 June 1999, however, dates when assets were advertised for disposal are not available.

Please note that the sales listed in Inala are an ongoing commercial arrangement with LJ Hooker Land Marketing, for the disposal of surplus dwellings in poor condition to generate private sector investment and refurbishment. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1857. Rugby League Broadcasts

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (26/11/99)—

With reference to the decision by the NRL to award commercial radio rights for rugby league matches in 2000 to Sydney Radio Station 2GB, which does not have affiliate stations in Queensland—

What action does he intend to take to ensure a commercial radio coverage of rugby league matches is available throughout the State, previously broadcast by Brisbane Station 4BC and other relays.

Mr GIBBS (4/1/00): I believe the ABC will continue to broadcast the NRL throughout Queensland, uninterrupted by advertising.

1858. Correctional Centres, Rehabilitation Programs

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/11/99)—

- (1) How many prisoners were released during 1998-99 who had completed their full sentences without doing programs and without prior, phased in community release?
- (2) How many prisoners applied for the Sexual Offenders Treatment Program during 1998-99 and how many were accepted into the course?
- (3) How many prisoners were in prison during 1998-99 for sexual offences and how many of these have completed or started the Sexual Offenders Treatment Program?
- (4) What funds are provided in the 1999-2000 budget for the Sexual Offenders Treatment Program in facilities operated by the Department of Corrective Services?

Mr BARTON (4/1/00):

(1) The number of prisoners who participated in correctional programs can only be ascertained by reference to paper files in each correctional centre and therefore it would be an unduly onerous task to provide figures in relation to this.

Of the 10,479 prisoners, 7921 prisoners were serving sentences of less than 12 months. These prisoners would not under normal circumstances undertake programs as these programs normally take six months or more. Programs are prioritised according to prisoner need given the seriousness of the offence and the prisoners history.

Every prisoner who enters the correctional system who is serving a sentence of 12 months or greater is assessed to identify program needs. Not all prisoners are assessed as requiring program intervention and some prisoners refuse to undertake programs.

(2) The SOTP is conducted in only one facility, being Moreton Correctional Centre. Statistics are collected on a calendar year basis only. In 1998, 31 completed the program. At the time of your question, 26 had completed the program in 1999.

(3) The average daily rate of prisoners in prison for sexual offences over the 1998/99 financial year was 826, this includes approximately 200 prisoners on remand only. The actual number of prisoners who served sentences for sexual offences during this period was 1260. As the Member would be aware, the type and seriousness of these offences vary

widely and length of sentences vary accordingly. Therefore, not all these offenders would be suitable for the SOTP.

(4) The SOTP is conducted in only one facility, being Moreton Correctional Centre. The total budget allocation for the SOTP for 1999/2000 is \$227,689. The cost of the program is in-line with the cost of previous years.

1859. Lake Wivenhoe

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (26/11/99)—

With reference to his media release of 25 November in which he stated that the three environmental incidents reported by Tarong Energy at Wivenhoe last year did not involve any oil spill into Lake Wivenhoe—

- (1) What were the circumstances of each of these three incidents?
- (2) Did one or more of these incidents involve an oil spill other than at Lake Wivenhoe?
- (3) Did one or more of these incidents involve a spill of some substance other than oil, either at Lake Wivenhoe or elsewhere?
- (4) What were the details in all three cases?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): In response to Dr Watson's question about oil spills at Wivenhoe, I can assure the House that there has never been any oil contamination of Lake Wivenhoe from the hydro-electric power station which has been operating continually there since 1984.

In response to Dr Watson's specific questions:

(1) The three environmental incidents reported in Tarong Energy's 1998 Environmental Performance Review occurred on 17 February, 19 May and 20 October of that year. I am advised that these incidents did not involve any oil spill into Lake Wivenhoe. However, Tarong Energy employees attended to all these incidents promptly and efficiently.

(2) No.

(3) No.

I am advised as follows—

17 February 1998: during a routine clean up, oil in a bin fell onto the floor. 19 May 1998: there was a mechanical problem in some oil recovery equipment. There was no oil spilled. 20 October 1998: there was an oil spill which was wholly contained within the power station as a result of the stringent control measures. No oil was discharged into Lake Wivenhoe.

These three incidents did not constitute a breach of any Environmental Licence condition. In fact, they were of such a nature, that they were not reportable to the Environmental Protection Agency.

1860. Crop Insurance

Mr COOPER asked the Treasurer (26/11/99)—

With reference to the reintroduced stamp duty on crop insurance—

- (1) What was the quantum of stamp duty revenue collected from crop insurance policies in 1998-99?
- (2) What is the budgeted or anticipated quantum of stamp duty revenue to be collected from crop insurance policies in 1999-2000?

Mr HAMILL (15/12/99): Stamp duty has always been payable on policies of crop insurance. It is therefore incorrect to state that stamp duty payable on policies of crop insurance has been reintroduced.

(1) Actual figures on the amount of stamp duty revenue collected in respect of policies of crop insurance are unavailable. However, it has previously been estimated that approximately \$1.3 million in stamp duty would be collected in respect of such policies in 1998-99.

(2) There is no budgeted estimate for stamp duty revenue to be collected in respect of policies of crop insurance in 1999-2000.

1861. Police to Population Ratios

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/11/99)—

With reference to the issue of police to population ratios—

At 31 October (a) what is the latest national police to population ratio average, (b) what is the latest Queensland police to population ratio, (c) what are the police to population ratios in all police regions and districts in the State and (d) will he provide this information in the same format as provided in answer to Question on Notice No. 456?

Mr BARTON (4/1/00):

(a) As at 30 June 1999 (the most recent date on which a national police to population ratio average is available) the estimated national police to population ratio was 1:466; up from 1:464 on 30 June 1998.

(b) As at 1 November 1999, Queensland estimated police to population ratio was 1:485; down from 1:498 on 1 November 1998.

(c) As at 1 November 1999, the estimated police to population ratios in all police regions and districts were as follows:

Far Northern—1:428
Cairns—1:471
Innisfail—1:488
Mareeba—1:423

Northern—1:456
Mt Isa—1:259
Townsville—1:547

Central—1:567
Gladstone—1:613
Longreach—1:251
Mackay—1:682
Rockhampton—1:551

North Coast—1:740
Bundaberg—1:714
Gympie—1:564
Maryborough—1:679
Redcliffe—1:853
Sunshine Coast—1:803

Southern—1:590
Charleville—1:212
Dalby—1:503
Ipswich—1:626
Roma—1:359
Toowoomba—1:795
Warwick—1:529

South Eastern—1:624
Gold Coast—1:610
Logan—1:678

Metropolitan South—1:729
Oxley—1:814
South Brisbane—1:681
Wynnum—1:975

Metropolitan North—1:553
Boondall—1:1124
Brisbane City—1:62
Ferny Grove—1:1263
Fortitude Valley—1:193
Hendra—1:780

Indooroopilly—1:1174
Petrie—1:806
Sandgate—1:775

It should be noted that the National and State police to population figures are inclusive of sworn officers undertaking duties that are centrally located, including many support functions for the whole state, such as the Property Crime Squad, the Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) and the Public Safety Response Team. However, these officers, although included in the overall figure and an integral part of the operational activities of the District and Regions, are not included in the figures as listed in (3) above.

(d) Yes.

1862. Health Specialists

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (26/11/99)—

(1) How many additional specialist training positions were created in Queensland in 1998-99 and in which specialties?

(2) What are the recommended specialist numbers per head of population?

(3) What are the actual numbers in the various regions of the State?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00):

(1) In 1998-99, seven additional positions were created—one in dermatology and six in general medicine in north Queensland.

(2) The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) established the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee (AMWAC) to advise on medical workforce issues (which encompasses specialists), including workforce supply, distribution and future requirements. The use of specialist numbers per head of population in determining specialist workforce numbers is one of the factors used by the AMWAC to model workforce projections for the specialties examined to date. These figures are not broken down on a State by State basis and

are a general guide at best. Queensland Health is not aware, of any nationally agreed benchmarks for these workforce ratios. The methodology used for determining the supply of specialists varies from report to report and is factorially complex using measures such as Medicare payments, population growth, future projected retirements and training numbers. AMWAC has produced a number of reports on the various specialties since 1996. Representatives from the various specialties throughout Australia are invited to participate in all working parties to ensure that the outcomes of these working parties reflect an accurate picture of Queensland's workforce in the particular specialty being addressed. Queensland Health is guided by these reports which highlight future training numbers in the various specialties, after considering a range of factors, including the number of specialists and workforce needs in both the public and private health sector of the particular specialty in question. The training numbers for the specialties which have been reported on to date by AMWAC are generally in line with those training positions existing in Queensland Health.

(3) There are 3,525 specialists registered with the Medical Board of Queensland. This figure includes those specialists who are retired, practicing overseas, have two or more specialties. In the Annual Medical Labourforce Survey, 1998 there were 1,411 specialist respondents which represents a response rate of 85%. Queensland Health has no control over the number of specialists who work in the private sector.

1863. Breast Screening

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health (26/11/99)—

What is the regional breakdown of how breast screening resources are distributed and what allowances are given in country areas to workers where larger distances are travelled to cover their expenses?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): BreastScreen Queensland Services are made available to Queensland women through a statewide network of fixed-site, mobile and relocatable services. The 11 fixed site Services are located at Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Nambour, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, The QE II Hospital and The Prince Charles Hospital. Resources are allocated in accordance with the number of women screened. There are four mobile services and four relocatable services throughout Queensland, primarily in rural and remote areas. Radiographers employed on the mobile and relocatable BreastScreen Queensland Services are paid an allowance to PO3(1) while working on these services. Radiographers are also paid a travel allowance in accordance with the Queensland Health Travel and Accommodation Policy. Staff are also paid a mileage allowance where applicable.

1864. Coorparoo TAFE Campus

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/11/99)—

- (1) Will he provide the Parliament with a guarantee that the Coorparoo TAFE Campus will be restored to a fully operational campus and that it will not be sold off by his administration?
- (2) Was this a 1998 pre-election promise and is he prepared to keep this promise?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): The campus has been identified by Southbank Institute of TAFE as surplus to its requirements. The future use to which the facility is put will be consistent with the Government's pre-election commitment.

1865. Teachers

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Education (30/11/99)—

With reference to locality allowance for teachers based at Bowen, Townsville, Ayr, Ingham, Proserpine and Charters Towers—

- (1) Will he explain how his department calculated these allowances and what criteria was used?
- (2) Why is Bowen the same as Townsville?
- (3) With the similarities between the regional centres of Ingham, Charters Towers, Ayr and Proserpine regarding facilities such as shopping, being of equal comparison, why the difference in locality allowance?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The policy and practice for the administration of locality allowance in the Queensland public sector is set by a Directive issued by the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations. The Directive includes information on the amount of allowance to be applied at particular regional centres.

1866. Moreton Bay Islands

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/11/99)—

With reference to the southern Moreton Bay Islands ferry and taxi services from Redland Bay—

- (1) What number of licenses have been issued to provide a public transport?
- (2) Which company or companies are providing the departmental authorised transport?
- (3) Is there any proposal to provide a better and more regular service to Macleay, Lamb, Karragarra and Russell Islands?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00): The scheduled passenger ferry service operating between southern Moreton Bay Islands and Redland Bay is provided by a sole operator being Bay Islands Taxi Service under a permit system administered by Redland Shire Council.

Scheduled ferry services on Moreton Bay, until recently, have been operated under council permits which were issued on an annual basis. The power to issue these permits was by way of a local law which the local authority (Redland Shire Council), has recently decided to repeal in the expectation that the State would continue the regulation of ferry services.

The State has some powers to regulate ferry services under the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994.

1867. Royal Brisbane Hospital, Bowel Cancer Screening

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Health (30/11/99)—

With reference to the recent announcement that the State Government and the Royal Brisbane Hospital is to cut back on screening people at risk of bowel cancer which is the State's second biggest killer—

- (1) Do the cutbacks relate only to screening by colonoscopy for bowel cancer?
- (2) How many patients on average were screened at the Royal Brisbane Hospital yearly for the last five years?
- (3) How many fewer patients will be screened yearly under this policy decision and how will the hospital decide who will be screened and who won't?
- (4) What has been the yearly cost of screening and how much will be saved by these cutbacks?
- (5) What is the cost of "life" and how will she explain these cutbacks to patients whose cancer is missed because of this policy?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00):

(1) The Division of Gastroenterology, Royal Brisbane Hospital's bowel cancer screening guidelines comply with guidelines issued by the Gastroenterological Society of Australia, which is the expert body in Australia on this condition.

(2) On average, 700 patients per year had screening colonoscopies over the last five years.

(3) 150 fewer patients per year will be screened at Royal Brisbane Hospital in accordance with the nationally accepted guidelines. Specialists will screen patients whose family history meets guidelines recommended by the Gastroenterological Society of Australia.

(4) The cost of a colonoscopy is approximately \$200.

(5) The Royal Brisbane Hospital will comply with the specialist guidelines issued by the Gastroenterological Society of Australia. People at relatively lower risk will have their clinical situation discussed and may be offered a colonoscopy if they desire. However, they will be prioritised according to clinical need with people at higher risk screened sooner.

1868. Computers in Schools

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Education (30/11/99)—

With reference to the recent research report by the Queensland Association of State School Principals concerning the vulnerability of children to physical disorders due to poor and inappropriate furniture in Queensland State school computer classrooms—

- (1) Is he aware of the research and scientific studies reviewed by Curtin University of Technology senior lecturer Leon Straker with respect to the issue of ergonomics in school computer classrooms?

- (2) Is there any intention of developing a policy with respect to future classroom decor in computer and information technology classrooms?
- (3) What upgrades with respect to the furniture in these rooms does he intend to make?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The Department informs me that departmental officers are aware of Mr Straker's activities in respect of ergonomic computer furniture. Mr Straker had written to Education Queensland seeking funding for research assistance on the ergonomic use of computers in classrooms.

The design of classroom furniture has undergone continual review and improvement over many years. This has been carried out with the assistance of expert ergonomic consultants to ensure that appropriate furniture is provided for students. The review of school furniture is an ongoing activity with design changes being made progressively.

1869. Silviculture

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (30/11/99)—

With reference to silvipastoralists and sales security for the production of silviculture and to graziers who have practised silviculture all their working lives—silvipastoralists—currently have substantial stocks of standing millable timber. They are accustomed to making a significant percentage of their income each year from timber sales—on a sustainable basis. Some families have been harvesting the same volume, or increasing volumes of timber from their land for three generations. These people are now very nervous and are asking if they should harvest all the timber down to sizes they would normally never cut, now, before the vegetation laws are proclaimed. Such a harvest would be tragic for the silviculturalists and the country. A guaranteed assurance from the Premier that they will be allowed to continue their sustained timber production and harvesting, without undue bureaucratic interference, will increase their feeling of security and help decrease any panic harvesting. Such an assurance will also help ensure a steady supply of sawlogs and poles during the next ten to twenty years—

Is he willing to give such an assurance?

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99): Yes, I can readily give the Honourable Member this assurance. There is no need for private landholders to be engaged in "panic harvesting". It is the intention of my Government to promote well practiced private forestry. The Vegetation Management Act 1999, which was passed by the Parliament on 10 December 1999, clearly indicates that the current exemptions contained in the Integrated Planning Act 1997 from assessable development for the use of land for forestry operations will essentially continue.

The planting of trees or the managing, felling and removal of standing trees for an ongoing forestry business in a plantation will continue to be exempt development. Such operational work in native forests as is clearly focused on producing timber or other value added products and maintaining the long term productivity of the forest concerned will also be

exempt. An avenue is also provided for landholders to demonstrate this through voluntary adoption of an approved code of practice.

My Government fully recognises the contribution of the private resource to Queensland's timber supply and is working to provide a sound basis for sustainable forest management that will benefit many landholders who currently manage their forest resources in a sustainable way. Responsible forest managers can be confident of their future as suppliers of forest products. Initiatives introduced by my Government to secure this future include:

- (a) the South-East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement, which gives the native forest timber industry long term security and a sustainable future, based on supplies from plantations and privately owned native forests;
- (b) working to provide landholders with harvest security and other benefits through the development of a clear and coherent forest practices system; and
- (c) working to remove barriers to farm forestry by, amongst other things, reviewing land tax arrangements, reviewing stamp duty requirements on "profit a prendre" contracts and reviewing survey requirements.

1870. Boystown

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (30/11/99)—

With reference to [name withheld] who is, by court order, in the protection of the Department of Family Services and assigned to Boystown and on 22 November, he and other boys in the same house at Boystown absconded and are now at the Gold Coast living at the house of one of the boys who absconded and as departmental officers know [name withheld] is on the Gold Coast but insist he must find his own way back to Boystown—

- (1) Does she consider she is exercising her Ministerial responsibilities properly when this youth in her care is allowed to abscond from Boystown and not be collected to return to that institution?
- (2) Does she appreciate the anxiety of the youth's mother who voluntarily sought the help of her department to correct the errant behaviour of her son, thinking he would be under close supervision, not at risk on the streets of the Gold Coast?
- (3) What action will she take to ensure [name withheld] is returned to Boystown and properly supervised?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00):

(1) Boystown is a funded community organisation that is independent of my Department. Boystown is not a detention centre i.e. it is not a secure facility. I am satisfied that the response provided to this young person was as prompt as possible, and appropriate given the circumstances, history and behaviour of the young person involved.

(2) Both Departmental officers and I acknowledge the concern and anxiety experienced by this young person's mother during this difficult time. This child was returned to his mother's care with the assistance of officers of my Department on 1 December 1999.

1871. Walsh River, Leases

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (30/11/99)—

With reference to an ongoing issue within the Walsh River community—

- (1) Will he explain Department of Natural Resource's inconsistency over the years in ad hoc granting of leases and ignoring others?
- (2) Does their obligation to existing lease and permit holders remain whether eviction occurs or not?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00):

(1) Some illegal occupation has been legalised in the past by the granting of Permits to Occupy or leases where it was practicable to do so in terms of available infrastructure. However, my Department of Natural Resources has tended not to legalise illegal occupations when such act would give rise to an expectation that Government will provide expensive infrastructure to service that land. In such cases, eviction is the usual response. Legalisation of illegal occupation tends to be the exception rather than the rule.

(2) Lessees and permit holders are obliged to comply with any conditions of their leases or permits. Failure by a lessee or permit holder to abide by the lease/permit conditions renders their lease/permit liable to forfeiture. If after forfeiture, the person continues to occupy, the person is liable to be evicted.

1872. Wivenhoe Power Station

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (30/11/99)—

With reference to the gas units to be built at Wivenhoe—

- (1) What is the projected cost of establishing the units (include all EIS and other studies) at Wivenhoe?
- (2) What would be the cost of establishing the proposed Wivenhoe gas units at the Tarong site taking into consideration the studies already done and the existence of the water pipeline that is already established?
- (3) With the expectation of a conservation backlash with the establishment of the gas units at Wivenhoe, has the Government left the option of establishing the Wivenhoe units at Tarong open, as an alternative option; if not, why not?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

(1) Tarong Energy Corporation is currently undertaking a feasibility study into the establishment of a 700 megawatt combined cycle gas-fired power

station in the south-east Queensland region. I am advised that typically the total cost for a project of this type and size is around \$500 million of which about half to one percent could be attributed to the feasibility study including environmental impacts.

(2) The cost of establishing a 700 megawatt combined cycle gas-fired power station near Wivenhoe or at Tarong Power Station is likely to be similar. The only significant cost difference being due to gas pipeline construction costs.

(3) Tarong Energy Corporation currently has several potential sites under consideration in the feasibility study including at Tarong.

1873. Gladstone, Ambulance Service

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Emergency Services (30/11/99)—

With reference to the three current gazetted vacancies in the Gladstone Queensland Ambulance Service staff with a number of other officers on special leave or away for training and as the three new officers will commence duties in December to fill the current vacancies, however, as soon as they arrive three further transfers will be finalised and this will again leave at least three vacancies in available staff—

Will she assure exhausted staff and residents of Gladstone that these vacancies will be advertised and filled as a matter of urgency?

Mrs ROSE (5/1/00): No unfilled vacancies exist in the current Gladstone staff establishment with appointments made against all vacancies. There are however, three current absences from the duty roster at Gladstone station. These three positions are not vacancies. The Gladstone roster has an over establishment of three positions that assist with coverage of the current absences. These include:

Two casual QAS Ambulance Transport Officers appointed to undertake interhospital transfers between Rockhampton and Gladstone. This means that the majority of interhospital transfers do not require full time permanent Ambulance Officers to be out of Gladstone for in excess of three hours undertaking transfers.

A Student Ambulance Officer appointed as part of the regional commitment to training new Ambulance Officers. This position will be in addition to the above over establishment positions and will create the three over establishment positions to assist with the workload of the three absentees.

1874. Deaths in Custody

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (30/11/99)—

What are the full details of each death in custody that occurred within youth detention centres operated, or administered, by his department from 1 July 1998 until transferred to the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care?

Mr BARTON (4/1/00): There were nil deaths during the period specified.

1875. TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/11/99)—

As his colleague, the Minister for Education, has indicated his department's interest in establishing joint university/TAFE/secondary facilities to boost secondary school retention rates, particularly in geographic areas such as Cape York and the south-west of the State where current secondary retention rates are low, what TAFE facilities in (a) the Cape York region and (b) the far south-west, does his department consider would be suitable as the basis for such multi-faceted educational institutions?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): There is no proposal before Government to merge university/TAFE/secondary facilities, and therefore the details requested are not available as the matter has not received this level of consideration.

1876. Juveniles, Watch-house Detention

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (30/11/99)—

With reference to the period from 1 January—

How many juveniles have been detained in police watch-houses for (a) a period of one night, (b) a period in excess of one night (please provide length of stay, name of watch-house and reason for detention) and (c) a weekend (please provide length of stay, name of watch-house and reason for detention)?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00): In response to your Question on Notice, between 25 January 1999, when the Watchhouse Register commenced, and 21 November 1999, the following information is provided in relation to the detention of young people in watchhouses—

(a) 745 young people were held in detention for a period of one night.

(b) 205 young people were held in detention for a period in excess of one night. The attached Table 1 provides information about the location and duration of these instances of detention. The attached Table 2 provides information on the authority for admission to these instances of detention.

(c) In those instances where the period of detention commenced on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, 301 young people were held in watchhouses for a period of one night or longer. The attached Table 3 provides information about the location and duration of these instances of detention. The attached Table 4 provides information on the authority for admission to these instances of detention. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1877. Burnett Heads Boat Harbour

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/11/99)—

With reference to fishermen, boaties and other viable commercial operators who find themselves

increasingly unable to access the Burnett Heads Boat Harbour—

- (1) Will he confirm that the Department of Primary Industries is now the sole Government objector to the proposal to locate spoil for reclaimed land opposite the Blue Water Club?
- (2) What is the basis of their objection and are there any measures that can be taken to resolve their concerns; if so, when will these be carried out?
- (3) Will he outline other issues, if any, that are still to be resolved in relation to this proposed site for the dredging spoil?
- (4) If this issue is not resolved by early 2000 and, almost two years after \$500,000 in funding was first allocated by the Coalition to rectify this situation, is he prepared to step in and make a final decision on this matter?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/1/00):

- (1) After a number of meetings with officers from Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on 6 December 1999, DPI issued Queensland Transport with a permit to remove/disturb marine plants in the reclamation area.
- (2) The plan for the reclamation area was revised to reduce the area of tidal land effected. Resolution of this matter took time to negotiate.
- (3) Bundaberg Port Authority are currently preparing detailed plans for the partial reclamation of this site, which includes negotiating with Burnett Shire Council.
- (4) It is expected that the necessary statutory approvals to undertake the dredging and for the reclamation will be in place by early 2000.

1878. Youth Detention Centres

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (30/11/99)—

What are the number of escapes and the number of absconds that occurred from youth detention centres (listed by facility) operated, or administered, by his department from 1 July 1998 until transferred to the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care?

Mr BARTON (4/1/00): Escapes and absconds from youth detention centres between 1 July 1998 and 7 December 1999 are—

Cleveland Youth Detention Centre—2
 John Oxley Youth Detention Centre—Nil
 Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre—Nil.

1879. Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (30/11/99)—

Which positions in his department were occupied by temporary or casual staff at 30 June and which

positions had an acting incumbent at that date and what is the corresponding information at 31 March and 30 September?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00):

31 March 1999

30 June 1999

30 September 1999

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1880. Sunshine Coast Police District

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (30/11/99)—

- (1) Will he confirm that during November, a serious assault occurred in Caloundra at approximately 1.00 am in the morning and due to overtime restrictions, uniformed police were unable to obtain CIB support and investigation?
- (2) Will he also confirm that the person assaulted was placed in intensive care and on life support and that CIB investigations could not take place until after the day shift commenced at 8.00 am and the assault site had become contaminated?
- (3) What steps will be taken to provide sufficient funding to the Sunshine Coast Police District to enable necessary investigations be undertaken on overtime?

Mr BARTON (4/1/00):

(1) The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has advised that following a call from a member of the public at approximately 12.45am on 16 November 1999, a seriously injured person was found lying beside a multistorey building approximately 15 minutes later. There were no overtime restrictions in place on the night in question preventing the proper investigation of this matter.

(2) Further advice from the QPS indicates that the injured person was on life-support for a period of time as a result of the injuries incurred. I am advised that police investigations into the matter commenced immediately. Four (4) highly experienced uniformed police were in attendance during the night. Scenes of Crime officers attended the scene at 6.00am and Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) at 8.00am the following morning. It should be noted that uniformed police have identical powers to CIB officers in regard to investigation, the declaration (and protection) of a crime scene and arrest. As with all police investigations, an appropriate resourcing level was determined by a senior commissioned officer following consideration of all circumstances.

(3) I am advised that current levels of overtime expenditure for the Sunshine Coast District are within projected expenditure limits. During the course of any financial year all budgetary expenditure is monitored and reviewed by the District Officer in consultation with senior finance staff. If additional expenditure is considered necessary during a given financial year, appropriate budgetary adjustments are made to meet the QPS

operational needs and the needs of the community generally. Sufficient funding is provided in this manner.

1881. Teachers

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Education (30/11/99)—

- (1) At September, how many teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed by Education Queensland in its Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (2) How many temporary teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed in Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (3) What percentage did temporary teachers represent of the total teacher numbers for Central Office and each of the 36 education districts (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (4) How did the total of each of these figures compare with the corresponding totals for August (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (5) What was the growth during that one month period (by headcount and full time equivalent)?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The department's information is provided in Attachment A—Teacher Numbers August-September 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1882. Teachers

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Education (30/11/99)—

- (1) At May, how many teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed by Education Queensland in its Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (2) How many temporary teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed in Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (3) What percentage did temporary teachers represent of the total teacher numbers for Central Office and each of the 36 education districts (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (4) How did the total of each of these figures compare with the corresponding totals for April (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (5) What was the growth during that one month period (by headcount and full time equivalent)?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The department's information is provided in Attachment A—Teacher Numbers April-May 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1883. Teachers

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Education (30/11/99)—

- (1) At March, how many teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed by Education Queensland in its Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (2) How many temporary teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed in Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (3) What percentage did temporary teachers represent of the total teacher numbers for Central Office and each of the 36 education districts (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (4) How did the total of each of these figures compare with the corresponding totals for February (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (5) What was the growth during that one month period (by headcount and full time equivalent)?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The department's information is provided in Attachment A—Teacher Numbers February-March 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1884. Teachers

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Education (30/11/99)—

- (1) At November, how many teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed by Education Queensland in its Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (2) How many temporary teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed in Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (3) What percentage did temporary teachers represent of the total teacher numbers for Central Office and each of the 36 education districts (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (4) How did the total of each of these figures compare with the corresponding totals for October (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (5) What was the growth during that one month period (by headcount and full time equivalent)?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The department's information is provided in Attachment A—Teacher Numbers October-November 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1885. Teachers

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Education (30/11/99)—

- (1) At July 1998, how many teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed by Education Queensland in its Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (2) How many temporary teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed in Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (3) What percentage did temporary teachers represent of the total teacher numbers for Central Office and each of the 36 education districts (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (4) How did the total of each of these figures compare with the corresponding totals for June 1998 (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (5) What was the growth during that one month period (by headcount and full time equivalent)?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The department's information is provided in Attachment A—Teacher Numbers June-July 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1886. Teachers

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Education (30/11/99)—

- (1) At January, how many teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed by Education Queensland in its Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (2) How many temporary teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed in Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (3) What percentage did temporary teachers represent of the total teacher numbers for Central Office and each of the 36 education districts (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (4) How did the total of each of these figures compare with the corresponding totals for December 1998 (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (5) What was the growth during that one month period (by headcount and full time equivalent)?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The department's information is provided in Attachment A—Teacher Numbers December 1998-January 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1887. Teachers

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (30/11/99)—

- (1) At November 1998, how many teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed by Education Queensland in its

Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?

- (2) How many temporary teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed in Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (3) What percentage did temporary teachers represent of the total teacher numbers for Central Office and each of the 36 education districts (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (4) How did the total of each of these figures compare with the corresponding totals for October 1998 (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (5) What was the growth during that one month period (by headcount and full time equivalent)?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The department's information is provided in Attachment A—Teacher Numbers October-November 1998.

1888. Teachers

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Education (30/11/99)—

- (1) At September 1998, how many teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed by Education Queensland in its Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (2) How many temporary teachers (by headcount and full time equivalent) were employed in Central Office and in each of the 36 education districts?
- (3) What percentage did temporary teachers represent of the total teacher numbers for Central Office and each of the 36 education districts (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (4) How did the total of each of these figures compare with the corresponding totals for August 1998 (by headcount and full time equivalent)?
- (5) What was the growth during that one month period (by headcount and full time equivalent)?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The department's information is provided in Attachment A—Teacher Numbers August-September 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1889. Education Queensland

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Education (30/11/99)—

What was the Queensland Department of Education's total Budget (and expenditure, where available) for school capital works for each financial year from 1990-91 to 1999-2000?

Mr WELLS (Answer not received by 18/1/00).

1890. Central Highlands Health District

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Health (30/11/99)—

With reference to her statement about a year ago that she was developing a specialist access plan and collating data on the number of people waiting to see specialists for outpatient appointments—

Based on this, what are the wait times for outpatient specialist appointments in the Central Highlands Health District for the various specialties available in that district and how many people are waiting in each of these specialty areas?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The Government has identified specialist outpatient waiting times as a major component of the overall waiting time for surgery. The Government has indicated its commitment to measure demand for specialist outpatient services.

New referrals to outpatient clinics are reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral—therefore more urgent cases are seen in an appropriate timeframe as determined by the doctor.

The collection of outpatient waiting time data has been impaired by the absence of a standardised reporting system and inconsistent practices with respect to appointment allocation.

Queensland Health has recently issued Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting Lists that provide a framework for the equitable and consistent delivery of specialist outpatient services.

These will lead to the implementation of standard practices across outpatient departments in Queensland public hospitals. This will facilitate the systematic collection of valid data that will provide the public and general practitioners with a clearer picture of waiting times and allow hospitals to benchmark and plan outpatient service delivery.

1891. Public Housing

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to public housing—

- (1) At 30 November, 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 by (a) four to less than eight weeks, (b) eight to less than 12 weeks and (c) 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 November, how many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): I refer Mr Healy to Question on Notice No. 1419 forwarded to the Bills and Papers Office on 25 November 1999, and

Question on Notice No. 1605 forwarded to the Bills and Papers Office on 9 December 1999, in which I stated the following:

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1892. Q-Build

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to Q-Build within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for November?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for November by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 30 November?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Q-Build for November?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1634 answered on 10 December 1999, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the required information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1893. Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

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 November in 1999-2000?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for November by (a) cost of sales and (b) operating expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 30 November?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for November?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1603 answered on 9 December 1999, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the required information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1894. Public Housing

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to public housing at 30 November—

- (1) How many dwellings by dwelling type and bedroom number were vacant for (a) less than four weeks, (b) four to 12 weeks and (c) greater 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 (4/1/00): I refer Mr Springborg to Question on Notice No. 1420 forwarded to the Bills and Papers Office on 25 November 1999, and Question on Notice No. 1607 forwarded to the Bills and Papers Office on 9 December 1999, in which I stated the following:

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1895. Q-Build Industry

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to Q-Build Industry (QBI) for November—

- (1) What was the total revenue (accrual based) derived from sales and/or services?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) by (a) cost of sales and (b) operating expenses?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by QBI?
- (4) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) in the following categories (a) materials and stores, (b) salary and wages, (c) labour hire fees and charges, (d) advertising and (e) travel/travel expenses?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1483 answered on 26 November 1999, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the required information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1896. Public Housing

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to public housing identified as "untenantable" for November—

Will he provide by area office, a total and a breakdown of houses by the following categories (a) houses awaiting planned maintenance, (b) houses awaiting upgrade, (c) houses included as part of an urban renewal, (d) houses beyond repair and (e) houses awaiting disposal?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): I refer Mr Goss to Question on Notice No. 1527 forwarded to the Bills and Papers Office on 29 November 1999, and Question on Notice No. 1675 forwarded to the Bills

and Papers Office on 13 December 1999 in which I stated the following:

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1897. State School Funding

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to the special maintenance funding for public schools throughout Queensland—

For 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date) what was (a) the source of this funding, (b) the program from which the funding is sourced and (c) the total expenditure and total number of projects of this program by each State electorate?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): I have already answered this question twice—once at Estimates Committee Hearing and again in response to a Question on Notice from the Shadow Minister.

1898. Public Housing

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to public housing at 30 November—

- (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) couples (without children), (b) couples (with children), (c) single (with children), (d) single (without children) and (e) others 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) six months, (b) six to 11 months, (c) one to two years, (d) two to three years, (e) three to four years and (f) greater than four years in total and by area office?
- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 December 1998 and 30 November 1999 in total and by area office?
- (5) How many applicants were allocated public housing during November?
- (6) How many evictions of public housing tenants have occurred during November?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): I refer Mr Borbidge to Question on Notice No. 1439 forwarded to the Bills and Papers Office on 25 November 1999, in which I stated the following:

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the

above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1899. HOME Scheme

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to the HOME Scheme, including the HOME Loan and Rental Purchase Plan (RPP) at 30 November—

- (1) What was the total number of repossessions and converted "loans to rent" for both schemes listed above since their respective introductions?
- (2) What were the total losses realised from loan write-offs for both schemes listed above since their respective introductions?
- (3) What were the total capital gains or losses realised on the department's share of RPP properties since the schemes introduction?
- (4) What was the total of revaluation decrements for RPP properties since the schemes introduction?
- (5) What was the total value of additional assistance measures for (a) HOME Loan—interest subsidy, (b) RPP—lease subsidy and (c) RPP—insurance costs since their respective introductions?
- (6) What is the total number of loans and repossessions currently on hand?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): I refer Miss Simpson to Question on Notice No. 1633, forwarded to the Bills and Papers Office on 10 December 1999, in which I stated the following:

Due to the regularity of this and several other questions relating to key indicators of the Department of Housing and the costs, time and resources involved in preparing answers, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the above information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1900. Q-Fleet

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to Q-Fleet within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for November?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for November by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 30 November?
- (4) What was the total value of vehicle assets for November?
- (5) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Q-Fleet for November?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1423 answered on 25

November 1999, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the required information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1901. Goprint

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to Go-Print within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for November?
- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for November by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 30 November?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Go-Print for November?
- (5) What was the value of spoilage for November?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1645 answered on 10 December 1999, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the required information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1902. Q-Build Industry

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to Q-Build Industry (QBI) for October—

- (1) What was the total revenue (accrual based) derived from sales and/or services?
- (2) What was the breakdown and the total expenditure (accrual based) by (a) cost of sales and (b) operating expenses?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by QBI?
- (4) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) in the following categories (a) materials and stores, (b) salary and wages, (c) labour hire fees and charges, (d) advertising and (e) travel/travel expenses?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1483 answered on 26 November 1999, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the required information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1903. Project Services

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/11/99)—

With reference to Project Services within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for November?

- (2) What was the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for November by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Project Services for November?
- (4) What was the total number of chargeable hours for Project Services for November?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): As advised in Question on Notice No. 1702 answered on 13 December 1999, I intend in future to provide quarterly reports containing the required information to the Shadow Minister for Public Works and Housing, the Member for Mooloolah.

1904. Western Downs Electorate, Development

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Premier (1/12/99)—

With reference to The Courier Mail of 28 November and the article entitled "Nation's great divide widens" in which the article refers to an Australian Local Government Association report entitled "State of the Region" which warns that the rural areas of the nation are not enjoying the development and prosperity of the major cities and this trend is likely to continue and to his promise to be a Government for all Queenslanders—

What specifically will his Government do to bring new development and prosperity to Western Downs, bearing in mind the Condamine and Nangram Weirs planned by the Borbidge Government have virtually been abandoned by his Government?

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99): I have long been aware of the need to deal with this divide. That is why my Government is a Government for all Queensland. It is also why, on November 25, I proposed a national debate and summit to shape a vision of how Australia should develop in the 21st Century—a framework for the future.

I said that this summit should plan to bridge the "great divides" that currently separate us. All Australians should be invited to put forward their suggestions for this summit. We need to develop a long term vision of what we want to achieve as Australians in the next century. We must look further ahead than the life of Governments. We need to think about the lives of our children. Further details of this proposal can be found on my web site.

In relation to both the Darling Downs and the Western Downs, my Government is committed to increasing the level of economic diversity and maximising the natural advantages of the region. My Government believes that regional development is best progressed by a supportive Government in partnership with business and the local communities.

In this regard, my Government is either assisting or facilitating a number of proposals and initiatives in and around the Western Downs region, including:

- (a) providing funding for a Regional Business Adviser based in Roma to service the towns of Yuleba, Mitchell, Surat and Injune, a Regional Business Adviser based at Chinchilla and an Economic Development Officer based at Chinchilla;

- (b) providing funding to the Maranoa e-commerce project to support the development of an e-commerce portal;
- (c) facilitating the development of the Miles Heritage Centre and the Charleville Cosmos Centre under the Queensland Heritage Trails Network, with funding for these provided by the Commonwealth Government;
- (d) providing funding to the Toowoomba and Golden West Regional Tourism Association to assist in building Community Capacities through visitor services in the region;
- (e) endorsing the GrowZone Development Network's GrowZone Regional Economic Development Strategy and providing funds to assist the GrowZone Investment Tour, an investor roadshow for Darling Downs and South West Queensland;
- (f) establishing the Rural Lifestyles web page to provide lifestyle information on a number of towns in rural Queensland. (The aim of the site is to assist employers in these towns to attract qualified personnel to take up employment opportunities. Roma is on the site and it is likely Mitchell, Surat, Chinchilla and Miles will soon be added as part of an expansion from 19 to 30 towns.);
- (g) facilitating progress on the Kogan Creek Power Station proposal;
- (h) assisting Tri Star with its methane gas proposal; and
- (i) working with the community to develop a proposal for a Cotton Spinning Mill in the region.

Work is continuing on the Condamine and Nangram Weir proposals on the Condamine River. Environmental impact studies for the proposals are being undertaken. Cultural Heritage Studies of both proposals have been completed and a Plan of Management is now being prepared to administer the cultural interests of the area. The proposals are also subject to the outcomes of the Condamine-Balonne Water Allocation and Management Planning process that is currently under way.

1905. East Coast Trawl Fishery

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Primary Industries (1/12/99)—

With reference to the east coast trawl fishery—

- (1) Will he supply the names of the 20 most recent boats built and being built over 16 metres?
- (2) What is the number of units each of these boats have and the names of the boats from where these units have come?
- (3) What is the make, model and KW of the motors in these boats?

Mr PALASZCZUK (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (24/12/99): I have supplied the information requested by the Honourable member, from records available since 1989. This information refers to the last 16 vessels only.

Information prior to 1989 would be difficult to obtain, principally because log data and the boat replacement policy of 2 for 1 originated in late 1998 and would entail an expensive and indefensible waste of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority's funds, which can be better used to deliver top quality services for the management of fisheries in Queensland.

This information refers to vessels replaced under the 2 for 1 Boat Replacement Program, as well as replacing vessels that have sunk. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1906. Silviculture

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (1/12/99)—

With reference to silviculturalists' superannuation and to many graziers who have been practising silviculture for many years and have engaged in these practices for a variety of reasons: environmental responsibility, landcare, sustainable income from timber and cattle and as their own method of self-funded superannuation and as these graziers often do not have more traditional methods of superannuation and as a result of the SEQ RFA and the proposed vegetation control, they are now concerned that they may be deprived of their superannuation for which they have worked for many years—

- (1) Will he give these silviculturalists an unqualified assurance that they will be able to realise their superannuation when they require to?
- (2) Will he give these same silviculturalists an unqualified assurance that if they are not allowed to harvest their nurtured timber, then they will be paid compensation equal to the commercial value of the timber, valued by an independent valuer?

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99):

(1 & 2) It is the intention of my Government to promote well-practised private forestry. The Vegetation Management Act 1999, passed by the Parliament on 10 December 1999, essentially continues the current exemptions in the Integrated Planning Act 1997 where land is used for forestry operations. The planting of trees or the managing, felling and removal of standing trees for an ongoing forestry business in a plantation will continue to be exempt development under the Integrated Planning Act 1997. Further, such operational work in native forests is clearly focused on producing timber or other value added products and maintaining the long term productivity of the forest concerned, which can be demonstrated through the voluntary adoption of an approved code of practice, will also be exempt development.

The Queensland Government fully recognises the contribution of the private resource to Queensland's timber supply and is working to provide a sound basis for sustainable forest management which will benefit many landholders who currently manage their forest resources in a sustainable way. Responsible forest managers can be confident of their future as

suppliers of forest products. Government initiatives to secure this future include:

- (a) The Queensland Government's Plan for the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement. For the first time the native forest timber industry in South East Queensland has long term security with the Government's plan to transition the industry to a sustainable future based on supplies from plantations and sustainably managed privately owned native forests. My Government is committed to achieving this outcome;
- (b) Working to provide landholders with harvest security and other benefits through the development of a clear and coherent forest practices system; and
- (c) Working to remove barriers to farm forestry by, amongst other things, reviewing land tax arrangements, reviewing stamp duty requirements on "profit a prendre" contracts and reviewing survey requirements.

1907. Fish Hatcheries

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (1/12/99)—

With reference to fish hatcheries—

- (1) How many fish hatcheries are located in Queensland?
- (2) What percentage are privately owned, what percentage are Government owned and what percentage are joint venture?
- (3) What species are being bred and in what quantities, per species per year?
- (4) Are figures available on the number of fingerlings released into public waterways and what numbers to private impoundments?
- (5) What subsidies are provided/available for privately owned or joint venture operations?
- (6) Is any expansion planned into any other species?

Mr PALASZCZUK (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (24/12/99):

1. There are forty-two licensed fish hatcheries in Queensland producing a range of fish species for use in aquariums, commercial growout ponds and stocking in impoundments. There are also nine stocking-group managed fish hatcheries in Queensland.

2. There are three Department of Primary Industries (DPI) centres which breed fish and other aquatic animals as part of research and development activities. These are the Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Centre, Northern Fisheries Centre and Walkamin Research Station. One hatchery devoted to Mary River Cod production is managed in conjunction with local Government (Noosa Shire Council). The remainder, (fifty-one) are privately operated hatcheries, nine of which are operated by community fish stocking groups.

3. The predominant species, and number of each that have been bred in the last full season include;

Golden perch 1.35 million, Silver perch 469 000, Australian bass 377 000, combined Murray and Mary River cod and Sleepy cod 68 000, Barramundi 19 700 and Mangrove jack 3 000.

4. Figures on the number of fish released into private impoundments are unavailable. Fingerlings released by DPI into public impoundments and waterways during 1998-1999 totalled 945 000.

5. During the 1998-1999 season, \$15,000.00 was allocated by DPI to the nine stocking group hatcheries to assist with some of their costs associated with hatchery operation. The DPI also offers assistance and technical advice to all fish hatcheries by sharing results of its findings obtained through research and offering disease diagnostic services.

6. There is expected to be general expansion in the private fish hatchery sector as a result of the proposed freshwater fishing permitting system being developed by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority.

1908. Drug Rehabilitation Centres

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Health (1/12/99)—

With reference to proposed drug rehabilitation centres—

- (1) Has she any proposal for a drug rehabilitation centre in Lowry Street, North Ipswich?
- (2) Have any works commenced at this location; if so, what public consultation has taken place in this residential area?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00):

- (1) No.
- (2) No.

1909. Adopt-A-Cop

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Education (1/12/99)—

With reference to knowledge gained as an adopt-a-cop and seeing first hand the increase in incidents of violence in schools and being called to deal with the resolution of conflict situations—

- (1) What programs and policies has the Education Department developed, or he as Minister, put in place to deal with these incidents?
- (2) To what agencies has the Education Department access in assisting the resolution of conflict and violent conflict situations with the school environment?
- (3) In light of recent incidents at the Glenala State High School and the calls from school principals and community leaders for more resources to help schools and community groups to cope with these issues, what funding is available through Education Queensland to assist?

- (4) What is the "peacebuilders" program and is this program available or adaptable to other schools to assist in their development of conflict resolution guidelines?

Mr WELLS (Answer not received by 18/1/00).

1910. Tinaroo Dam; Nulinga Dam

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (1/12/99)—

Will he outline the Department of Natural Resources future plans for Tinaroo Dam and the MDIA with regards to (a) local management, (b) a reassessment of need of farmers with low allocations, (c) the transfer of water rights with sale of property and (d) the possible construction of Nulinga Dam on the Walsh River?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00):

(a) Local management of the MDIA will be an issue for consideration by the Interim Local Management Committee (ILMC). My Department of Natural Resources is currently obtaining figures on the costs of running the scheme and discussions have commenced between the Water Reform Unit and the ILMC on the future price paths necessary for the MDIA to meet its requirements under the COAG water reform agenda.

The form of local management most appropriate for Queensland is under consideration by the Government and discussion will be held with ILMC's when these directions are clearer early next year.

(b) There will be no reassessment of water allocations for farmers with low allocations. All water users were given the opportunity to obtain additional water allocations throughout the history of the scheme. Those who availed themselves of these opportunities were able to secure their required allocation. Those who wish to secure additional allocation, may use the recently introduced permanent transfer market or alternatively use the temporary transfer market. My Department is about to advertise the first two transfers submitted under the new legislation and a further three applications are awaiting processing.

(c) Where a right to water allocation is currently attached to a parcel of land, the transfer of that land will see the water allocation transferred with it. Under the recently introduced legislation the holder of the water allocation now has the option of selling the water allocation separately to the land.

Under the existing legislation the transfer of a water allocation must be made to another person who is also a landholder within the MDIA. The option to separate the land from the water allocation is at the discretion of the owner and is subject to Departmental approval. The legislation is designed to allow the limited water allocation to be traded, thereby allowing the allocation to be put into productive use. The legislation also allows for the sustainable use of water allocation. The interests of existing entitlement holders is taken into account prior to any Departmental approval being granted.

Existing entitlement holders will not be disadvantaged by proposed trades of allocation.

The future of trading water allocation is the subject of further Government review under the COAG reforms.

(d) The Atherton Tableland/Cairns Regional Planning Study is investigating a range of options to secure the future water requirements of the Region. The Nullinga Dam option on the Walsh River is one of a number of options which have the potential to provide additional water for the region.

The Water Management Strategy of the FNQ2010 Planning Process calls upon Governments to move to secure possible dam sites where a future need is identified before development precludes the use of the area for water storage.

The Barron WAMP, due to be completed next year, will also play a lead role in defining parameters in relation to any future development scenario.

The Atherton Tableland/Cairns Regional Water Planning Advisory Committee will provide recommendations on all manner of strategies including improved water use efficiency and reuse to address the future water supply requirements for the Region.

1911. Beaudesert Shire, High School

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (1/12/99)—

As he has announced the decision to build a high school in the northern area of the Beaudesert Shire for 2001 and, to this date, he has not announced the exact position where the school will be built, will he make this announcement before the end of the year so that students will be able to make decisions about the high school they wish to attend in 2001?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): When Education Queensland builds a new school, it is built not for a year or even a decade, but for half a century or more. So it is critical that quality decisions are made on the timing and location of new schools. A school is such an important part of a community that a decision on where to site it influences the development of the whole area. So when schools are planned they must be planned on the basis of the best possible information.

In January 1999 I approved planning for a number of new schools, including a secondary school for northern Beaudesert shire. I have not stipulated where the school would be in the shire because I did not have then, and do not have now, the best possible planning information. The demographic data held available predicts that most of the new population growth will be in Flagstone over the longer term period. The Shire Council predicts that most of the population growth over the shorter term will be around Jimboomba. My Department says we should build the new high school in Flagstone; the Shire Council says we should build it in Jimboomba. Both of these recommendations are based merely on predictions as to where the growth will occur.

I sought an independent consultant's opinion in an attempt to resolve the dilemma. The consultant said

in part, "Beaudesert Shire Council is in the unfortunate position of not having a preferred staging of residential development. ... in the absence of a benchmark development sequence ... assumptions need to be made regarding the most likely pattern of residential development over the next fifteen years."

Quality planning decisions are not based on mere assumptions or opinions, but on evidence drawn from a systematic planning framework. The government has established such a planning framework—the Integrated Planning Act. I am informed that the Council has begun work on a benchmark development sequence which would give us the information we would need to make a quality decision to locate a school where it fits best with the future long term development of the community.

The latest analysis by Education Queensland of potential enrolments from the catchment area, the leakage of students from Beaudesert high school to Tambourine Mountain High School, and the continued under utilisation of Park Ridge High School, have all had a short term damping effect on demand for a new school. On these indications it will not be necessary to open a new high school in northern Beaudesert before the start of 2002.

It can reasonably be expected that the council's work on a benchmark development sequence will generate additional information not now available. It will therefore be possible to make a quality decision in the best long term interests of the community and make that decision on the basis of hard data in time to build the school when it is actually needed. I have written to the Beaudesert Shire Council requesting them to provide clear evidence of planned future urban growth consistent with the principles of a benchmark development sequence and the objectives of the Integrated Planning Act.

In a shire like Beaudesert, with a high level of dispersed development, state infrastructure providers need the guidance that a benchmark development sequence gives according to the provisions of the integrated planning act. This evidence should be of the standard required of a benchmark development sequence and include clear indications of the council's sequenced priorities for future infrastructure development in the northern part of the shire. With such guidance to hand, a decision can be made on the location of a new high school to open in 2002.

1912. Roads Implementation Program

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/12/99)—

With reference to TIDS funding for roadworks in the shires of Banana, Taroom, Monto, Eidsvold, Mundubbera, Gayndah and Biggenden—

- (1) What projects have been approved in these shires for 1999-2000?
- (2) How many of these projects have commenced field work as opposed to pre-planing work?
- (3) What amounts of the State Governments share of funding have been paid to date?

- (4) When will the remainder of the State Governments contribution be available to allow the completion of these TIDS funded projects?

Mr BREDHAUER (22/12/99): (1-4) As indicated in the 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 Roads Implementation Program, nineteen projects have been approved for these shires during the current financial year. Of these, on-site works have commenced for eight of the projects with works yet to commence on-site for a further ten projects. The remaining project is a contribution for roads which have been demanded.

A total subsidy of \$1,200,022 has been allocated for these 19 projects in 1999-2000. \$2,008,467 has been paid, to date, on these projects; with \$1,843,338 in 1998-99 and \$165,129 in 1999-2000. A subsidy of \$1,034,893 remains for expenditure in 1999-00.

The State Government's contribution is available now for payment on submission of claims by the relevant local governments for works identified in the Roads Implementation Program for 1999-2000 financial year.

1913. Emu Park-Yeppoon Road

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/12/99)—

What road plans are in hand to totally upgrade the road on the scenic highway route between Emu Park and Yeppoon in view of the hugely increasing traffic on this road?

Mr BREDHAUER (22/12/99): There has been a steady increase in traffic on the Emu Park and Yeppoon Road over recent years but the road is adequate to cope with current traffic volumes. However, the Department of Main Roads has proposed improvements to address a few points of concern.

Work will begin in February 2000 to install a roundabout at the junction of Normanby Street and Anzac Parade in Yeppoon to deal with traffic congestion at this location.

Upgrading of the junction of Taranganba Road and Scenic Highway is planned for 2000-01 to facilitate local traffic improvements.

Further road improvements from Claytons Road to Rosslyn Bay turnout around Statue Bay are also planned in the later years of the Roads Implementation Program..

Main Roads will continue to closely monitor traffic growth in this area and to address traffic needs identified as part of this monitoring.

1914. North Queensland, Respite Care

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (1/12/99)—

With reference to Disability Services—

When will the North Queensland Respite Care initiative commence and how many families will be serviced?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00): The North Queensland Respite Care initiative commenced on 28 November

1999, when I approved the allocation of \$300,000 in recurrent funding and non recurrent funds of \$350,000 for this initiative. Until service arrangements are finalised, I will not be in a position to determine how many families will be serviced.

1915. Family Support Initiative

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (1/12/99)—

With reference to Disability Services—

What progress has been made in meeting the Family Support Initiative target of 262 families in the first five months of 1999-2000?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00): To date, 210 families are being supported; 104 in Intensive Family Support provided by my Department; 72 in Flexible Family Support provided by 8 non-government organisations; and 34 children with disabilities in care.

1916. Disability Services

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (1/12/99)—

With reference to the Commonwealth State Agreement on Disability Services—

What progress has been made in negotiations with the Commonwealth over their offer of \$9m and \$18m in the next two financial years as far as State contribution is concerned?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00): I am pleased to advise that I met with all State and Territory Disability Services Ministers on 26 November 1999 in Canberra. The major agenda item for this meeting was the funding offer from the Commonwealth, of which Queensland's share is \$9m for 2000/2001 and \$18m for 2001/2002. It was a point of concern that the Commonwealth Minister responsible for Disability issues, Senator Jocelyn Newman did not attend this important meeting.

A joint letter from all State and Territory Ministers to Senator Newman expressing concerns with the offer has been prepared. The two major issues still to be negotiated with the Commonwealth are whether funds will be recurrent and the current lack of flexibility in the use of the funds offered for providing services to people with disabilities. Any further State contributions to disability services will be subject to the usual State Budget deliberations.

1917. Disability Sector Training Fund

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (1/12/99)—

When will staff training activities commence using the \$800,000 set aside in the Queensland Disability Sector Training Fund and what will be the scope of these activities?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00): Planning for training through the Disability Sector Training Fund is well under way. A steering committee has been established consisting of service providers, community, human resource management, industry training board and departmental representatives. A project officer has been engaged and is consulting with all funded service providers in Queensland to provide an analysis of sector-wide and localised training needs.

Applications for funding of training activities have been sought in the new Disability Views magazine on 3 December 1999. The scope of training activities to be funded is very wide and may cover training and skills development initiatives which are disability sector wide, or which relate to specific geographic or subject areas, or which relate to individual service providers or groups of disability workers. The steering committee will consider applications on a case by case basis against the business case put forward.

1918. Disability Services

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (1/12/99)—

What progress has been made in assessing the extent of unmet needs within families of people with a disability and to develop a needs register for families?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00): It is envisaged that the needs registration process for families will be completed and operational by February 2000. This information will be added to the data collected by Disability Services Queensland through the Adult Lifestyle Support funding process to give a comprehensive picture of unmet need across Queensland.

1919. Daintree Region, Electricity Supply

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (1/12/99)—

With reference to the availability of mains power north of the Daintree which may not be the only criteria that instigates land settlement as shown where it can be connected in the undeveloped Forest Creek area against Cow Bay where it is not available and yet growth with building is escalating—

- (1) Will he provide the actual costings of providing the Daintree Remote Area Power Supply including running cost and maintenance to all residents in the region?
- (2) Will he also provide a costing of the provision of a main power supply to the existing residents who have indicated an interest in having mains power connected?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

- (1) The Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment Study—Proposed Daintree Powerline undertaken by Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd on behalf of the Far North Queensland Electricity

Corporation, and published in June 1998, contains detailed costings covering a range of scenarios. I would refer you to section 7.4 (pp482-502)—Cost Benefit Analysis of Alternatives, and Appendix E—Preliminary Costs of Reticulation Options. This study provides an indicative range of costings for the scenarios presented.

- (2) Again I would refer the Honourable Member to the above study.

1920. Tallebudgera Recreation Camp

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (1/12/99)—

With reference to my Question Without Notice on 30 November concerning the proposed redevelopment of the Tallebudgera Recreation Camp—

- (1) Will he confirm that in 1998-99, his department had identified \$7m as its contribution towards the upgrade of the Tallebudgera Recreation Camp and asked Treasury to contribute another \$7m to that project?
- (2) Will he also confirm that Treasury not only knocked back his application for additional funding, but took the department's \$7m from its budget?
- (3) Will he seek to have Treasury's blatant grab of departmental funds overturned and ensure that these funds are returned to the department and rightly used to upgrade the Tallebudgera Recreation Camp?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): The Question was asked of Mr Gibbs former Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing. I respond in my capacity of Minister for Sport.

- (1) The Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing (DTSR) made a commitment to the redevelopment of the Tallebudgera Outdoor Recreation Centre. The first step toward this redevelopment has already been made through the purchase of the Playroom Nightclub, which has provided the land needed for expansion of the Tallebudgera site.

DTSR also looked toward the next stage of the redevelopment by examining the current priorities within its own budget and identifying possible funds which could be allocated to the project. It was proposed, through the Cabinet Budget Review Committee, that additional Treasury funding be provided toward this redevelopment.

- (2) The result from the Cabinet Budget Review Committee was that insufficient funds were available for the project within the 1999—2000 budget. Subsequently DTSR's funds identified were reallocated to support other major facility development within Queensland.

- (3) As stated previously, the Tallebudgera Outdoor Recreation Centre is seen as an icon within group camping facilities in Queensland. The redevelopment of Tallebudgera will go ahead when funds are available and the result will be a facility which will serve the needs of generations of Queenslanders to come and be a facility of which we can all be proud.

1921. Burnett River, Water Allocation Management Plan

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (1/12/99)—

With reference to the decision to streamline the Water Allocation Management Plan for the Burnett catchment—

- (1) When is the Burnett WAMP now scheduled for completion?
- (2) What impact will these changes have on the timing of studies designed to identify the best site and feasibility of a major water storage on the Burnett River?
- (3) Does the department still plan to identify the best site for a proposed major storage on the Burnett River within 12-24 months of his public announcement in June 1998, or will the department bring this decision forward in line with the improved WAMP deadline?
- (4) Will the commencement of the Impact Assessment Study for the proposed major storage on the Burnett River be bought forward as a result of the WAMP procedural changes?
- (5) Is he concerned that the Burnett River WAMP and the IAS will not be undertaken concurrently as was previously stated?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00):

- (1) The draft Burnett WAMP is scheduled to be released in April 2000, and finalised by July 2000 after allowing for public submissions and comments on the Draft.
- (2) The completion of the WAMP together with the completion of the parallel catchment studies will enable my Department of Natural Resources to move towards identification of the best strategy for future water resources development within the whole Burnett basin. At this stage it is not known whether a major storage will be consistent with the WAMP, but completion of the WAMP will enable earlier identification of an appropriate scale of development. After a preferred strategy has been identified, detailed feasibility studies will still be required on the preferred option(s).
- (3) My Department proposes to identify possible options within the timeframe.
- (4) My Department may commence the Impact Assessment Study (IAS), for options slightly earlier than previously proposed. The IAS will take approximately 18 months to complete to ensure appropriate community engagement and adequate time for assessment of such factors as seasonality in relation to flora and fauna studies.
- (5) Project evaluation will continue to proceed concurrently. The continuing implementation phase of the WAMP and the IAS are components of the process.

1922. Suncorp-Metway Stadium

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (1/12/99)—

With reference to his answer to my Question On Notice No. 1522 of 28 October concerning the make-up of the panel which assessed the tenders for the proposed super stadium in Brisbane and that eventually recommended Suncorp Metway Stadium—

- (1) On what dates did the assessment panel meet?
- (2) Did the Director-General, Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing attend all meetings; if not, on what dates was he not present and who represented him on those occasions?
- (3) Did any other persons deputise for other Directors-General; if so, on what dates did they attend and who were they?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): The Question on notice was asked of the former Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing, I am replying in my capacity as Minister for Sport.

(1) The CEO's Steering Committee established to undertake a site selection comparison met on the following dates: 30 March 1999; 4 May 1999; 10 June 1999; 16 July 1999; 18 August 1999. (2) The Director-General of the Department of Tourism, Sport & Racing chaired all meetings.

(3) The following officers were called upon to represent their Directors-General at meetings:

Terry Leighton, Executive-Director, Infrastructure Planning Directorate, Department of the Premier & Cabinet—30 March

Tony Bellas, Assistant Under Treasurer, Industry & Energy Division, Qld Treasury—30 March 1999

Alan Welsh, Director, Infrastructure Directorate, Department of Premier & Cabinet—4 May 1999

Barry Broe, Director, Transport Planning South East Queensland, Department of Transport—4 May 1999

Peter Dann, Director, Industry & Energy Division, Queensland Treasury—4 May 1999; 16 July 1999

Stuart Booker, Deputy Director-General, Department of State Development—4 May 1999; 10 June 1999

Glenn Munro, Principal Adviser, Infrastructure Directorate, Department of Premier & Cabinet—10 June 1999; 16 July 1999

Russell Murray, Principal Manager, Transport Planning South East Queensland, Department of Transport—10 June 1999

Mark Gray, Deputy Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury—10 June 1999

Terry Hogan, Deputy Director-General, Department of Premier & Cabinet—18 August 1999

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1923. Heavy Vehicles

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/12/99)—

With reference to the introduction of legislation preventing the parking of heavy and long vehicles in a built up area for more than one hour as part of the Australian Road Rules—

- (1) Is he aware of concerns of some heavy vehicle owners that the first advice about these changed requirements was the dropping of a leaflet in their letter box the week before introduction of these requirements?
- (2) What provision has been made by the State or Local Governments to provide off street parking areas for these vehicles?
- (3) What penalties will apply for the breaching of these requirements?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/1/00):

(1) During the 12 month period leading up to the introduction of the Australian Road Rules, extensive consultation did take place with stakeholders, including the Road Freight Industry Council, the Queensland Road Transport Association and the Queensland Bus Operators' Association on behalf of heavy vehicle operators about the new road rules including the heavy vehicle parking law. This law mirrors one which existed in Queensland up to a few years ago. This previous law was removed to allow local governments the opportunity to better manage truck parking. Unfortunately, the resulting increase in inappropriate and unsafe parking of heavy vehicles by irresponsible truck owners was of concern to the government, community and responsible truck owners alike.

(2) Most responsible truck owners have already made arrangements to provide adequate storage facilities for their equipment. Local governments are encouraged to develop local laws for adequately managing truck parking, in which case the Australia Road Rules law does not apply. Such local laws provide the opportunity to tailor truck parking laws to the location. Any concerned truck owners should be encouraged to discuss a suitable scheme with their local council.

(3) A local government may, under a local law, prescribe an amount as an infringement notice offence for a minor traffic offence committed in the local government's area, including heavy and long vehicle parking. I understand that at present these fines vary within each local government jurisdiction and would suggest that owners of heavy and long vehicles contact their local council to seek clarification of the fines in their area. However, where no local law is in existence, the penalty attaching to this offence under the ARR is 1 1/4 penalty units (\$75.00).

1924. Gympie Police Station

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (1/12/99)—

With reference to the recent study by Workplace Health and Safety officers into the conditions at the Gympie Police Station—

- (1) Is he aware of the finding of the study?

- (2) As a result of the study, when can a new police facility be expected to be built in Gympie, bearing in mind the availability of land adjacent to the existing police station, to alleviate the cramped and unsuitable working conditions currently being experienced?

Mr BARTON (4/1/00): My office has sought advice from the Queensland Police Service (QPS) on this matter and has been advised that a series of workplace inspections of the Gympie Station have been carried out in recent months. Issues identified as a result of the inspections have included insufficient floor area, ventilation, and front reception area security, shortcomings in lunchroom, toilets, and shower amenities, and a poorly performing roof. All of these matters are currently being addressed.

As the Honourable Member would be aware, the standard of police facilities varies greatly across the state. Despite record capital works budgets during the years of the Goss Labor Government, years of neglect and lack of funding for public infrastructure during the thirty-two years of conservative Government prior to 1989, has meant that there are many police facilities that remain less than adequate.

Like the Goss Labor Government, and unlike the Borbidge/Sheldon Government that froze capital works spending, the Beattie Labor Government is committed to maintaining capital spending and upgrading as many police facilities as possible each year.

In the last financial year alone, \$42.1 million was budgeted by the Beattie Labor Government for new and upgraded police stations and watchhouses. However, it is also important to appropriately balance police spending between bricks and mortar and greater numbers of police on the beat keeping our communities safe. This year, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) reached an historic milestone, in that for the first time, there are now more than 7,000 police officers serving across the state.

Contributing to this achievement was the unprecedented number of additional police that were employed; 363 officers, or 95 officers more than employed by the Coalition in the previous year. The Gympie Police District has shared in the increases. The Police to population ratio for Gympie has dropped from 1:584 on 1 November 1998 to 1:564 on 1 November 1999.

The QPS has acknowledged the difficulties experienced by staff at the Gympie Station and is accordingly taking the appropriate action to alleviate the problems. As well as some minor works currently being considered to improve conditions, suitable temporary accommodation is being sought for the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), the Juvenile Aid Bureau (JAB) and the District Traffic Branch (DTB) in the local area. Temporarily relocating these functions will allow planned internal renovations to be carried out to the front reception area and the lunchroom.

Following the removal of the CIB, JAB and DTB issues concerning problems identified with toilet conditions and the lack of a shower facility will also be addressed.

In addition, quotes are currently being sought to improve ventilation to the property storage area. It is anticipated that this work will be carried out shortly utilising funds put aside for this purpose in the current budget.

QPS is similarly awaiting quotes to replace or repair the roof of the Gympie Police Station. Action will be taken to address problems with the roof when the quotes are to hand.

I am advised by the QPS that the problems identified by recent workplace inspections referred to by the Honourable Member will be addressed in the mid-term by the extensive range of planned works as outlined above.

Although other capital work priorities have been identified for the present, and it is unlikely at this stage, that a new Gympie station will be constructed in the next few years, the needs of the Gympie community will continue to receive consideration by the Queensland Police Service and the Government within the context of regional and Statewide priorities.

1925. Local Governing Bodies Capital Works Subsidy Scheme

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (1/12/99)—

With reference to the Local Governing Bodies' Capital Works Subsidy Scheme—

What is the quantum of funds allocated to the Maroochy Shire Council for 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date)?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): The following allocations were made under the Local Governing Bodies' Capital Works Subsidy Scheme:

1994/95—	\$3,365,919
1995/96—	\$4,593,800
1996/97—	\$4,090,974
1997/98—	\$2,981,215
1998/99—	\$3,411,635
1999/2000—	\$10,000.

1926. State Development Department

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (1/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 1 January?

Mr ELDER (4/1/00): Please refer to the attached table. (Tables and attachments may be

obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1927. Community Renewal Program

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (1/12/99)—

With reference to the Community Renewal Program delivered through the Department of Housing—

Will he provide a breakdown and quantum of funds by project expended on non-housing construction/upgrades/maintenance under the Community Renewal Program for 1998-99, 1999-2000 (year to date) and 1999-2000 (anticipated)?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): See Attachment A for a breakdown of the funded projects under the 1998-1999 Community Renewal Program.

Projects have been submitted for Round 1 funding in 1999-2000 and assessment of these projects is under way.

Approval for the Garbutt projects, under Round 1 funding has recently been given, but no funds have yet been paid. These approved projects consist of:

- Garbutt Neighbourhood House Upgrade;
- Community Garden Development;
- Meenan Street Road Safety Enhancement;
- Public Arts Program—Garbutt;
- Garbutt Street Tree Planting;
- BMX Track—Garbutt;
- Mundy Creek Natureway/Access to Harold Phillips Park and the Castle Hill PCYC;
- PCYC Swimming Pool Heating and Lifeguard Project; and
- Melrose Park Upgrade.

Round 2 closed on the 10 December 1999 and Round 3 will close on 25 February 1999. At this stage, it is not possible to give an indication of anticipated expenditure of non-housing construction/upgrades/maintenance under the Community Renewal Program for 1999-2000.

Notional Allocations for 1999-2000 across the 12 renewal areas are as follows:

Manoora—	1.05M
Townsville—	1.05M
Inala—	1.7 M
Goodna—	1.0 M
Riverview—	1.5 M
Leichhardt—	1.25M
Loganlea—	0.75M
Woodridge—	1.55M
Kingston—	1.0 M
Eagleby—	1.3 M
Caboolture—	0.75M
Deception Bay—	1.1 M
TOTAL—	14.0M

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1928. Urban Renewal Program

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (1/12/99)—

With reference to the Urban Renewal Program delivered through the Department of Housing—

Will he provide a breakdown and quantum of funds by project expended on non-housing construction/upgrades/maintenance under the Urban Renewal Program for 1998-99, 1999-2000 (year to date) and 1999-2000 (anticipated)?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): See Attachment A for the detailed expenditure for non-housing construction/upgrade/maintenance under the Urban Renewal Program for requested financial years. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1929. Showground Capital Works Subsidy Program

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (1/12/99)—

With reference to the Showground Capital Works Subsidy Program—

What is the quantum of funds allocated to the Maroochy Shire Council for 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date)?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): The following allocations were made under the Local Governing Bodies' Capital Works Subsidy Scheme:

1994/95—	\$70,000
1995/96—	\$25,000
1996/97—	\$32,544
1997/98—	\$79,920
1998/99—	\$36,905
1999/2000—	\$46,124.

1930. Maroochy Shire Council

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (1/12/99)—

What is the quantum of all funds for road and drainage works allocated to the Maroochy Shire Council for 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date)?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): The following allocations were made under the Local Governing Bodies' Capital Works Subsidy Scheme:

1994/95—	\$789,288
1995/96—	\$862,534
1996/97—	\$848,245
1997/98—	\$833,356
1998/99—	\$865,006
1999/2000—	\$865,006

1931. Southport, High Street

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/12/99)—

When is the work on the widening and upgrading of High Street Southport, going to be completed, considering that this work is causing severe disruption and hardship to businesses in the area at a most inconvenient time in the run up to the Christmas holiday and shopping period?

Mr BREDHAUER (22/12/99): Widening and upgrading of High Street in Southport is scheduled for completion in July 2000. The construction work will cease on 23 December 1999 and will recommence on 4 January 2000 to avoid any disruption to the public within this period.

A number of strategies have been implemented to minimise disruption and hardship to businesses and the public in this area. The one kilometre long project is divided into three sections and will be constructed in three stages to minimise the impact on local traders as well as motorists. Extensive public consultations have been carried out in accordance with standard Department of Main Roads' practices. Elected representatives, property owners and businesses have been personally contacted to discuss the work program and any issues arising from construction work. In addition, brochures have been sent to people in the area. Public displays were exhibited in the Southport Mall, Gold Coast Hospital and Main Roads' South Coast—Hinterland District Office reception at 36-38 Cotton Street, Nerang.

Regular consultation with the public will continue in order to minimise any disruptions to businesses.

1932. Palliative Care

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Health (1/12/99)—

How much of the palliative care budget for 1998-99 was not spent?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): \$758,245 of Queensland's Palliative Care budget for 1998/99 was not spent in 1998/99 and will be rolled over into the 1999/00 financial year. A large proportion of this money was carried over pending finalisation of a tender process for the provision of services by the non-government sector in the Sunshine Coast area.

1933. Eumundi Bypass

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/12/99)—

With reference to the public meeting on 4 February at which the people of Eumundi voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Main Roads proposal on the Eumundi By-pass—

- (1) What is the current status of this Main Roads proposal in terms of the consultative process about this town by-pass?
- (2) When does he expect construction of this much needed project to commence?

Mr BREDHAUER (22/12/99): The public consultation associated with the planning and design

of this project has been completed. Further advice regarding roadworks will be provided to the community during the construction phase. Design is nearing completion, with only minor issues yet to be resolved. It is planned that construction will commence at the beginning of the next financial year.

1934. Development Incentive Scheme

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (1/12/99)—

With reference to the Development Incentive Scheme (DIS) and all outstanding applications to this scheme and the stimulus it has provided to regional development in Queensland—

Will he advise if he has issued a directive (a) to QRAA to cease processing DIS applications and (b) to officers of his department to cease assisting landowners and approving land and water management plans?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00):

(a) No attempt to issue a directive occurred as I have no authority to direct QRAA which is the responsibility of the treasurer.

I wrote to the Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) on 5 October 1999 requesting that processing of applications under the pilot Development Incentive Scheme be held while I sought detailed information on the nature and extent of the proposed developments associated with the Scheme.

(b) I also requested that my Department of Natural Resources defer processing and approval of Land and Water Management Plans associated with applications under the Scheme. Pending a report to me on the state of the application and potential environmental impacts.

I have subsequently determined that while there were a number of developments in the Condamine-Balonne for which assistance had been sought under DIS, most were either already under construction or had been completed.

I have now requested that my Department recommence processing of applications for Land and Water Management Plans and have indicated that my Department should advise QRAA that the outstanding applications under the pilot Scheme may be processed in the normal manner.

1935. WorkCover

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/12/99)—

With reference to his answer to Estimates question taken on notice No. 4 Part 2, where he states "WorkCover advises that in 1998-99, 86 employees accepted VERs at a cost of \$3.3m and in 1999-2000 WorkCover has estimated that 208 employees will leave the organisation with VERs at an estimated cost of \$5.8m"—

What reasons has WorkCover given him to explain why the average cost of the proposed 208 VERs is less than the average cost of the 86 VERs offered to date?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): I am advised by WorkCover that the estimated cost of VERs in the 1999/2000 financial year has been slightly adjusted and is now \$6m.

Of the 86 VERs in 1998/99 a significant proportion involved senior people paid at the higher levels who, because of the length of their service, were entitled to the maximum severance component of 52 weeks. As a consequence, the average cost has come down from approximately \$38,000 to \$29,667 for the 1999/2000 financial year.

1936. Internet Access

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/12/99)—

With reference to his press release of 25 November where he indicates that the State has fallen behind the rest of Australia in terms of connecting on-line—

What reasons has his department given to him to explain and quantify this decline?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): Some 475,000 or 19.4% of adult Queenslanders accessed the Internet in the 12 months to February 1998, whereas the national average was 23% for the same period.

1937. Training Incentives

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/12/99)—

With reference to his media release of 17 November in which he states that "a major part of the proposed package is training and skills development for public sector workers" and as the Government's three per cent per annum offer will probably not keep public sector wages abreast of expected inflation levels over the next three years—

What incentive is the Government offering its workers to upgrade their skills?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): I do not accept the premise of the question that the three per cent per annum offer will probably not keep public sector wages abreast of expected inflation levels over the next three years.

1938. Coomera River, Dredging

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/12/99)—

With reference to dredging the Coomera River to the Gold Coast Marine Precinct—

- (1) What is the minimum depth target?
- (2) What is the minimum width target?
- (3) What is the projected completion date?
- (4) Have any rock ledges or indurated sand deposits been identified and what effects, if any, will this have?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/1/00):

- (1) The purpose of the dredging is to restore channel depths previously provided by Sanctuary Cove and the Gold Coast City Council. It is proposed to dredge the channel to a depth of 3.5 metres below LAT (Lowest Astronomical Tide).
- (2) The nominal channel width is 40 metres.
- (3) The expected completion date for the dredging is late March 2000.
- (4) No.

1939. Prostitution

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (1/12/99)—

Will he provide details of the number of people, aged 17 years and under, who have been convicted for prostitution offences for each year for the past five years and will he provide details of the age, gender, the conviction and what penalty was imposed in each case?

Mr FOLEY (4/1/00): Juvenile justice is within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care.

1940. Apprentices, Motor Vehicle Repair Industry

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/12/99)—

Are the number of apprentices in the motor vehicle repair industry at a satisfactory level; if not, what action is being taken to ensure that there are adequate apprentice opportunities in an industry which increasingly engages contract labour?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00):

The Government is concerned about the skills shortage in this important industry. To ensure there are adequate apprenticeship opportunities available in the future, the Government has identified the automotive industry as being in a skill shortage that is crucial to the development of the State's economy. This means that private sector employers and group training schemes can receive an incentive payment of up to \$2,000 under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiative when they employ an additional apprentice or trainee in this industry.

To date, the State Government has provided over \$1M to private sector employers in the automotive industry since the commencement of the Initiative in October 1998. In job terms, there has been an additional 590 apprentices and trainees employed in this industry since that date.

1941. Vegetation Management

Dr PRENZLER asked the Premier (2/12/99)—

With reference to the Government's proposed vegetation management legislation—

- (1) Will he confirm how much Federal funding has been requested?
- (2) How will this funding be allocated?
- (3) Does the Government have a contingency plan in the event that funding is not forthcoming?

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99):

(1) As I have indicated publicly, my Government has requested Commonwealth funding of approximately \$100m to assist with the implementation of new vegetation management strategies.

(2) It is proposed that Commonwealth funding will be used to provide compensation to landholders who may be adversely affected by the new arrangements, for the purpose of improving land management practices and for enterprise adjustment.

(3) I have recently been in contact with the Prime Minister and his relevant senior Minister regarding Commonwealth funding for the new arrangements. I can assure the Honourable Member that my Government is determined to achieve a fair and equitable outcome in regard to this matter.

1942. Police Resources

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (2/12/99)—

- (1) What is the police strength of the southern police region?
- (2) What is the break-up for each station of uniform and plain clothes officers?
- (3) How many police are currently stationed at the following stations—Esk, Toogoolawah, Blackbutt, Rosewood, Lowood, Marburg, Gatton and Laidley?
- (4) Are there any plans for increasing police numbers in this region?

Mr BARTON (4/1/00):

(1) As at 30 November 1999, the Southern Region, with a police of strength of 716 officers, was 17 officers over the funded strength for the region.

(2 & 3) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(4) The latest review of the Police Staffing Model has resulted in approval for an additional allocation of 34 officers to the Southern Region. The mid-2000 target will be increased accordingly. The Assistant Commissioner for the Region is responsible for the allocation of additional staff.

1943. Armstrongs Beach, Aquaculture Project

Mr BLACK asked the Premier (2/12/99)—

With reference to the aquaculture project at Armstrongs Beach—

Has his Government given any concessions or funds in the way of loans or grants in any way, shape or form to the owners Goldilands Pty Ltd?

Mr BEATTIE (24/12/99): The Department of State Development and the Queensland Trade and

Investment Office in Taiwan have advised me that they have not provided any financial assistance or other incentives to Goldilands Pty Ltd.

1944. Rail Corridors, Fencing

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/12/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 1451 on 27 October and to his answer in which he advised that there isn't a legal obligation for Queensland Rail (QR) to maintain a boundary fence between the rail corridor and a road corridor and I point out that QR spent an enormous amount of money in the last 20 years replacing much of the fence between the Western Line and the Warrego Highway through the electorate of Western Downs, much of this fencing has since been destroyed unnecessarily by QR maintenance crews seeking access to the rail line—

- (1) Was this fencing erected unnecessarily?
- (2) In the future will this fencing be repaired, dismantled or left to be further damaged by QR maintenance crews?

Mr BREDHAUER (22/12/99):

(1) QR is ever mindful of ensuring that it maximises the benefit from expenditure on maintenance for the users of the railway line.

(2) Whereas in the past, fencing between the road reserve and the rail line has been provided, in the future, QR will focus its maintenance dollars on meeting its legal obligation to fence between the railway line and private property. QR will not allocate funding on maintaining the fence between the rail and road corridor.

1945. Maryborough Hospital; Hervey Bay Hospital

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Health (2/12/99)—

With reference to Maryborough and Hervey Bay hospitals' staff—

- (1) During the past 12 months, what professional staff have been appointed to each of Maryborough and Hervey Bay Base Hospitals?
- (2) What are their responsibilities?
- (43) Which hospital or hospitals were they appointed to serve?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00):

(1) The number of professional staff permanently appointed to Fraser Coast within the past 12 months total 55. Staff placed predominantly at Hervey Bay Hospital include five medical specialists and 21 other medical officers. Staff placed predominantly at Maryborough Hospital include four medical specialists, 19 other medical officers and six allied health professionals.

(2) Their responsibilities are to provide patient care.

(3) Most of the staff appointed to Hervey Bay Hospital work across the district. The five medical specialists that work at Hervey Bay Hospital work

across the district. The four medical specialists that have been appointed to Maryborough Hospital work predominantly at that site. The other medical officers rotate between the two sites for clinical terms. Five of the six allied health professionals work predominantly at Maryborough Hospital with one working across the district.

1946. Cape York Land Council Workshop

Mr NELSON asked the Premier (2/12/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of a workshop on the new partnership plan being organised by the Cape York Land Council to be held in Palm Cove on 14, 15 and 16 December?
- (2) Will the State be contributing in any way?
- (3) How many participants are expected to attend and what will it cost?
- (4) Who came up with the idea of holding this meeting at a five star resort and what message does this send to the disadvantaged communities on the Cape?

Mr BEATTIE (24/12/99):

(1) I understand that a forum, which was organised by Indigenous organisations, was held in Palm Cove, Cairns from 14 to 16 December 1999.

(2) The Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading, along with two officers from my Department attended the forum on 16 December 1999. My Government has provided limited funds for the meeting, based on a funding application from the Cape York Land Council for accommodation costs for delegates which were not met by the Indigenous organisations.

(3) The Cape York Land Council indicated that 130 people attended the forum, including representatives of organisations dealing with children's welfare, education, and domestic violence, as well as Cape York Community Councils.

(4) The forum was organised by the Cape York Land Council, the Apunipima Cape York Health Council, the Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, the Peninsula Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Regional Council, the Tharpuntoo Aboriginal Legal Service and the Aboriginal Coordinating Council.

1947. Cannon Hill Abattoir

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Primary Industries (2/12/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 1534 of 29 October whereby he gave an answer of one word, 'No'—

Will the current pork line be decommissioned and sold off or will it be allowed to remain at Cannon Hill?

Mr PALASZCZUK (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (24/12/99): Yes, the pork line will be decommissioned and yes it is proposed to sell the line.

1948. Prawn Hatcheries

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (2/12/99)—

With reference to prawn hatcheries—

- (1) How many prawn hatcheries are located in Queensland?
- (2) What percentage are privately owned, what percentage are Government owned and what percentage are joint venture?
- (3) What species are being bred and in what quantities per species, per year?
- (4) What subsidies are provided/available for privately owned or joint venture operations?
- (5) Is any expansion planned in Government projects or Government funding encouragement to private enterprises?

Mr PALASZCZUK (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (24/12/99):

1. There are ten (10) prawn hatcheries in Queensland.
2. All prawn hatcheries supplying the aquaculture industry are privately owned. The Department of Primary Industries owns and operates the Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Centre which conducts small scale hatchery experiments of relevance to the industry, but does not produce prawns for commercial distribution. There are no State Government joint venture prawn hatcheries in Queensland.
3. There are four species of prawn being bred in Queensland, with a total farmgate value at end harvest of \$30 million in 1997/98. Production figures for the black tiger are 1 544 tonnes (\$23.1 million), Kuruma prawns 143 tonnes, (\$6.8 million), with banana prawns and brown tiger prawns together totalling 12 tonnes.
4. There are no direct cash subsidies provided to prawn hatcheries but the Department of Primary Industries provides professional services in the areas of prawn breeding research, transport technology and disease diagnosis. These services are assisting the industry to grow and prosper.
5. The Department will continue to support the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry throughout the State via collaborative research, development, extension and service activities. Aquaculture is recognised as a valuable provider of regional development and employment opportunities and is also a growing export earner.

1949. Mining Leases

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (2/12/99)—

With reference to the dire circumstances facing small miners as a result of native title—

- (1) How many mining tenures have been granted to small miners since June 1998?
- (2) How many small miners are awaiting the granting of mining tenure/s?

(3) Given many small miners are now out of ore, what action is he taking to expedite the granting of mining tenures?

(4) Will the Government consider offering assistance such as low interest loans to those small miners who have run out of ore and are awaiting the granting of a mining tenure/s?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

(1) 47 mining leases and 14 mining claims have been granted to small miners since 1 July 1998. The Government has taken the plight of the small miners seriously. It has advanced the "right to negotiate" process for 183 mining leases and mining claims for small miners across Queensland. This has started to produce results.

Agreement was reached for the grant of 20 mining leases and claims in the Winton district. Negotiations are well advanced for agreement to grant 36 mining leases and 36 mining claims in the Yowah area within the Quilpie mining district. A positive benefit for future mining in these areas is the Government's assistance with the negotiation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements for each of these areas, which are now well advanced. The "right to negotiate" processes for the small miners' applications on the Palmer Goldfield, at Chillagoe and in other areas within the Mareeba, Georgetown and Emerald mining districts are continuing.

(2) 143 Small miners have applied for mining leases and mining claims which have not yet been granted.

(3) There are no mechanisms for Government to provide low interest loans directly to miners.

1950. Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education (2/12/99)—

With reference to the concerns that have been expressed to him regarding the serviceability of the ER Duke and the critical role this vessel plays in the programs offered by the Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre—

(1) What will he do to guarantee that this vessel, or a viable alternative vessel will be in place for the centre's use in the year 2000 and beyond?

(2) Will he guarantee the Government's support for this key learning centre into the future?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): I have requested officers from Education Queensland to prepare options related to the replacement of the ER Duke as a high priority as the vessel will be decommissioned as at 24 April 2000.

Education Queensland is committed to the ongoing operation of the Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre and is aware of the unique education opportunities provided for students by the on board programs offered by the centre.

1951. Child Abuse

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (2/12/99)—

With reference to Recommendation No. 4 of the Forde Inquiry into Abuse of Children—

What targets have been set by the Government for the prevention of child abuse and what evidence does she have to reflect the effectiveness of the strategies that she has introduced?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00): The Beattie Government increased child protection spending by \$100M over four years in the 1999-2000 Budget. This is the largest injection of recurrent funding into child protection by any State Government in Queensland.

As outlined in Recommendation No 4 of the Forde Inquiry into Abuse of Children these additional resources will focus on prevention and early intervention, and ensuring that the range of family support, parenting skills, and early intervention responses is enhanced.

A significant amount of funds will go to non-government services working with vulnerable children and families to implement preventive strategies such as those recommended by Forde, including support and practical assistance for at-risk families, respite out-of-home-care, and parent education and support.

1952. Driver Licences

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/12/99)—

With reference to the objective of reducing young driver road deaths, new rules to take effect in New South Wales from 1 July 2000 will require new drivers to display P-plates for three years and pass two extra tests to obtain their full licence with the minimum age to become a fully licensed driver being raised from 18 years to 20 years and since uniform road rules will apply throughout Australia from 1 December, does he contemplate the adoption of similar rules for new drivers as will operate in our neighbouring State?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00): The Queensland Government is committed to reducing the death and injury rates of young drivers. Queensland already has in place a requirement for a driver to be 20 years or older before being able to obtain an open driver licence. This change and changes to the length of time drivers must hold their provisional licence were made in December 1990. The legislative changes raised the age to obtain an open driver licence from 18 years to 20 years and set minimum continuous periods for the issue of a provisional licence as follows.

Novice driver age group—Minimum continuous period

Drivers under 23 years of age—3 year

Drivers 23 years of age and under 24 years—2 years

Drivers 24 years or older—1 year

On the issue of practical testing, the Queensland Government introduced new practical testing arrangements for novice drivers in September 1998. The impact of this change is that Queensland novice

drivers are now better prepared and more skilled for real world driving.

Queensland has no current intention of reintroducing compulsory P-plates for provisional drivers. Whilst P-plates may appear to offer road safety benefits, there is no clear research evidence to support this.

1953. Rural Fire Brigades

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (2/12/99)—

With reference to her decision to transfer the 16 rural fire brigades in the Hinchinbrook Shire out of the Charters Towers Rural Fire District into the new Innisfail District—

- (1) When and how were officers from these 16 brigades consulted prior to the transfer decision being taken?
- (2) When was the transfer decision taken, when did it come into effect and when and how were the 16 brigades officially notified?
- (3) When was funding/financial administration for the Hinchinbrook Shire brigades transferred from the Charters Towers District to the Innisfail District?
- (4) When were maps identifying the changed rural fire district boundaries in that region produced and where were they distributed?

Mrs ROSE (5/1/00):

(1) Consultation occurred with various Brigades and members of the Association in early 1999. Formal consultation took place in May 1999 between the Rural Fire Service and the Rural Fire Brigades Association regarding Rural Fire boundary changes across the state, including changes to the Charters Towers district.

The Rural Fire Brigades Association represents all brigades in Queensland.

The changes, which were agreed to by the Association, are designed to improve the level of service to individual rural fire brigades and to ease the administrative workload of District Inspectors.

Under the changes, District Inspectors will have on average 20 brigades less to administer. This will allow them to spend more time and resources on the brigades for which they are responsible.

The Association reconfirmed its support for the boundary changes in September 1999.

Similar changes have been implemented successfully elsewhere in the State.

(2) The Regional Inspector North convened a public meeting in Ingham on 29 July 1999 to advise brigades of the changes to Rural Fire Brigade boundaries. This meeting was well attended and included a number of representatives from Hinchinbrook Shire brigades. Brigades in the Hinchinbrook Shire were each sent a letter inviting them to attend this meeting.

The District Inspector Charters Towers was given the responsibility for implementing the boundary changes and for consultation with affected brigades.

Any remaining concerns with the boundary changes in the Hinchinbrook Shire should be resolved with the appointment of the new District Inspector Innisfail in mid January 2000, who will consult with individual brigades on how the changes will take place.

(3) The 1999/2000 Rural Fire Service Budget provided for two additional District Officers in North Queensland. Pending the appointment of a permanent officer to Innisfail, the District Inspector Charters Towers is responsible for the administrative, financial and operational management of the Charters Towers and Innisfail Districts. Responsibility for the Innisfail District will transfer to the new District Inspector in January 2000.

(4) Maps of the new boundaries for Innisfail and Charters Towers were forwarded to the North Region Area Office in October 1999. The maps, together with a covering letter, were forwarded to the brigades in December 1999.

1954. KPMG Consultancies

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr BARTON (4/1/00):

(a) Probity auditor for the Department's tender process for the Borallon Correctional Centre Management Contract.

(b) KPMG Dr Bob Grice and Phillip Hennessy.

(c) Maximum cost of \$16950.

(d) Approximately 10 months from 6 December 1999.

(e) A written report will be submitted to the Director-General at the conclusion of the consultancy.

(f) Not advertised. Expressions of interest sought from four (4) major consulting firms as is permitted under State Purchasing Policy.

1955. KPMG Consultancies

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): Department of Public Works—See Attachment A for the (a)

nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999 for the Department of Public Works. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Department of Housing—The Department of Housing has not engaged KPMG as a consultant between 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999.

1956. KPMG Consultancies

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by her department/s—

Will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00): The following table details the answer to the Member's question: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1957. KPMG Consultancies

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99): (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) A table reflecting details of KPMG consultancies engaged by the agencies in my portfolio from 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999 is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1958. KPMG Consultancies

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the

consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00):

(a) The Department has a contract with KPMG Consulting to conduct a public benefit test (PBT) on section 930 of the Local Government Act 1993. This consultancy is being run as part of a wider review of anti-competitive provisions in the LGA required under the National Competition Policy. A PBT is a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the costs and benefits of the restriction/s compared to alternative means of meeting the same objective as the legislation.

(b) The consultancy contract is with KPMG Consulting utilising Brisbane based staff. However, KPMG will be utilising the expertise of Maunsell McIntyre through inclusion of Tim Whan on the project team. The project team comprises: Peter Ball, Partner; Stephen Lonie, Partner; Brendan Rynne, Consultant; Kristel Whitaker, Consultant; Craig McGrath, Consultant; and Tim Whan, Transport Economist with Maunsell McIntyre

(c) The total fee for the consultancy contract is \$41,200.

(d) The consultancy commenced on 19 November 1999 and is currently running. The estimated date of completion is late February 2000. However, in days the contract is equivalent to 31 consulting days.

(e) A detailed written proposal was submitted by KPMG Consulting in the tendering process. A draft and a final PBT report is to be provided by KPMG Consulting as part of the contract requirements.

(f) The consultancy was not publicly advertised. However, invitations to submit a tender to conduct the PBT on section 930 of the LGA were extended to six of the twelve firms which make up a panel of pre-qualified providers for National Competition Policy reviews established by Queensland Treasury through a competitive tendering process. The six were selected on the basis of having the necessary mix of skills and experience to conduct a legislation review. Four bids were received by the closing date and KPMG's bid was assessed as the best against a range of criteria.

1959. KPMG Consultancies

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by her department/s—

Will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00): For the period 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999, KPMG has not been engaged as a consultant for Families Youth & Community Care Queensland or Disability Services Queensland. However, KPMG was engaged in May 1999 to undertake, on a contract basis, an audit of a community organisation at a cost of \$3,500.

1960. KPMG Consultancies

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): Education Queensland has advised me that KPMG has been engaged to undertake one consultancy during the period in question. The details are as follows:

(a) Market Research to identify the perceptions/views of the Queensland population regarding education

(b) KPMG and Fran Thorn.

(c) \$391,100

(d) Minimum 75 consulting days

(e) Written report to be submitted in due course.

(f) No—The tender was limited to four organisations with demonstrated expertise in the area.

It should be noted that this information has been obtained from the Strategic Procurement Section's Consultancy Register and is based on the information available at this time. However, information on the register regarding individual consultancies is subject to change due to changes in the scope, nature and timelines of some projects.

1961. KPMG Consultancies

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00):

Queensland Department of Main Roads

(a) Consultancy/Analysis services on Main Roads' ten year Finance Planning Project and attendance at workshop on 5 February 1999.

- (b) KPMG—Mr S Lonie.
 (c) \$2,250.00.
 (d) One day.
 (e) No (analytical and technical advice only during workshop session).
 (f) No.
- (a) Probity review—Logan Road Reconstruction.
 (b) KPMG, Phil Hennessy.
 (c) \$20,742.00
 (d) Six weeks.
 (e) Yes.
 (f) No.
- (a) Probity review—Gateway Arterial and Bruce Highway
 (b) KPMG—R A Grice.
 (c) \$1,456.90.
 (d) Five hours.
 (e) Yes.
 (f) No.
- (a) Probity Audit for the selection of Service Centres on the Pacific Motorway (Logan to Nerang)
 (b) KPMG—R A Grice/P A Hennessy.
 (c) \$1,0024.00.
 (d) 10 July 1998—11 December 1998
 Probity Auditor = 31.8 hrs
 Senior Auditor = 5.0 hrs
 Secretarial Support = 1.4 hrs
 (e) Yes.
 (f) This consultancy was not publicly advertised as the brief required specialist advice in relation to probity issues associated with the establishment of service centres, and the initial estimate of fees was for less than \$10,000.
- (a) Probity Audit—Edmonton Cane Railway Embankment
 (b) KPMG—R A Grice.
 (c) \$17,325.10
 (d) 54 hours.
 (e) Yes.
 (f) No.
- Queensland Transport
- (a) Financial analysis study for the Brisbane Light Rail Project.
 (b) KPMG, David McDougall.
 (c) Total cost: \$104,313.
 (d) 10 February-30 September 1999.
 (e) Yes.
 (f) The consultancy was publicly advertised 6 January 1999.
- (a) Investigate the framework in which the division delivers the aids to navigation program. The desired outcome of the consultancy is to find ways to improve the system based on established business principles.
 (b) KPMG:
 Project Director: Michael Hiller
 Project Consultant: Peter Ball
 Project Consultant: Susan Palmer
 (c) \$11,895
 + \$15,000
 = \$26,895
 Estimate cost: \$30,000
 Consultancy not finished.
- (d) Estimated Days of engagement: 30
 Consultancy not finished.
 (e) Report in Draft form.
 Consultancy not finished.
 (f) Due to the knowledge of Maritime's business that KPMG acquired in the execution of the Asset Management consultancy, the related nature of the current task and the cost saving in retaining their services, KPMG were requested to submit a tender for the "Manager Commercial" consultancy.
- (a) Maintenance of Taxi Fare Cost Index
 (b) KPMG Consultants. Principal Consultant—Anne Maree Watson
 (c) \$6722.00
 (d) Unknown.
 (e) A written report and spreadsheets were provided on movements in the cost of operating a taxi for the quarter.
 (f) Yes.
- (a) Asset Management—The asset acquisition process within the program and the role of the stores in the process; operation of the Chester street store; available options for asset acquisition other than purchasing.
 (b) KPMG:
 Project Director: Michael Hiller
 Project Consultant: Peter Ball
 Project Consultant: Vivien Butler
 (c) \$14,000.00
 \$17,000.00
 \$13,715.27
 +\$15,000.00
 =\$59,715.27
 Consultancy finished.
 Price quoted \$53,000.00
 (d) 50 days approximately. Consultancy finished.
 (e) Asset Management Report was completed November 1998—consultancy finished.
 (f) Offer was advertised—closing time for all offers was 23 January 1998
- (a) Review of pricing methodology for Maritime products and services
 (b) KPMG:
 Project Director: Michael Hiller
 Project Consultant: Peter Hoare
 (c) \$10,084
 +\$3,395
 =\$13,479
 Consultancy finished.
 (d) Approximately 10 days.
 Consultancy finished.
 (e) A report was written. Consultancy finished.
 (f) The pricing study was carried out as a sub component of the Asset Management consultancy that KPMG already were engaged in.
- (a) Competition impact review of Marine pilotage legislation.
 (b) KPMG:
 Project Consultant: Susan Palmer
 (c) \$6,228.
 Consultancy finished.
 (d) Approximately 3 days. Consultancy finished.
 (e) A report was written. Consultancy finished.
 (f) No.

1962. KPMG Consultancies

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by her department/s—

Will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr ROBERTSON (Minister for Emergency Services) (5/1/00): The Department of Emergency Services engaged KPMG for two minor consultancies between 26 June 1998 and 1 December 1999. Details of these consultancies are attached (refer Attachment 1). (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1963. KPMG Consultancies

Mr SEENEY asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr ELDER (4/1/00): Please refer to the attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1964. KPMG Consultancies

Mr LINGARD asked the Treasurer (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr HAMILL (12/1/00): (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1965. KPMG Consultancies

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00): During the period 26 June 1998 to 1 December 1999 inclusive, KPMG was not engaged by my Department of Natural Resources to provide consultancy services.

For the same period my Environmental Protection Agency contracted KPMG in consultancies as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1966. KPMG Consultancies

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Primary Industries (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr PALASZCZUK (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (24/12/99): For the period 26 June 1998 to 1 December 1999, 3 Consultancy engagements were provided by KPMG to the Department of Primary Industries. The relevant information that you requested has been retrieved from the Department's Consultancy Register and is attached for your information. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1967. KPMG Consultancies

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mrs ROSE (Minister for Tourism and Racing) (4/1/00): During the period 26 June 1998 to 1 December 1999, KPMG was engaged by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing on a consultancy basis on two separate occasions. Consultancy details are contained in the attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1968. KPMG Consultancies

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (2/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr FOLEY (4/1/00): Details of consultancies where the firm KPMG was engaged are set out in Attachment A. In relation to question (f) the guidelines of the State Purchasing Policy have been followed. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1969. Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Mrs SHELDON asked the Premier (2/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr BEATTIE (24/12/99):

- (1) There are no staff of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet employed in my Ministerial Office. However, there are four public servants from other departments employed in my Ministerial Office.
- (2) The four public servants from other departments are employed in the following positions:

Deputy Principal Media Adviser, with a salary range of AO8-SO1. This position is entitled to receive the full rental cost of residential telephone installation, along with an agreed percentage of telephone calls, which reflects the business component of such calls. This position is also given the option of making a superannuation salary sacrifice.

Adviser, with a salary range of AO6-AO7.

Assistant Adviser, with a salary range of AO4-AO5.

Administrative Officer, with a salary range of AO1-AO3.

(3) A position description for each of these four positions is Attachment One.

(4) The Deputy Principal Media Adviser was appointed on 21 July 1998, the Adviser and the Assistant Adviser were appointed on 6 July 1998 and the Administrative Officer was appointed on 27 July 1998.

(5) There are currently no ministerial vacancies within the Office of the Premier. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1970. State Development Department

Mr HEGARTY asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (2/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr ELDER (23/12/99):

- (1) None.
- (2) n/a
- (3) n/a
- (4) n/a
- (5) n/a

1971. Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning Department

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (2/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?

- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, and Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00):

1. One.
2. AO7 (1)
3. Liaison Officer

The position description was approved by the Director-General on 21 July 1998 and reviewed in February 1999 prior to advertisement.

4. The officer was appointed on 17 June 1999.

The position was advertised in the Government Gazette and the Courier Mail, with applications closing on 8 March 1999. Full merit recruitment and selection procedures as required under the Public Service Act 1996 were followed.

5. There are no other such positions.

1972. Treasury Department, Staffing

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (2/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr HAMILL (12/1/00): This question was previously answered in a response to Question on Notice No. 1064.

1973. South Burnett, Bye Rail Spur

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/12/99)—

- (1) Will he confirm the closure of the Bye rail spur in the South Burnett in the middle of the grain harvest with 20,000 tonnes of grain stored at the depot?
- (2) Is he aware that this grain will now need to be moved by B double trucks operating 24 hours a day?
- (3) Is this closure part of a strategy to reduce business on the Kingaroy-Theebine line to justify its closure?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/1/00):

- (1) The Rail Taskforce established by Cabinet in 1993, identified in its report in November 1993 that the Bye rail spur off the Theebine to Kingaroy branch line was to be mothballed in 1994.

(2) QR received a request regarding the clearance of grain from the Bye depot in November 1999, to allow for the intake of the new season crop. The track was not in serviceable condition, consequently QR, as part of its ongoing commitment to the grain industry, arranged road transport for the clearance of grain from the Bye depot to the Port of Brisbane.

Minimal maintenance was carried out between 22 and 24 November 1999 to enable the clearance of six trainloads of wheat to Port by rail. First railings from Bye took place on 30 November 1999, with further trains scheduled over the next few weeks.

(3) QR continues maintaining the Kingaroy to Theebine line to a safe working standard and meeting its commercial obligation to the grain industry by continuing to provide a rail transport service.

Negotiations are well advanced between Queensland Transport and QR for the funding of ongoing maintenance for this line.

1974. Ballymore Stadium

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (2/12/99)—

With reference to the current redevelopment work being carried out on Ballymore Stadium and the Government's financial commitments of \$3.6m in 1999-2000 and \$2.714m in subsequent years—

- (1) What work will be completed by the total expenditure of \$6.314m and when will each phase of the redevelopment be completed?
- (2) Has any agreement been reached with the Queensland Rugby Union concerning the transfer of major games to the redeveloped Suncorp/Metway Stadium; if so, which games are proposed to be transferred?
- (3) Is the Ballymore redevelopment funding being provided directly from Treasury funds, as previously agreed, or is the funding now coming from the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund managed by the Division of Sport and Recreation within the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing?

Mrs ROSE (Minister for Tourism and Racing) (4/1/00): The Question on Notice was asked of Mr Gibbs former Minister for Tourism Sport and Racing. I am responding in my capacity as Minister for Sport.

(1) \$9.0M has been committed to the redevelopment of Ballymore, not \$6.314 as stated by Mr Healy. This includes \$2.2M to date, \$1.5M for the 1999-2000 financial year and a balance of \$5.3M for subsequent years. Work completed includes:

Upgrade to corporate facilities in the western stand

Master-planning, Preliminary design and Design development

Community consultation

Traffic management planning

Preliminary Headworks

Work currently in progress includes:

reconstruction and returfing of the main pitch.

reconstruction and turfing of the secondary fields.

Upgrading of lighting

The proposed completion of the works is:

1999-2000—Gymnasium; Pitch contract; West grandstand, Stage 3; Lighting to Pitch No 3.

2000-2002—To be confirmed pending Heads of Agreement.

(2) Agreement with the Queensland Rugby Union (QRU) has to be finalised pending Heads of Agreement for the Major Stadium. There is a current agreement with the QRU that major international tests will be played at Suncorp Stadium. Further transfer of games will be the subject of the Heads of Agreement negotiations.

(3) Funding will be provided through both Treasury and the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund.

1975. Bundaberg, Oral Health Services

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health (2/12/99)—

With reference to the inordinate times patients are waiting for oral health services in the Bundaberg district—

- (1) Has the review of oral health services been finalised?
- (2) Is the Health Department prepared to publicly release the findings of this report?
- (3) When will the Government implement any findings of this report?
- (4) Will the Government now consider out-sourcing some dental procedures to bring the dental health waiting list to manageable levels?
- (5) Is the Health Department prepared to increase funding to this service and other outpatients services which have appointment waiting times well over 12 months?
- (6) Will she admit that the situation in Bundaberg has deteriorated to a point that ranks it among the worst in Queensland?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00):

(1) The Bundaberg Health Service District conducted a review of Oral Health Services in August 1999. The Review's report was distributed to dental staff and the District Health Council in November 1999.

(2) The review was conducted as a management tool with a view to identifying opportunities for improving service delivery.

(3) An implementation plan is currently being developed.

(4) Outsourcing of emergency work unable to be undertaken during scheduled public emergency sessions has been occurring since 1997/8. There has been an increase in the ability of the district to outsource emergencies in 1999/2000 with four additional private dentists (now a total of five) willing to be contracted to provide this service. Outsourcing to the private sector is more costly than

public dental care. However, the district will continue to use private outsourcing to maximise available treatment whenever dental staff vacancies occur.

(5) Funding for Oral Health Services in the Bundaberg Health Service District has increased 13% over the period from 1995/6 to 1999/2000.

(6) I acknowledge that the wait for general dental care at Bundaberg Health Service District is currently at an unacceptable level but following the service review I expect that this will change quite quickly. Bundaberg Health Service District residents can be assured that emergency dental care is given priority. An emergency clinic is held Monday to Friday except public holidays and patients with urgent dental problems are treated within 24 hours. Queensland Health is attempting to assist with dentist vacancies to address the waiting list problems. Two of the six bonded dentist graduates this year will be placed in Bundaberg and will commence in January 2000. The district will also use private outsourcing to assist with emergency dental services whenever dentist vacancies occur.

1976. Pests and Diseases

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (2/12/99)—

With reference to the Animal and Plant Health Services Output Statement in his 1999-2000 Ministerial Portfolio Statement where it is listed that three response plans for high risk pests and disease threats were completed in 1998-99 and two are projected for completion in 1999-2000—

- (1) What pests and diseases are these for?
- (2) Why will only two plans be completed in 1999-2000 instead of three?
- (3) What was the budget for this program in 1998-99 and what is the budget for 1999-2000?

Mr PALASZCZUK (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (24/12/99):

1. In 1998/99 emergency response plans were developed for banana black Sigatoka, melon fly and banana Panama disease. In 1999/2000 response plans will be developed for exotic fruit flies in Torres Strait and fireblight in apples and pears.

2. Generic response plans for emergency response to pest and disease threats to both animals and plants are now well established. Detailed response plans for specific major high-risk animal diseases have all been completed under the national AUSVETPLAN. While there a large number of pest and disease threats to plants that have been identified and specific response plans are yet to be completed, the most serious threats have been addressed in the plans to date. Greater priority is being given this year on establishing the effectiveness of the existing generic and specific response plans. This is being undertaken in conjunction with the Department's Northwatch project which to date has been concentrating on establishing an effective surveillance and awareness network in the remote areas of north Queensland. Training in emergency response in these remote

areas, utilising the existing response plans is being given greater emphasis.

3. The Animal and Plant Health Service budget is divided into five main areas:

Pest and Disease Surveillance for Market Access;

Early detection (of pest and disease incursions), Rapid Response, Back to Business; Contained Pest and Diseases, Competitive Markets;

Wholesome Agricultural Produce, Market and Community Acceptance; and

Animal Welfare, Community and Market Acceptance.

4. Expenditure on Early Detection, Rapid Response, Back to Business in 1998/99 was \$3.653M. The budget for this area in 1999/2000 is \$3.311M.

1977. Dairy Industry

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (2/12/99)—

With reference to page 32 of the 1999-2000 Ministerial Portfolio Statement for his department in which reference is made to the work of the agriculture industry development division in benchmarking efficiency and quality for the dairy industry to improve management capabilities in a deregulated environment?

- (1) Will he detail this work?
- (2) Does the activity of his department indicate he concedes the industry will be fully deregulated?
- (3) What other means of assistance is he and/or his department considering or undertaking to ensure the dairy industry is fully prepared in the event that full deregulation occurs?

Mr PALASZCZUK (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (24/12/99):

1. The Department of Primary Industries has a well-developed, dairy farm specific, accounting service which is now used by 27% of Queensland dairy farmers. The service provides an individual analysis of farm physical and financial performance. This information is used to develop benchmarks against which participants gauge performance and adjust their management accordingly. The Department is also involved in other projects to empower farmers to make effective business management decisions in an uncertain business environment. This includes developing an understanding of benchmarks and how to use them to make management decisions.

The Department is collaborating in a major project, "Dairying Beyond 2000". The project is supported by major industry stakeholders including the Dairy Research and Development Corporation, Queensland Dairy Authority, Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation and major milk processors. This project is empowering producers to respond effectively to new situations as they emerge. The project is providing the skills and support necessary

for sound business planning and management during this period of industry change. The Department is implementing quality assurance and benchmarking programs with dairy farmers as part of the extension programs that are jointly funded by the Department and Queensland dairy processors.

2. No decision has yet been made as to whether market milk controls will be removed. The work taking place within the Queensland Dairy Accounting Service has been under way for many years. The collaboration in the "Dairying Beyond 2000" project is occurring as part of the Departments ongoing extension activities to assist industry and is taking place irrespective of whether or not full deregulation occurs. The industry of course is facing a continuing period of change and is presently operating in a partially deregulated environment.

3. Although the Queensland Government is yet to be convinced that full deregulation is in the best interests of the Queensland industry, I will be taking part, along with Ministers from other States, in the negotiations with the Federal Government because I do not believe that available options should be closed off without proper consideration. In these negotiations I will be seeking a sensible approach to reform. In particular, the potential adverse impacts on rural and regional communities, as distinct from farmers themselves, appear to have received scant attention and this matter will be taken up with the Federal Government.

Overall, there are many issues to be addressed and these will be worked through systematically to ensure that optimal outcomes are achieved that will best serve the industry and the community.

1978. WorkCover

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (2/12/99)—

With reference to his answer to Estimates question taken on notice No. 4—Part 2, where he states, "In addition to this, WorkCover advises that it has adopted a greater focus on performance and reward for its staff. The stronger performance culture ensures that WorkCover's goal of rewarding employees is not just empty words"—

Will he indicate whether the senior management of WorkCover have had their remuneration increased since Labor took office; if so, will he provide to the House the details of such increases?

Mr BRADY (4/1/000: I am advised by WorkCover Queensland that:

Effective from 1 July 1998, the senior management of WorkCover Queensland received a remuneration increase of approximately 2.5% (excluding the performance bonus component of up to 20%). This was approved by the previous WorkCover Board.

Since that time there has been a review in 1999. Only those existing general managers (ie. those not appointed in 1999) received a remuneration review. Effective from 1 July 1999 they received an average increase of 4.7% (excluding the performance bonus component of up to 20%).

1979. Roads Implementation Program

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/12/99)—

With reference to the recently released roads implementation program for 1999-2004—

- (1) How many of the projects listed in the Shires of Gatton, Laidley, Ipswich and Boonah have actually commenced and when are they expected to finish?
- (2) What Federal funding has his department applied for in this period for the Cunningham and Warrego highways in the electorate of Lockyer?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00): (1) The Roads Implementation Program is approved on the basis that funding commitments for projects in years one and two are firm with years three to five indicative only for planning purposes. Those projects listed for the 1999/2000 year have either commenced on or are due to commence before 30 June 2000. Optional dates vary accordingly to the nature and scope of the projects

(2) As part of the 1996-97 Budget, the Federal Government reduced National Highway funding by \$620 million over four years. The most recent four-year National Highway Forward Strategy (1998-99 to 2001-02) submitted to the Federal Government for funding approval sought improvements to the Warrego Highway (Brisbane-Toowoomba) and Cunningham Highway (Riverview-New South Wales border). This Government will continue to make strong representations to the Federal Government for increased levels of National Highway funding consistent with the National Highway Investment Strategy.

1980. Rail Line Electrification

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/12/99)—

With reference to Queensland Railway electrification and rumours in the community—

- (1) Have Queensland electric trains or electric locomotives been sold to the Japanese and then leased back to Queensland some time ago to pay for the rail electrification of the Brisbane to Rockhampton line and other electrification work; if so, will he indicate when these leasing arrangements were made?

Mr BREDHAUER (22/12/99): There are no electric trains or locomotives currently leased to a Japanese lessor.

1981. Heavy Vehicle Licence Testing

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/12/99)—

With reference to an incident where a person seeking a semi-trailer licence in Dalby recently and was in need of a job had travelled from Brisbane for the road test but was not given a test because the test vehicle was defective and he was denied a test later in the day when another vehicle was available and as

the man will not get another test until early 2000 and in the meantime, he cannot take up a much needed job—

- (1) Will he make more testing officers available for heavy vehicle licences rather than deny people the opportunity to gain work?
- (2) Will he investigate the incident in Dalby which occurred on 25 November?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00):

(1) During December I discussed the issue of waiting times with Senior Queensland Transport staff, and representatives of the Driver Training Industry and the Queensland Public Sector Union. As a result of these discussions, a shorter test window has been introduced in Queensland Transport Offices throughout Queensland from which driving tests are delivered. It is expected that waiting times will be reduced over the next couple of months, as Queensland Transport is able to perform more driving tests per day. This initiative is aimed at reducing waiting times and generally allows all aspects of QSafe to be assessed. It will be reviewed closely with the Driver Training Industry over the next 6 months. Additional staff have also been engaged until February 2000 to manage the waiting times for driving tests across the State, but with particular emphasis on South East Queensland.

(2) Driver testing is undertaken by an examiner who has the responsibility for testing in Roma, Charleville and Dalby. Toowoomba staff also provide support to Dalby. The test was not conducted because the vehicle was defective. The trailer was unregistered, and did not have a current Certificate of Inspection, the brake lights did not work and was subject to an outstanding defect notice. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that they present for testing in a suitable vehicle. Because of the problems with the trailer, the vehicle was unsafe for operation, and could not be used for the test.

Driving tests are scheduled ahead of time to maximise use of the driving examiners time and to ensure that the public have maximum access to tests. This approach ensures that waiting times for driving tests are kept to a minimum. The driver test sheets for that day were full. If another test was rescheduled in the afternoon, then either an already scheduled heavy vehicle test or two scheduled standard vehicle tests would had to have been cancelled and rescheduled at a later date. Driving examiners are very busy. Queensland Transport is mindful of their workload and welfare, and does not normally allow additional tests in excess of the daily schedule.

1982. Railway Maintenance Programs

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/12/99)—

With reference to an apparent decline in safety standards in railways in other States—

- (1) Will he assure the Parliament that economic rationalist pressures are not impacting adversely on maintenance programs in Queensland Rail?

- (2) Are safety procedures being constantly reviewed and upgraded?
- (3) Does his department have in place, an adequate and updated counter—disaster plan in the event that an accident of the magnitude of the Blue Mountains tragedy on 2 December were to occur somewhere in Queensland?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) QR has recently overhauled its entire Safety Management System to ensure it provides the safest possible environment for passengers, staff and the general community. Part of the Safety Management System requires constant review of policies and safety performance of QR.
- (3) QR is externally audited by the Department of Transport and the Division of Workplace Health and Safety to ensure commitments given as part of the Safety Accreditation have been enacted. As part of the Safety Management System, QR has in place substantial emergency management plans to deal with major incidents.

1983. Emergency Services Department

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (3/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for her ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for her office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr ROBERTSON (Minister for Emergency Services) (5/1/00):

1. One.
2. One officer at AO8 salary with home garaging of a Queensland Government vehicle.
3. The Departmental Liaison Officer acts as a link between the Department and the Minister's Office. This provides strategic support, advice and information to the Minister's Office on Departmental policy, guidelines and procedures. The job description was approved in August 1998 by the Acting Executive Director, Strategic and Executive Services Division.
4. The Departmental Liaison Officer position was advertised within the Department on 12 October 1999. The appointment process will follow the normal public service recruitment and selection process of written application, interview and selection. An

officer has been temporarily seconded to this position since 11 October 1999.

5. There are no positions presently vacant.

1984. Public Works Department; Housing Department

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (3/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/1/00): The information requested was provided in Question on Notice No. 1074 answered on 17 September 1999.

1985. Mines and Energy Department

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (3/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99):

- (1) Two
- (2)(a) AO7 Under Public Service Award conditions—car park provided
- (b) AO4 Under Public Service Award conditions—no other remunerative benefits
- (3)(a) Secondment from the Department's Energy Division into a liaison role, approved by the Director-General. Job description entails liaising with the Department on energy related issues

arising from the extensive change the industry is undergoing.

- (b) Ministerial Liaison Officer. See attached Position Description. Approved October 1998, approved by chairperson
- (4)(a) Seconded on 27 April 1998. See 3 for process.
- (b) 16 October 1998. Internal Expression of Interest.
- (5) NIL.

1986. Primary Industries Department

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (3/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr PALASZCZUK (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (24/12/99):

- (1) 3 staff members
- (2) All three staff members are remunerated at AO8 level, Public Service Award. There are no other remunerative benefits.
- (3) The Position Description for the AO8 Ministerial Liaison Officers is attached. This position description was prepared in October 1997 by the Ministerial and Executive Services Unit and approved by the Office of the Director-General.
- (4) One was appointed on 5 July 1999 through an expression of interest for an initial period of six months which has been extended for a further six months. The other two were initially appointed in July and August 1998 and were reappointed on 5 October 1999 through an expression of interest, for which they were the only applicants, for a period of up to twelve months.
- (5) There are no further such positions. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1987. Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (3/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr FOLEY (4/1/00):

- (1) One.
- (2) Administration Officer Level 3 (AO3) without any other benefit.
- (3) A succession of officers have been seconded at AO3 level since 20 March 1996. The seconded officer performs duties covered by the job description for other Ao3 positions within Ministerial Offices.
- (4) The current secondment commenced on 3 March 1999 following an internal expression of interest.
- (5) Nil.

1988. Tourism, Sport and Racing Department

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (3/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mrs ROSE (Minister for Tourism and Racing) (4/1/00):

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.

1989. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (3/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): As at 22 December 1999:

- (1) Three.
- (2) Remuneration is at the AO6 level. These officers have access to pool cars which are home garaged regardless of the designated driver. They are not regarded as a remunerative benefit.
- (3) The job description was approved by the appropriate delegated authority on 30/5/96.
- (4) 10 August 1998 and 4 October 1999. Both officers have been temporarily seconded to the positions.
- (5) One position at the AO6 level is currently vacant.

1990. Police Department

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (3/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr BARTON (4/1/00):

- (1) Four.
- (2) Police Ministerial Liaison Officer—Inspector: \$2860.40 per fortnight

Administrative Officer (AO3): \$1278.60 per fortnight

Administrative Officer (AO2): \$1195.60 per fortnight

Corrective Services Ministerial Liaison Officer (AO7) \$2235.13 per fortnight

The Corrective Services Ministerial Liaison Officer (AO7) is also provided with a car-park in the State Law Building at a cost of \$3300 per annum.

The Police Ministerial Liaison Officer is permitted the use of a car-pool police vehicle valued at \$12600. The vehicle is parked within police headquarters. This is valued at \$1322 per annum

(3) Ministerial Liaison Officer (Police)—Inspector

To provide quality liaison, advice and support to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services on a range of policing issues including operational policing, policy and legal matters.

Receive and review incoming correspondence and requests for assistance from members of the public (including politicians) in relation to police matters, identify suitable courses of action and ensure the research, collation and preparation of appropriate responses for the Minister's signature.

Liaise with senior police and staff to obtain written advisory notes, briefs and memoranda from the Service on sensitive issues as requested by senior Ministerial staff.

Liaise with the Minister, Ministerial staff, the Commissioner's Office and senior police staff on issues of a contentious or potentially volatile nature.

Liaise with Ministerial staff and police staff to arrange official appointments, attend official functions and represent the Minister as requested.

Provide advice to the Minister and senior Ministerial staff on operational policing matters, Service policy and legal matters.

Implement and maintain a register of all access and transactions using QPS computer systems located in the Minister's Office.

Maintain a record and retrievable filing system on all advisory notes, briefs, memoranda and submissions.

Administrative Officer (Ministerial Support) AO3

Provide overall office/administrative support to the Police Ministerial Liaison Officer.

Prepare draft Ministerial letters of reply as required.

Summarise and index incoming correspondence and determine action officers and deadlines.

Maintain computerised Ministerial correspondence tracking system and prepare regular status and statistical reports.

Liaise with Minister's Office staff and officers at all levels within the Queensland Police Service to ensure the efficient processing of Ministerial correspondence.

Manage an effective filing system for Ministerial correspondence.

Carry out other duties as required.

Ministerial Liaison Officer—Corrective Services

Ensure the delivery of effective liaison serves between the Minister's Office, the department and external inquiries and to follow up to ensure resolution.

Ensure the supply of accurate and concise information to the Minister within strict deadlines.

Provide research and analysis of critical issues to assist the Minister with his Parliamentary function.

Represent the Minister in deputations and meetings with stakeholders and subsequently report and recommend appropriate action to the Minister.

Provide foresight on the operational environment to determine emerging issues and provide options to the Minister.

Ensure the effective management and administration of confidential requests.

Administrative Officer AO2

This is a base grade generic position and performs administrative tasks as required.

(4) The Inspector Police Ministerial Liaison Officer was administratively appointed to the position on 7 December 1999 at the discretion of the Commissioner of Police.

The Administrative Officer (Ministerial Support) AO3 was appointed on 29 April 1999 after a merit based selection process.

The Administrative Office AO2 is a rotational position and after a merit based selection process was filled on 1 June 1999.

The Corrective Services Ministerial Liaison Officer (AO7) was seconded for 12 months on 16 August 1999 after a closed merit based selection was used as is permitted under section 78(3)(b)(ii) of the Public Service Act.

(5) None.

1991. Environment and Heritage Department; Natural Resources Department

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (3/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?
- (2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?
- (3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?
- (4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?
- (5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00):

(1) One staff member is on secondment from each of my Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Environmental Protection Agency to my Ministerial Office. In addition DNR employs three officers (members of the Executive Liaison Team) who work predominantly for my Ministerial Office.

(2) The remuneration levels and other benefits for each of these officers are as follows:

Senior Policy Adviser (Natural Resources)—SO1, Level 1 or \$2985.40 per fortnight. The officer is provided with a car (cost \$586.72 per month) and carpark (cost \$240 per month). This Officer is also entitled to reimbursement of full rental costs of a telephone installed in the home residence and also a percentage of calls agreed between the officer and myself (to date this officer has made no claims for this entitlement).

Senior Policy Adviser (Environment and Heritage)—SO1, Level 1 or \$2985.40 per fortnight. The officer is provided with a car (cost \$624.11 per month) and carpark (cost \$240 per month). This Officer is also entitled to reimbursement of full rental costs of a telephone installed in their residence and also a percentage of calls agreed between the officer and myself (to date this officer has made no claims for this entitlement).

Administrative Officer (Liaison) AO1/AO2, (\$654.70-\$1190.40 per fortnight);

Administration Officer (Liaison) AO3, (\$1273.30-\$1420.00 per fortnight); and

Administrative Officer (Reception) AO1/AO2 (\$654.70-\$1190.40 per fortnight).

In addition Officers occupying the above positions receive the normal range of Public Service benefits (eg superannuation).

(3) Current job descriptions for officers listed in (2) are attached. Job descriptions for the Senior Policy Advisers were approved by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet under the previous administration. 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, DNR. The Administrative Officer (Reception) AO1/AO2 was an existing position, and its job description was also updated and approved on that date by the Director, Executive and Legal Services, DNR.

(4) The Officers occupying these positions were appointed as follows:

The Senior Policy Adviser (Natural Resources) was appointed on 6 July 1998. The process of appointment was through a recommendation by the Minister to the Premier, and approval by the Premier.

The Senior Policy Adviser (Environment and Heritage) was appointed on 30 June 1998. The process of appointment was through a recommendation by the Minister to the Premier, and approval by the Premier.

Administrative Officer (Liaison) was appointed as a temporary officer on 1 November 1999 under the provisions of Office of the Public Service Directive 8/98;

Administration Officer (Liaison) was appointed to the position on a temporary relieving basis on 5 November 1999 under the provisions of Office of the Public Service Directive 8/98; and

Administrative Officer (Reception) was appointed as a temporary officer on 1 December 1999 under the provisions of Office of the Public Service Directive 8/98.

(5) None of these positions are presently vacant.

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

1992. Teachers

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Education (3/12/99)—

With reference to teacher salaries and payments during July—

What was the July budget for teacher salaries and payments and what was the actual amount paid to teachers in July?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The Department informs me that the budget for teacher salaries and payments for July 1999 was \$136.397m. The Department informs me that the actual amount paid to teachers in July was \$140.357m.

NOTES

1. These figures have been provided on an accrual accounting basis.
2. Amounts include full-time, part-time, temporary and assistant teachers; EOSD's; Education Advisers; Teacher Relief Scheme (payments and grants) and allowances.
3. Amounts include Long Service Leave Levy paid to Queensland Superannuation Office under the Whole of Government arrangements.
4. Amounts exclude school purchased teacher salaries.
5. The actual amount paid does not recognise the reimbursement by the Queensland Superannuation Office of the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during this month under Whole of Government arrangements.
6. The actual amount paid does not include the annual recreation leave loading expense attributable to leave accrued by teachers during this month.

1993. Teachers

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Education (3/12/99)—

With reference to teacher salaries and payments during October—

What was the October budget for teacher salaries and payments and what was the actual amount paid to teachers in October?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The Department informs me that the budget for teacher salaries and payments for October 1999 was \$126.525m. The Department informs me that the actual amount paid to teachers in October 1999 was \$126.035m.

NOTES

1. These figures have been provided on an accrual accounting basis.
2. Amounts include full-time, part-time, temporary and assistant teachers; EOSD's; Education Advisers; Teacher Relief Scheme (payments and grants) and allowances.
3. Amounts include Long Service Leave Levy paid to Queensland Superannuation Office under the Whole of Government arrangements.
4. Amounts exclude school purchased teacher salaries.
5. The actual amount paid does not recognise the reimbursement by the Queensland Superannuation Office of the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during this month under Whole of Government arrangements.
6. The actual amount paid does not include the annual recreation leave loading expense attributable to leave accrued by teachers during this month.

1994. Teachers

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Education (3/12/99)—

With reference to teacher salaries and payments during September—

What was the September budget for teacher salaries and payments and what was the actual amount paid to teachers in September?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The Department informs me that the budget for teacher salaries and payments for September 1999 was \$134.784m. The Department informs me that the actual amount paid to teachers in September 1999 was \$132.359m.

NOTES

1. These figures have been provided on an accrual accounting basis.
2. Amounts include full-time, part-time, temporary and assistant teachers; EOSD's; Education Advisers; Teacher Relief Scheme (payments and grants) and allowances.
3. Amounts include Long Service Leave Levy paid to Queensland Superannuation Office under the Whole of Government arrangements.
4. Amounts exclude school purchased teacher salaries.
5. The actual amount includes a transaction that recognises the estimated reimbursement by the Queensland Superannuation Office of the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during this months of July, August and September 1999, under Whole of Government arrangements.
6. The actual amount paid does not include the annual recreation leave loading expense attributable to leave accrued by teachers during this month.

1995. Teachers

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Education (3/12/99)—

With reference to teacher salaries and payments during November—

What was the November budget for teacher salaries and payments and what was the actual amount paid to teachers in November?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The Department informs me that the budget for teacher salaries and payments for November 1999 was \$130.989m. The Department informs me that the actual amount paid to teachers in November 1999 was \$134.982m.

NOTES

1. These figures have been provided on an accrual accounting basis.
2. Amounts include full-time, part-time, temporary and assistant teachers; EOSD's; Education Advisers; Teacher Relief Scheme (payments and grants) and allowances.
3. Amounts include Long Service Leave Levy paid to Queensland Superannuation Office under the Whole of Government arrangements.
4. Amounts exclude school purchased teacher salaries.
5. The actual amount paid does not recognise the reimbursement by the Queensland Superannuation Office of the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during this month under the Whole of Government arrangements.
6. The actual amount does not include the annual recreation leave loading expense attributable to leave accrued by teachers during this month.
7. The actual amount paid includes a transaction that recognises the actual reimbursement due from the Queensland Superannuation Office for the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during the months of July, August, September and October 1999 under Whole of Government arrangements.
8. The actual amount paid has been adjusted to reverse the estimated reimbursement by Queensland Superannuation Office of the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during the months of July, August and September 1999 under the Whole of Government arrangements.

1996. Teachers

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Education (3/12/99)—

With reference to teacher salaries and payments during August—

What was the August budget for teacher salaries and payments and what was the actual amount paid to teachers in August?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The Department informs me that the budget for teacher salaries and payments for August 1999 was \$130.944m. The Department informs me that the actual amount paid to teachers in August 1999 was \$134.589m.

NOTES

1. These figures have been provided on an accrual accounting basis.
2. Amounts include full-time, part-time, temporary and assistant teachers; EOSD's; Education Advisers; Teacher Relief Scheme (payments and grants) and allowances.
3. Amounts include Long Service Leave Levy paid to Queensland Superannuation Office under the Whole of Government arrangements.
4. Amounts exclude school purchased teacher salaries.
5. The actual amount paid does not recognise the reimbursement by the Queensland Superannuation Office of the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during this month under the Whole of Government arrangements.
6. The actual amount paid does not include the annual recreation leave loading expense attributable to leave accrued by teachers during this month.

1997. Teachers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (3/12/99)—

With reference to teacher salaries and payments—

What was the 1999-2000 budget for teacher salaries and payments and how much of that budget has been expended to date?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The Department informs me that the budget for teachers salaries and payments 1999-2000 is \$1,562.996m. The Department informs me that the actual amount expended to date (end of November 1999) is \$668.322m.

NOTES

1. These figures have been provided on an accrual accounting basis.
2. Amounts include full-time, part-time, temporary and assistant teachers; EOSD's; Education Advisers; Teacher Relief Scheme (payments and grants) and allowances.
3. Amounts include Long Service Leave Levy paid to Queensland Superannuation Office under the Whole of Government arrangements.
4. Amounts exclude school purchased teacher salaries.
5. The actual amount paid recognises the reimbursement by the Queensland Superannuation Office of the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during the months of July, August, September and October 1999 under the Whole of Government arrangements.
6. The actual amount paid does not include the annual recreation leave loading expense attributable to leave accrued by teachers to the end of November 1999.
7. The actual amount paid includes a transaction that recognises the actual reimbursement due from the Queensland Superannuation Office for the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during the

months of July, August, September and October 1999 under the Whole of Government arrangements.

8. The actual amount paid has been adjusted to reverse the estimated reimbursement by Queensland Superannuation Office of the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during the months of July, August and September 1999 under the Whole of Government arrangements.

1998. Teachers

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Education (3/12/99)—

With reference to the 1999-2000 budget for teacher salaries—

What was the budget for teacher salaries until the end of November and by the end of November how much of this budget had been expended?

Mr WELLS (4/1/00): The Department informs me that the budget for teacher salaries until the end of November 1999 was \$659.639m. The Department informs me that the actual amount expended to the end of November 1999 was \$668.322m.

NOTES

1. These figures have been provided on an accrual accounting basis.
2. Amounts include full-time, part-time, temporary and assistant teachers; EOSD's; Education Advisers; Teacher Relief Scheme (payments and grants) and allowances.
3. Amounts include Long Service Leave Levy paid to Queensland Superannuation Office under the Whole of Government arrangements.
4. Amounts exclude school purchased teacher salaries.
5. The actual amount paid recognises the reimbursement by the Queensland Superannuation Office of the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during the months of July, August, September and October 1999 under Whole of Government arrangements
6. The actual amount paid does not include the annual recreation leave loading expense attributable to leave accrued by teachers to the end of November 1999.
7. The actual amount paid includes a transaction that recognises the actual reimbursement due from the Queensland Superannuation Office for the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during the months of July, August, September and October 1999 under Whole of Government arrangements.
8. The actual amount paid has been adjusted to reverse the estimated reimbursement by Queensland Superannuation Office of the cost of Long Service Leave taken by teachers during the months of July, August and September 1999 under the Whole of Government arrangements.

1999. KPMG Consultancies

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and

Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (3/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by her department/s, will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Ms SPENCE (23/12/99): KPMG have not been engaged to provide any consultancy services from 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999 for the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development and the Department of Equity and Fair Trading.

2000. TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (3/12/99)—

Why has the Government placed excessive charges on basic TAFE courses which have traditionally been free of charge and have been career-training opportunities for young Queensland school leavers?

Mr BRADY (4/1/00): This question cannot be answered until you provide specific details of course offerings that you claim have been traditionally free of charge and which now attract a fee.

General fee increases have been in line with the Consumer Price Index movements for the period March 1997 to June 1999 and equate to a 3.6% increase. These fee increases are effective from 1 January 2000.

In all cases, provisions exist for partial and full exemptions so as not to financially disadvantage students.

2001. Auctioneers and Agents Committee

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (3/12/99)—

With reference to the Auctioneers and Agents Committee—

- (1) What is the breakdown of remuneration (including but separating travel expenses, accommodation expenses, meeting fees for committee meetings and meeting fees for sub-committee meetings) for each individual member of the committee since 26 June 1998?
- (2) What is the meeting fee payable to a member of the committee for a full committee meeting?
- (3) What is the meeting fee payable to a member of the committee for a sub-committee meeting?

Ms SPENCE (23/12/99):

- (1) Prior to 1 February 1999, the Auctioneers and Agents Committee comprised Edward Howard as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson,

Sandra Deane, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Elizabeth Honeycombe, Mark Sheridan and Fiona Guthrie as members. From 1 February 1999, the Committee comprised Sandra Deane as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Molly Robson, Wendy Hilditch and Pauline McLaughlin as members.

The table below details the breakdown of remuneration for the period 26 June 1998 to 1 December 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) Between 26 June 1998 and 31 January 1999, the sitting fee payable to the chair of the full committee was \$370.00 and \$310.00 for each member. From 1 February 1999, the sitting fee payable to the chair of the full committee is \$430.00 where the meeting exceeds 4 hours and \$258.00 where the meeting is less than 4 hours duration. For members, the sitting fee is \$360.00 where the meeting exceeds 4 hours and \$216.00 where the meeting is less than 4 hours duration.

(3) Between 26 June 1998 and 31 January 1999, the sitting fee payable to the chair of a subcommittee was \$130.00 and \$110.00 for each member. From 1 February 1999, the sitting fee payable to the chair of a subcommittee is \$300.00 where the meeting exceeds 4 hours and \$150.00 where the meeting is less than 4 hours duration. For members, the sitting fee is \$260.00 where the meeting exceeds 4 hours and \$130.00 where the meeting is less than 4 hours duration.

2002. Auctioneers and Agents Committee

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (3/12/99)—

With reference to the Auctioneers and Agents Committee—

Will she list the dates, venue, type of meeting (face to face or teleconference) and attendees of each sub-committee meeting since 26 June 1998?

Ms SPENCE (23/12/99): Prior to 1 February 1999, the Auctioneers and Agents Committee comprised Edward Howard as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson, Sandra Deane, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Elizabeth Honeycombe, Mark Sheridan and Fiona Guthrie as members. From 1 February 1999, the Committee comprised Sandra Deane as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Molly Robson, Wendy Hilditch and Pauline McLaughlin as members.

The tables below detail the breakdown of meetings of the Real Estate Agents and Auctioneers Subcommittee and the Motor Dealers and Commercial Agents Subcommittee for the period 26 June 1998 to 1 December 1999. For the purpose of the tables, the letter "T" indicates that a teleconference was coordinated from Brisbane. The letter "M" indicates a face to face meeting at the State Law Building in Brisbane. (Tables and

attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2003. KPMG Consultancies

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (3/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr McGRADY (23/12/99): I am advised that the Department of Mines and Energy has not engaged the services of KPMG for any consultancies from 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999.

2004. Samford, Research Station

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (3/12/99)—

Is the State Government and/or the Department of Primary Industries currently negotiating with the CSIRO on the sale, or an exchange of assets with the CSIRO division of tropical pastures, over a 700 acre pasture research station at Samford; if so, what is to be the utilisation of this land?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00): My Department of Natural Resources and Department of Primary Industries are not currently negotiating with CSIRO in relation to the Research Station at Samford. I understand there have been discussions between State Government representatives and CSIRO about the future of the site but the State Government has not yet determined any possible future use for the site.

2005. Auctioneers and Agents Committee

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (3/12/99)—

With reference to the Auctioneers and Agents Committee—

Will she list the dates, venue, type of meeting (face-to-face or teleconference) and attendees of each full committee meeting since 26 June 1998?

Ms SPENCE (23/12/99): Prior to 1 February 1999, the Auctioneers and Agents Committee comprised Edward Howard as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson, Sandra Deane, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Elizabeth Honeycombe, Mark Sheridan and Fiona Guthrie as members. From 1 February 1999, the Committee comprised Sandra Deane as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Molly

Robson, Wendy Hilditch and Pauline McLaughlin as members.

The table below details the breakdown of meetings of the full Committee for the period 26 June 1998 to 1 December 1999. For the purpose of the table, the letter "T" indicates that a teleconference was coordinated from the State Law Building in Brisbane. The letter "M" indicates a face to face meeting at the State Law Building in Brisbane. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2006. Nambour Hospital

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Health (3/12/99)—

With reference to the Nambour General Hospital—

- (1) What was the cost of laundry services for 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99?
- (2) What has been the cost of laundry services to date for 1999-2000?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00):

(1) 1995-96—data not available; 1996-97—\$858,777; 1997-98—\$877,596; 1998-99—\$978,619 (includes additional specialised services not previously provided by the contractor).

(2) The cost of laundry services this financial year as at 30 November 1999 was \$454,788.

2007. Central Queensland Coalfields, Rail Line

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/12/99)—

- (1) Is he aware of the safety concerns of Queensland Rail train crew and maintenance workers at the safety of the rail line servicing the Central Queensland coal fields?
- (2) Will he give an assurance to the rail workers that the present problems associated with clay holes, which are causing the track to subside in some areas, will be fully addressed?
- (3) Will he give an undertaking that the present number of experienced maintenance staff will be maintained and, if necessary, increased if the number of trains on these lines is increased?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00):

(1) There have been no major issues regarding the safety of the rail line servicing the Central Queensland coalfields, raised by train crews or their unions, with QR Management.

(2) As with any large operational railway, feedback and suggestions on improved maintenance practices are regularly received and encouraged by QR, and acted upon appropriately. A major reduction in length of track under speed restriction due to formation failure and clay holes has already been achieved.

(3) QR will continue to ensure that appropriate levels of maintenance resources, including staff, are applied to this key section of QR's network.

2008. Disability Services Queensland

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (3/12/99)—

Accepting her assurances given during the Estimates hearing that no funding has been budgeted to meet the costs of higher classifications for a number of senior officers and senior executives in the agency to be known as Disability Services Queensland and that no additional funding has been provided in the budget for the set up costs of the agency, what areas of the disability services budget will be drawn upon to meet these additional expenses at the same time as maintaining the budgeted levels of client service and also meeting the additional responsibilities under the mandate of the new agency?

Ms BLIGH (4/1/00): Funding for service delivery will not be used to establish or maintain the administrative structures of Disability Services Queensland. The levels of client service will not only be maintained but will improve as a result of an increased focus on client needs and streamlined administrative processes.

A small number of senior management positions increased in classification in accordance with their increase in responsibilities and level of delegations. The funds for additional positions in the regions and for the small increase in management levels has come from the transfer of resources from the previous Disability Program Central Office to the regions; improvements in operational efficiency; and as a result of one less management level in the regions than in the previous disability structure under the former Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

2009. Bundaberg Health District

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Health (3/12/99)—

With reference to the expansion of Bundaberg Health District mental health services, initiated by the Coalition Government in it's 1998-99 boost of mental health recurrent expenditure by \$1.1m to employ an additional 11 health workers—

- (1) Has the full complement of these newly created positions now been filled?
- (2) As in June, in answer to a Question on Notice, she indicated that one position in psychiatry remained vacant, while one occupational therapist and team leader position were not finalised, have these positions now been filled?
- (3) Which positions are currently vacant in the Bundaberg Mental Health Service, how long have they been vacant and when was each of these positions last advertised?
- (4) What progress has been made for the development of an acute response service which will enable clients to access care on weekends and when will it be operational?
- (5) Have child and youth mental health inpatient beds been allocated for Bundaberg, when is it

anticipated that these will be accessible and has the specialist position in child and adolescent psychiatry been filled?

- (6) What was the total number of full time equivalent employees at the Bundaberg District Health Service in 1997-98 and 1998-99?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00):

- (1) Nine positions have been filled, two remain vacant.
- (2) The team leader position in the Community Mental Health Service has been filled.
- (3) There are currently four positions vacant within the Bundaberg District Mental Health Service. A level 3 registered nurse position became vacant in late November 1999, recruitment for this position has recently commenced. The position of manager of the Integrated Mental Health Service also became vacant in August 1999. The manager position has been temporarily filled. An occupational therapy position was last advertised in September 1999, and the child and youth psychiatry position was advertised during July and August 1999. The Health Service District is now considering advertising overseas for the child psychiatry position due to a poor response rate to advertisements for the position.
- (4) An Acute Response Team has been set up and should move to seven day a week service provision in early 2000.
- (5) The recently completed paediatric ward at the Bundaberg Hospital includes facilities for child and youth mental health care service provision. The specialist position in child and adolescent psychiatry has been advertised on several occasions. However the position remains vacant as there have been no applications from eligible specialists.
- (6) The total number of full time equivalent (FTE) employees at Bundaberg District Mental Health Services in 1997-98 was 37.8 FTE. The total number in Bundaberg District Mental Health Service in 1998-99 was 48.5 FTE.

2010. Gold Coast, Government Initiatives

Mr VEIVERS asked the Premier (3/12/99)—

With reference to my reading of the Gold Coast Bulletin and to the many initiatives he claims to have showered on the Gold Coast—

Is he prepared to list publicly, on a monthly basis, the initiatives that his Government has put into place since he gained Government, being very careful to differentiate between his initiatives and the initiatives that were already in place through the efforts of the former Coalition Government?

Mr BEATTIE (4/1/00): In relation to differentiating between the previous Government and the present Government, there are two very good examples of how my Government is delivering better results for the Gold Coast.

Differentiation 1: The previous Government had nearly two and a half years in which to act on the need for a convention centre but failed to act. I am pleased to say that my Government has recognised

the need for such a centre and is delivering a world class Convention Centre for the Gold Coast.

Differentiation 2: An independent report commissioned by the Australian Medical Association (Gold Coast branch) has confirmed that from being \$10 million underfunded by the Borbidge Government, the Gold Coast Hospital is receiving \$5 million more than it could expect this year.

Monthly information on my Government's initiatives for the Gold Coast can be compiled from the media releases issued by Ministers on a regular basis which are also available on the Government's Internet site. In addition, my Government's initiatives for the Gold Coast are publicly available in annual reports and Budget Papers. To compile a monthly list in addition to these sources would be a waste of resources.

However, as an example of the way this Government is delivering for the Gold Coast I supply some achievements from just nine departments:

Department of Tourism and Racing:

In July 1998, approved an additional \$5 million in marketing/promotional funding for Queensland Tourism Industry with the Gold Coast, as one of the State's premier tourist locations, a major beneficiary.

Launched \$554,000 Super QRIS/Magic Millions Super Bowl racing series for two-year-old Queensland thoroughbreds. Provincial winners will qualify for two \$150,000 races to be run at the Gold Coast in March 2000.

In February 1999, Honda was signed up for another two years as naming rights sponsor for Gold Coast Indy.

Last August, Queensland won the right to host the major 2000 Asian Thoroughbred breeders' conference on Gold Coast.

Tourism Queensland hosted the DER Tour Reiseakademie last November. The event brought 700 German travel agents to the Gold Coast region and showcased attractions on the Coast and Hinterland.

Department of Public Works and Housing:

Approved close to \$20m in Department of Housing construction projects—providing more than 130 new dwellings including 36 seniors units, almost 20 new houses and more than 70 apartments in a region of high demand for affordable accommodation.

Injected more than \$1.6m into three community groups to deliver the state government's Home Assist/Secure Scheme—helping elderly or disabled private householders stay in their own homes longer. Home Assist/Secure Services are being delivered to almost 5,000 households in the region.

Provided grants totalling almost \$300,000 to Gold Coast Housing Information and Tenancy Service to assist people seeking accommodation.

Approved grants totalling almost \$1.7m to community housing groups allowing them to purchase 12 dwellings for low income families or individuals.

Approved grants totalling almost \$900,000 to the Gold Coast Community rent Scheme to allow it to provide accommodation to people who may otherwise be homeless.

Provided seven apprenticeships with Q-Build in the Gold Coast region in 1999 as part of a record statewide intake of 140 young people.

Announced provision of apprenticeship opportunities with Q-Build for a further five young people in the region in 2000.

Department of Police and Corrective Services:

Increased police numbers in the south eastern region by 66 officers since my government came to office.

Launched a new police vessel A.P Anderson for Gold Coast Water Police.

Department of Transport and Main Roads:

Opened the first of six sections of the State Government's \$750,000 million Pacific Motorway project in November 1999. The remaining five sections will be open by March 2000.

Opened one of the first major interchanges to link the communities of Logan and Nerang last November. The interchange is part of the Pacific Motorway.

Allocated \$1 million last November for pre-construction work over the next two years for the Tugun bypass. The funding is part of the Beattie Government's \$5.3 billion Roads Implementation Program.

Provided a \$2.9 million road works contract for a 2.3km project for the Nerang-Broadbeach Road in November.

Funded a dredging project on the Coomera River; improved boating facilities including a new ramp at The Spit, replacement of a jetty with a new pontoon at Main Beach; and a new traffic control centre at Nerang.

In July 1999, launched \$6 million Transit Centre at Southport, constructed in conjunction with the Southport Workers' Club. It will be completed in mid-2000.

Provided \$3.8 million for the final stage of a four-lane upgrade of the Burleigh Connection Road last June.

Provided \$1 million for bus priority scheme on Nerang-Broadbeach Road between Pacific Fair and Nerang railway station.

Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations:

In September 1999, announced Beattie Government grants totalling \$775,597 for six Gold Coast-based job creation projects under the State Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative. Will assist 441 unemployed Gold Coast people.

Funding for employment and training programs was stepped up in the South Coast/Brisbane South region as part of the September State Budget. A total of \$5,760,996 was allocated for

Gold Coast region Community Jobs Plan projects and \$1,450,860 for Community Employment Assistance Programs for the 1999/2000 year.

Department of Environment and Heritage:

In March 1999, approved plan to give the Gold Coast the world's first environmentally friendly artificial underwater surfing reef made of sand at Narrow Neck. The \$2m surfing reef is part of an \$8 million dollar protection package between the Queensland Government and the Gold Coast City Council to widen beaches along the Surfers Paradise Esplanade.

Announced a new arrangement for shared management of facilities for visitors to Lamington National Park in the Gold Coast hinterland in November.

In December 1999, announced that the contract for the design, construction and operation of the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing System was awarded to a consortium led by McConnell Dowell Constructors (Aust) Pty Ltd. When finished the system will provide a safe navigable entrance to the Tweed River and improve the recreational amenity of the southern Gold Coast beaches. The main elements are: a 450M long jetty on Letitia Spit supporting 12 sand jet pumps, a pumping and control building, and pipelines carrying sand under the Tweed River to a number of beach nourishment locations.

Department of Health:

Gold Coast Hospital Funding: An independent report commissioned by the Australian Medical Association (Gold Coast branch) has confirmed that in three years, from 1997-98, the last year of the Borbidge Government, to 1999-2000 the second year of the Beattie Government, the Gold Coast Hospital has moved from being \$10 million underfunded to \$5 million over the expected level of funding. The 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 Beattie Government Budgets have corrected the funding shortfall and implemented the key findings of the Youngman Report which examined resource requirements.

This includes:

An additional \$741,000 in 1998-1999 (\$341,000 as additional recurrent). This was additional to growth funding of \$2.5 million and \$140,000 that had already been provided in support of emergency physicians;

An additional \$3.706 million in 1999-2000 (\$3.306 million recurrent);

A further \$1.78 million in 2000-2001, all recurrent.

This is in addition to \$4.6 million for the new Robina hospital in 1999-2000, increasing to a full year allocation of \$22.29 million from 2000-2001.

As well:

Free parenting courses are being offered to parents at Beenleigh, Palm Beach and Southport.

Opened the \$4.8 million Palm Beach Community Health Centre in August 1998

School nurses have been provided at Merrimac, Helensvale, Keebra Park, Coombabah, Benowa, Palm Beach, Currumbin and Southport State High Schools.

Opened refurbished \$1.1m refurbishment of Gold Coast Hospital Mental Health Unit.

Opened \$2.231m refurbished Gold Coast Hospital Paediatric Unit.

Department of State Development:

In first half of 1999-2000 financial year, assisted 28 firms with 33 grants worth more than \$500,000.

Delivered 32 seminars to 1,593 clients

Delivered seven workshops to 77 small business operators

Provided \$8 million in funding for Centre for Biomolecular Science and Drug Discovery at Griffith University's Gold Coast campus.

Department of Emergency Services:

Provided First Responder Unit to provide emergency ambulance medical services to Springbrook area.

Set up Motor Cycle Responder Officer program to avoid problem of conventional ambulance vehicles delayed by traffic congestion.

Queensland Ambulance Service Gold Coast won \$178,000 contract over two years to provide all medical coverage for 1999 and 2000 Indy Carnival.

Counter Disaster and Rescue Services supported an upgrade of Gold Coast SES group including commissioning of incident command bus, upgrade of computer tasking system, a new SES building at Beenleigh and a new SES building at Runaway Bay.

2011. Drought; Freight Transport

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/12/99)—

With reference to the fact that Queensland has still not fully recovered from severe drought although the drought status has been lifted and during the drought, freight for the transport of donated necessities was free which allowed the drought effected families needs be addressed and as there are many people and properties still suffering the effects of drought but the freight to send necessities to them is no longer free and the Minister for Primary Industries has been approached on two occasions on this matter, once by myself and once by a deputation led by Mrs Bev Coutts at the Community Cabinet meeting in Kingaroy and as he stated on both occasions he would talk to the Minister for Transport and there should be no problem —

- (1) What measures have been put in place to aid in the transporting of necessities to those families still suffering the ongoing affects of drought; if none, when will they be initiated?

- (2) As there is an urgency to have Christmas relief delivered, will he ensure that relief packages waiting to be shipped will arrive in time?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/1/00): The Government is fully aware of the hardship that many families throughout Queensland are facing as a result of drought. Queensland Rail has to date received no formal request from Anglicare in Kingaroy for rail freight assistance with respect to the conveyance of donated goods to families and communities in need. However, as a result of Mrs Pratt's Question, I arranged for officers from Queensland Rail to contact Mrs Bev Coutts of Kingaroy to discuss the specific details involved with this request. When I am in a position to provide further information, I will advise Mrs Pratt by correspondence.

2012. Palliative Care

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (3/12/99)—

Will she provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditure of Federal Government palliative care dollars in 1998-99, funds which are administered by the State Health Department?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/00):

	Budget Expended (%)
Corporate Office District	21.90
HEALTH SERVICES	
Bayside	100.00
Bundaberg	100.00
Cairns	100.00
Central Highlands	98.23
Central West	100.00
Charleville	100.00
Fraser Coast	100.00
Gladstone	100.00
Gold Coast	100.00
Gympie	100.00
Logan-Beaudesert	100.00
Mackay	100.00
Mater	100.00
Mt Isa	100.00
North Burnett	57.92
Northern Downs	100.00
Princess Alexandra	83.56
QE II	100.00
Redcliffe/Caboolture	100.00
Rockhampton	89.72
Roma	100.00
Royal Brisbane	100.00
Royal Children's	53.41
South Burnett	100.00
Southern Downs	100.00
Sunshine Coast	100.00
Tablelands	100.00
The Prince Charles Hospital	100.00
Toowoomba	85.59
Townsville	100.00
West Moreton	96.57

The unspent Commonwealth funds will be allocated to palliative care service priority areas consistent

with the "Queensland Health—A Strategic Approach for Palliative Care" currently being finalised.

2013. Electoral Laws

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Premier (7/12/99)—

Will he concede that (a) the ALP has pursued implementation of the principle of one vote-one value to the degree our electoral laws now seriously disadvantage the minority of people living in the sparsely populated rural areas of Queensland, (b) the coastal areas of Queensland will continue to dominate the political processes in Queensland Parliament and (c) to live up to his promise of heading a Government for all Queenslanders, he must amend the Electorate Act to give rural people better access to their elected Member and to lighten the current unbearable personal workload placed on Members representing vast rural seats?

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99): (a), (b) and (c) Queensland's electoral laws are based upon fundamental democratic principles established by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission after the most extensive review of electoral laws ever undertaken in Australia.

The principle of one vote-one value does not apply to the sparsely populated rural areas of Western and Northern Queensland. In accordance with the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission's recommendation, every electoral district of 100,000 square kilometres or more is weighted by adding 2% of the number of kilometres in the area of the electoral district to the actual number of electors living in that district.

My Government will continue to maintain an honest and fair electoral system.

2014. Road Rules

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/12/99)—

With reference to the recent changes to the Queensland road rules and to the growing number of people complaining to my Hervey Bay electorate office about the lack of advertising regarding the changes—

- (1) How much money is to be spent on advertising the new changes?
- (2) Will he give a detailed report on what advertising will go ahead?
- (3) Will there be extra effort placed upon getting the message out to regional and rural Queenslanders?
- (4) As a mail out was expected by all road users, when can the constituents of Hervey Bay electorate expect this information to be delivered?
- (5) Specifically, what advertising will be carried out in the Hervey Bay electorate?
- (6) As people have made considerable attempts through Queensland Transport offices to obtain the information booklet without success, will these people still be fined for not complying with the rules that they have not been made aware of?

(7) In light of the lengthy delays in getting this information out to the public, will consideration be given to a caution only period so that all people should have been notified of the changes prior to the rules being enforced?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00):

(1) \$1.5 million dollars was allocated for public education for the changes.

(2) The general public education campaign consisted of the following tools designed to create awareness of the changes:

TV campaign consisting of a general advertisement and advertisements for the keeping left and mobile phone rules. All ads had the 1800 number from 25 November.

An information brochure was letterbox dropped to the majority of households.

A 1800 hotline was established to respond to additional queries and to mail out additional copies of the brochure. This hotline has been operating seven days per week from 9am to 9pm.

Two media launches were held to publicise the changes—one to launch the public education campaign, and one to launch the implementation of the rules.

Two posters were developed for display in Queensland Transport Customer Service Centres, Police Stations and RACQ offices. One poster referred to the brochure, one referred to the mobile phone rule.

Half-page advertisements appeared in The Courier-Mail and The Sunday Mail to announce the implementation and availability of the brochure.

Since early November, Australian Road Rules information has been included in the weekly "RoadSense" News Fax sent to all Queensland media and stakeholders.

A feature story was placed in The Road Ahead.

Information was included on the Department's internet site.

Information sessions were run across the state in 32 locations.

Thirteen Safety Net Community Service Announcements on lesser known road rules appeared on Channel Ten from 29 November.

The Queensland Driver's Guide has been updated to include the new rules.

A number of smaller campaigns will also be run for specific audiences such as skateboarders and cyclists

(3) Regional and rural Queenslanders have been provided with multiple opportunities to obtain information on changes to the Australian Road Rules.

In addition to the letterbox drop, the brochure was inserted in the Queensland Country Life newspaper; Australia Post distributed brochures to communities reporting non-delivery; all the commercial television networks ran commercials explaining the changes

and how to obtain a copy of the brochure by ringing a 1800 number for assistance; and media releases were printed by rural and regional press, The Road Ahead and Road Sense 99 in The Courier-Mail.

Public information sessions were held in 32 locations throughout the state, including Maryborough on 9 November, 1999. Information was also provided on the Queensland Transport internet site.

(4) According to our records, residents in the Hervey Bay Electorate should have received their brochures in late November. The surrounding areas of Aldershot, Bauple, Bidwill, Island Plantation, Mungar, Pallas Street, Tiapo, Booral, Craginsh, Nikenbah, River Heads and Takupa were delivered by Australia Post in early December. A public information session was held in Maryborough on 9 November, 1999.

(5) The advertising campaign was conducted on a statewide basis because it is the most cost-effective way of achieving mass coverage. Hervey Bay residents have access to Channels Seven, Nine and Ten, who all had heavy advertising schedules. Publicity by local papers has been quite strong, and Fraser Coast community radio stations have been provided with Australian Road Rules Community Service Announcement scripts should they be able to provide air time. Half page advertisements also appeared in The Courier-Mail and The Sunday Mail around the implementation date.

(6) The information brochure was available in all Queensland Transport Customer Service Centres from late November, so it is disappointing that your constituents have not been able to obtain it. In addition, a heavily advertised 1800 number has been operating since late November seven days per week from 9am to 9pm.

Key changes, such as keeping left and the banning of mobile phones, were advertised statewide on television. Detailed information was also included in The Road Ahead. Fines will apply if people break the rules where non-compliance has dangerous consequence. However if the rule is a minor variance, police will be using their discretion for a short period.

(7) My colleague Police Minister Tom Barton announced at the launch that there would be a one month period of leniency where police would be using their discretion before penalising motorists. Where the rule being broken, however, is dangerous, fines will still apply.

2015. Road Rules

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/12/99)—

With reference to the recent changes to the Queensland road rules and to the growing number of people complaining to my Caboolture electorate office about the lack of advertising regarding the changes—

(1) As a mail-out was expected by all road users, when can the constituents of Caboolture electorate expect this information to be delivered?

(2) Specifically, what advertising will be carried out in the Caboolture electorate?

(3) As constituents from the Caboolture electorate have made considerable attempts through Queensland Transport offices to obtain the information booklet without success, will these people still be fined for not complying with the rules that they have not been made aware of?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00):

(1) According to our records, the Caboolture delivery was completed in late November. Australia Post did a follow-up delivery to Beerburrum in early December. By now, I would expect your constituents would have received this information.

(2) The advertising campaign was conducted on a statewide basis because it is the most cost-effective way of achieving mass coverage. Caboolture residents have access to Channels Seven, Nine and Ten, who all had heavy advertising schedules. Publicity by local newspapers has been quite strong. Publicity and half-page advertisements have also been placed in The Courier-Mail and The Sunday Mail.

(3) The information brochure was available in all Queensland Transport Customer Service Centres from late November, so it is disappointing that your constituents have not been able to obtain it. In addition, a heavily advertised 1800 number has been operating since late November seven days per week from 9am to 9pm.

Key changes, such as keeping left and the banning of mobile phones, were advertised statewide on television. Detailed information was also included in The Road Ahead. Fines will be issued where non-compliance to the rules has dangerous consequences. However if the rule is a minor variance, police will be using their discretion for a short period.

2016. Fishing Permits

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (7/12/99)—

With reference to the proposed permit scheme for freshwater fishing in specified stocked impoundments from 1 July 2000—

(1) What fishing groups were consulted in relation to the Bill Gunn Dam (Lake Dyer), Maroon Dam and the Moogerah Dam in the Lockyer electorate?

(2) How does his department intend to collect these fees?

(3) How will his department police these permits?

(4) What action will be taken against offenders to the scheme?

(5) On what basis and how often will moneys be returned to the fishing groups involved?

Mr PALASZCZUK (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (24/12/99):

1. The specific fish stocking groups consulted were:
 Bill Gunn Dam (Lake Dyer), Lockyer Valley Fish Restocking and Management Association
 Maroon and Moogerah Dams, Maroon-Moogerah Fish Management Association

2. The permit scheme will be administered by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority. It is proposed that permits will be available from the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, Australia Post offices (634 offices and agencies throughout Queensland) and from selected retail outlets in the vicinity of each impoundment. A number of Australia Post agencies have extended trading hours, ie, they operate on weekends. Fees collected will be electronically transferred to the QFMA on a daily basis.

3. Enforcement of the permit scheme will be undertaken by the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol who are responsible for fisheries enforcement in Queensland.

4. It will be the role of the Courts to determine the exact penalties associated with offences against this new licensing scheme. However, considerable fines for such offences are included in the provisions of the fisheries legislation.

5. It is proposed that at least 75% of the collected fees will be directed towards the purchase or provision of fingerlings and for other activities aimed at enhancing fisheries in stocked impoundments. The remaining 25% of the collected fees will be directed towards administration of the system. Administration costs will include the fees charged by the entity issuing the permits (eg. Australia Post), a public education program, monitoring of the scheme and costs of the distribution of fish fingerlings and/or funds for other enhancement purposes.

2017. Pensioners, Rail Travel

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/12/99)—

With reference to the disability allowance and the issue by Centrelink of travel vouchers per year now changed from a calendar year to an applicant's birthday period of the year—

(1) Why are people from Ipswich who are making applications for concessional travel being denied this concession and why is Queensland Rail not honouring travel vouchers from Ipswich?

(2) Who sets the Queensland policy for concessional travel?

Mr BREDHAUER (22/12/99):

(1) There has been no change to concessional rail travel entitlements in Queensland. QR is accepting travel vouchers from all Pension Concession Cardholders (PCC), including eligible residents from Ipswich.

There has been some confusion experienced during the change over from the bulk issue of Pension Concession Cards on a calendar year basis to a progressive issue, via pensioners' birth months. During this implementation period for Centrelink's revised procedure, QR has continued to accept and replace travel vouchers.

(2) When QR was established as a Government Owned Corporation in 1995, Queensland Transport accepted responsibility for the existing concessional rail transport policies.

Travel concessions are provided to allow a range of people in need to maintain a level of mobility and to function within the community.

To ensure that this scheme is targeted to those people most in need, access to the concession is linked to a person's eligibility to hold a Pensioner Concession Card issued either by Centrelink, on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, or by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The vouchers are provided to people based on their ability to meet the relevant eligibility criteria.

Concessions on QR, a 50% reduction on fares, are provided to holders of Pensioner Concessions Cards and Queensland Seniors Cards. In addition, holders of Pensioner Concessions Cards are issued with four Pensioner Travel Vouchers, each of which provides one free single economy journey. The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care provides funding of the reimbursement of revenue forgone by QR through the provision of these concessions.

Concessions are also provided to other categories of people, including the blind and disabled and Totally and Permanently Disabled Veterans.

2018. School Crossing Supervisors

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/12/99)—

With reference to the school crossing supervisor scheme—

(1) Is he aware that his department urges sponsorship of school crossing supervisors before they are shortlisted for Queensland Transport funding?

(2) How many schools in Queensland have gained sponsorship for school crossing supervisors in the last five years?

(3) What is the average waiting time for schools on the shortlist?

(4) Why is such a sponsorship scheme encouraged by his department when it is obvious that some schools do need crossing supervisors for the safety of our school children?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00):

(1) Application for a Supervised School Crossing usually results from the School's SafeST committee's review of the traffic situation at a school. However, approval of the application by Queensland Transport is subject to the school and its environment meeting established criteria and the availability of adequate funds. If the school meets the criteria it is placed on a waiting list. The school is advised that there are other alternatives to the waiting list, for example to provide volunteer crossing supervisors or if they wish to, seek out commercial sponsorship. The department does not urge schools to find commercial sponsors.

(2) Central Region is the only region in which a school has attracted sponsorship for a supervised crossing. That one school is MacKillop Catholic School. The school approached Queensland

Transport with a potential sponsor and the Manager Road Safety negotiated the arrangement.

(3) Queensland Transport estimates the waiting time between initial assessment and the crossing becoming operational is between 2 and 18 months, dependent on available funding.

(4) Schools which are assessed as having a higher risk factor are placed on the waiting list according to the level of risk to children. As funds become available the crossings are installed. Sponsorship is seen as an interim measure to enable supervision of crossings at the earliest possible time.

2019. Gift Vouchers

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (7/12/99)—

With reference to the approach of Christmas and as many people will be buying gift vouchers for presents to give to friends and relatives and as five gift vouchers were purchased at the dollar value of \$50 each, two of which could not be redeemed because the new owner would not honour the remaining vouchers, although they had honoured the others after taking over and it was stated that the change of ownership was the reason for refusing the remaining two vouchers and as the \$100 value of the vouchers was lost through no fault of the purchaser—

(1) If the business changes hands during the validity period of the voucher, what onus is placed on the new owner to honour the vouchers?

(2) If none, what avenues are open to purchasers of vouchers to receive a refund from the owner who sold the voucher?

(3) Will safeguards be introduced to protect purchasers of vouchers from losing out when a business changes hands during the vouchers' validity period?

Ms SPENCE (23/12/99):

(1) At this time of year, gift vouchers are a popular alternative to cash or gifts. However, consumers should be aware that if a business changes hands after vouchers have been purchased, the new owner does not automatically assume the liabilities of the previous owner. It is purely a contractual matter.

If consumers find themselves in the situation where the business has changed hands, consumers should firstly make an approach to the new owner to see if they would be willing to offer any redress to the consumer or would be willing to honour all or any part of the gift voucher.

(2) Assuming that the new owner is unwilling to do so, consumers need to approach the previous owner with a view to having the vouchers redeemed. Failing this, the consumer may need to seek legal advice, and arbitration. Ideally this would be through the Small Claims Tribunal, which is a low-cost forum designed to adjudicate on disputes between consumers and traders.

Alternatively, consumers can approach the Office of Fair Trading with a written complaint. Representations would be made to both the new and previous owners by the Office of Fair Trading with a view to mediating a mutually satisfactory settlement for consumer and trader, or traders.

(3) Unfortunately there are no formalised safeguards for consumers in the purchase of gift vouchers. Consumers need to be aware of the inherent risks in purchasing gift vouchers, including:

The restrictive nature of vouchers, limiting the consumer's choice and also the time in which a voucher can be redeemed;

If a voucher is lost or stolen, it cannot simply be replaced or rewritten like a cheque. Generally speaking a gift voucher is treated the same as cash and is not replaceable; and

If there is a small amount left on the voucher after it has been partially redeemed, this amount will not necessarily be given as cash to the consumer. It may be that a consumer would in fact need to spend more than budgeted for in order to fully redeem the voucher.

Gift vouchers are in effect contracts, and related terms and conditions are purely commercial decisions made by a trader. It is therefore in the best interests of all consumers that they are fully aware of any and all conditions attached to a gift voucher before they purchase one as a gift.

2020. Northern Safecorp Pty Ltd

Mr NELSON asked the Premier (7/12/99)—

With reference to a letter to him from a Mr George Saveka, an elder of Mer Island and a representative for Aboriginal and Islander people in my electorate and to Mr Saveka's statement of concern over the Premier's "Lack of commitment to Aboriginal and Islander people" and, in particular, his Government's stance against Mr Saveka's company Northern Safecorp Consultants Pty Ltd—

(1) What are his reasons for the stance taken by his Government against this business training young north Queenslanders?

(2) Why can no funding be found to actually help Aboriginal people enter the workforce with some real training conducted by their peers.

Mr BEATTIE (4/1/00):

(1) The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations advised Northern Safecorp Pty Ltd that their organisation did not meet eligibility criteria for funding under the three funding programs, being the Adult Community Education Program, the Vocational Education Training Program and the Community Employment Assistance Program, as it was not a registered training organisation and it was not an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation.

However, officers of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations then offered Northern Safecorp Pty Ltd a number of options to enable another funding proposal to be developed. Assistance was also provided to enable Northern

Safecorp Pty Ltd to: become a registered training organisation which would enable it to tender for vocation, education and training funds; develop a proposal for competitive tendering, including key funding criteria which would have to be addressed; and develop an application for Community Employment Assistance Program funds with the KuKu Djungan Aboriginal Corporation as the sponsoring organisation.

This KuKu Djungan Aboriginal Corporation Community Employment Assistance Program funding application was considered by the Cairns Area Community Jobs Priorities Committee on 12 April 1999. The Committee ranked the application low and therefore did not recommend the application for funding, as there were issues regarding the appropriateness of the proposed training program.

(2) My Government is ensuring that Indigenous people's needs are an integral part of the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle range of initiatives. Several significant projects have been recommended for funding in Far North Queensland and negotiations are continuing with key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations to prioritise employment and training programs, based on skills development needs and potential employment outcomes.

2021. Rosella Park State School

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Education (7/12/99)—

With reference to Rosella Park State School in Gladstone—

(1) What were the staff numbers by category in June 1999?

(2) What is the staff allocation by category proposed for January/February 2000?

Mr WELLS (6/1/00): The Department has provided the following information:

Teachers:

1. Total teaching staff in June 1999—7.60 (Principal plus 6.6 full time equivalent teachers)

2. Total teaching staff proposed for 2000—8.40 (increased to a Principal plus 7.4 full time equivalent teachers)

An increase of 0.77 full time equivalent teachers for 2000.

Teacher Aides:

1. 1999—At the beginning of Semester 2, the school's allocation was 155.7 hours per week of which they were accessing 150 hours per week. The number of hours varies according to students who transfer in and out, and as at the second week of December, the allocation is 164.5 hours per week

2. 2000—The allocation from the start of Term 1 is 180.35 hours per week, an increase of 15.85 hours per week.

Admin staff:

1. 1999—Administrative Assistant and Janitor Groundsperson—one of each

2. 2000—Administrative Assistant and Janitor Groundsperson—one of each

Remains the same for 2000.

Nurse:

1. 1999—0

2. 2000—0.80

An increase of 0.80 of a position for 2000.

2022. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development Department; Equity and Fair Trading Department

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (7/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for her ministerial office—

(1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for her office?

(2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?

(3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?

(4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?

(5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Ms SPENCE (23/12/99):

(1) There are two Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) and one Departmental Liaison Support Officer employed in the Office of the Director-General to provide liaison support to the Office of the Minister.

(2) The DLO attached to the Fair Trading Portfolio is remunerated at level AO7 with no additional benefits. The DLO attached to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development (ATSIPD) Portfolio is remunerated at the AO5 level with no additional benefits.

The Departmental Liaison Support Officer is remunerated at the AO3 level with no additional benefits.

(3) The job description for the DLO (Fair Trading) outlines the purpose of the position as:

to provide effective liaison between the Minister's Office, the Director-General's Office and the Office of Fair Trading;

to interpret and advise the Minister on policies, operational matters, public representations and media generated in relation the fair trading portfolio;

to advise the Minister on relevant legislation to the portfolio; and

to develop and monitor efficient and effective systems between the Department and the Minister's Office which ensure the smooth flow

of Ministerial correspondence, approvals and briefing notes.

The job description for the DLO (ATSIPD) outlines the purpose of the position as:

to provide effective liaison between the Minister's Office and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development;

to advise the Minister on the Department's policies, operational matters, public representations and media generated issues in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander matters; and

to facilitate the use of efficient and effective systems between the Department and the Minister's Office which ensure the smooth flow of Ministerial correspondence, approvals and briefing notes.

The job description for the Departmental Liaison Support Officer outlines the purpose of the position as:

to provide secretarial and administrative support to Departmental Liaison Officers

The most recent job description for the DLO (Fair Trading) was approved by the Director-General in January 1999; the DLO (ATSIPD) job description was recently reviewed and approved by the Executive Director (DATSIPD) in October 1999. The Support Officer job description was reviewed in July 1999 and approved by Director-General on 27 July 1999.

(4) The DLO (Fair Trading) was appointed to the position on 1 July 1998, and was selected through an internal process of identifying persons with appropriate knowledge and skills. The current DLO (ATSIPD) was appointed to the position on 13 December 1999 following calls for internal Expressions of Interest. The Liaison Support Officer position was appointed to the position on 10 December 1999 following advertisement of the position in the Government Gazette. The DLO positions are filled on a temporary basis only with the flexibility to rotate staff through the positions on a 6 monthly or 12 monthly basis. However, there is sufficient flexibility available to retain officers in the positions for a period longer than 12 months if this is necessary to the continuing efficient operation of the liaison role.

(5) No DLO positions are currently vacant.

2023. Transport Department; Main Roads Department

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

(1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?

(2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?

(3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?

(4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?

(5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr BREDHAUER (22/12/99):

(1) 1. (Queensland Transport 1; Main Roads 0)

(2-4) Appointment and employment conditions are in accordance with the relevant award provisions and public sector guidelines.

2024. Families, Youth and Community Care Department

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (7/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for her ministerial office—

(1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for her office?

(2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?

(3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?

(4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?

(5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Ms BLIGH (6/1/00): In addition to the answer to Question No 1075, I provide the following information—

(1) One (1)

(2) This is a temporary AO6 position with no other remuneration benefits

(3) The position is a Senior Information Officer, Publications and Communications Branch. The Job Description was approved on 8 August 1994 by the Director, Information Services.

(4) Appointment was made from 13 September 1999 for a period of 6 months. The appointment was made on a temporary basis consistent with Standard Public Service practices.

(5) There are no positions currently vacant.

2025. Education Department

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (7/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for his ministerial office—

(1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for his office?

(2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?

(3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?

(4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?

(5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mr WELLS (6/1/00):

(1) Refer to response to Question on Notice 531.

(2) AO8, AO6, AO4. There are no other remunerative benefits associated with these positions.

(3) Refer to response to Question on Notice 531.

(4) Refer to response to Question on Notice 531.

(5) None.

2026. Health Department

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (7/12/99)—

With reference to departmental officers working for her ministerial office—

(1) How many departmental staff are employed to work specifically, or predominantly, for her office?

(2) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits (for example car-parking) for each of these officers?

(3) What is the job description of each of these officers, when was it approved and by whom?

(4) What was the date each officer was appointed to their present position and what was the process of appointment?

(5) How many such positions and at what level are presently vacant?

Mrs EDMOND (6/1/00): (1-5) The arrangements for departmental staff assisting with public complaints and reception duties for the office of the Minister for Health reflect the arrangements under the former Minister for Health at June 1998. Another officer is responsible for liaison between the office of the Minister and the department.

2027. Moreton TAFE Institute

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 1471 within which he has detailed millions of extra dollars being given to Moreton TAFE—

Will he assure the House and the taxpayers of Queensland that this significant additional funding will ensure that the Moreton Institute does not finish the current financial year in deficit?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): When the Labor Government was elected in June 1998 it found that it had inherited a TAFE system in crisis. A number of TAFE Institutes were in serious financial difficulty as a result of the previous Government's irresponsible plundering of TAFE's budget to rapidly escalate the competitive training market in Queensland. To make

matters worse, Institutes were forced to compete with one another for rapidly diminishing levels of funding.

To stem the flow of funds from TAFE to the contestable market, the Government immediately froze contestable funding at January 1998 levels for three years as promised in the 10 Point Plan to Safeguard TAFE in Queensland prior to coming to Government.

With the implementation of the 10 Point Plan, the Department immediately placed the TAFE system in intensive care and set in motion a prescription to revive the flagging public provider. The Department commissioned two reviews to diagnose the extent of the damage and to prescribe a recommended course of action to stimulate a rapid and total recovery.

Paramount to the survival of the public provider was the urgent need to address the financial viability of TAFE Institutes which had been bleeding from the previous Government's decisions.

Given this situation, the financial recovery of Moreton Institute may take longer than one year. The position is being monitored closely to ensure that the Institute fully contributes to the achievement of quality outcomes from the public provision of training in this State.

2028. TAFE

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1558—

Why do the figures in the answer provided show that his administration has made absolutely no progress in reversing the ratio of 60 per cent administration—40 per cent delivery staff, about which Bannikoff complained at length in his report?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): Question on Notice 1558 asks for specific information about total staff and teachers and cannot be used to judge whether TAFE Institutes have made progress towards implementation of the 60/40 ratio outlined in the Bannikoff Report. The 60/40 ratio is based on the ratio of direct delivery to non-direct delivery, and detailed information is not readily available.

2029. WorkCover; TAFE

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1462—

(1) Why does he provide an approximate figure of 86 rather than a specific and accurate figure?

(2) What percentage does the figure of 307 employees (221+86) represent of the number of staff in WorkCover when he became Minister?

(3) How does this compare with the percentage of total TAFE staff who took VERs when the Coalition was in office?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00):

(1) The figure of approximately 86 was provided by WorkCover Queensland who now advise that the figure is 86 people.

(2) WorkCover has advised that the 307 employees that will leave WorkCover through VERs represent 28.8% of the 1063 people engaged by the organisation at 1 July 1998. The VERs can be attributed to two initiatives, self-insurance which was introduced by the former Coalition Government resulting in a loss of business to WorkCover Queensland of approximately 15% and the previous WorkCover Queensland Board's approval of the implementation of the service project. WorkCover assures me that the service to Queensland employers and workers will be enhanced as a result of the service project initiatives.

WorkCover is committed to improving the number of full-time permanent positions. It advises that at 30 June 1998 there were 662 permanent full-time workers. WorkCover is expecting this to increase to 710 full-time permanent positions by 30 June 2000.

(3) TAFE Queensland is a totally different body to WorkCover Queensland. WorkCover is an independent body established by the Coalition Government whereas TAFE is part of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

2030. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 1546—

What reasons were given by those departmental officers who took more than three months after their return from overseas travel to furnish official reports concerning their overseas travel?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): I have asked the Director-General of my Department to ensure that all reports on overseas travel are submitted in accordance with the guidelines.

2031. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice 1469 and to part 2 of the answer—

(1) When did the Director-General make this determination?

(2) Will he table the first official notification that the Director-General gave him in relation to this determination?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00):

(1) October 1998.

(2) Matters such as these are discussed regularly between the Minister and the Director-General. There is no written notification.

2032. Viviani Report

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 1507—

Why has he wrongly assumed that Professor Viviani was commenting on the State's traineeship system when her comments, quoted in the question, were directed specifically at the Bannikoff Report?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): My response to Question on Notice 1507 stands.

2033. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1481—

Were legal opinions and services obtained by other departmental agencies for or on behalf of the purchasing area to check the legality of contracts used by the department for user choice and other programs involving competitive funding and for opinions and services relating to the cancellation of contracts and/or de-registration of providers etc?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): Yes.

2034. TAFE

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1545 and to part 3 of his answer—

What were these delayed projects and how much of the estimated \$1m decline was each project responsible for?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): I am advised by TAFE Queensland that the estimated \$1M decline in projected income was partly attributable to a project involving pre-opening training for a major hotel chain. Other factors contributed to a downgrading of revenue forecasts across a range of institutes for international projects.

2035. TAFE

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice 1557—

Will he provide the House with the full details of the \$125m which was allegedly extracted from the TAFE budget by the competitive training agenda, including the areas of the TAFE budget he believes it was extracted from?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): The level of funding for the competitive training agenda increased from a budget of \$2 million in 1993-94 to more than \$125

million in 1997-98. The escalation is shown in the table below.

Budget—1992-93: Nil; 1993-94: \$2m; 1994-95: \$8m; 1995-96: \$21.846m; 1996-97: \$60.622m; 1997-98: \$125.4m.

Without the extent of competition introduced by the Coalition government, the bulk of these funds would have gone to TAFE Institutes.

2036. TAFE

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice 1558—

How does he reconcile the figure he has quoted, with his assertion at the Estimates hearings, that the ratio of 60 per cent delivery staff to 40 per cent administrative staff was already being achieved at some institutes?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): The figures provided during estimates hearings were supplied by TAFE Queensland Institute Directors who are reporting in a format consistent with the NCVET definition of delivery expenses—

"Expenses that can be directly attributed to particular teaching activities or learning areas such as salaries, wages and on-costs for teachers and tutors including supervisory teaching staff, heads of Departments and Schools. It also includes salaries, wages and on-costs for non-teaching support staff directly associated with a particular teaching activity, and material supplies, services expenses and facilities costs capable of direct association with a particular teaching activity."

It is this definition which has been applied in Institute Director's Resource Agreements with the Director-General.

2037. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1467—

What percentage of the (a) public sector trainees and (b) apprentices, put on by the Government, its departments and agencies, as part of the "Breaking the Unemployment Cycle" initiatives, are over 40 years of age?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00):

(a) Public Sector Trainees—5.74% are over 40 years of age.

(b) Public Sector Apprentices—.84% are over 40 years of age.

2038. Employment Programs

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

When he highlights in press releases, speeches and parliamentary statements the number of participants who have been assisted by his Government's various employment programs, does the number of participants he is quoting in each instance include (a) the significant proportion of participants who remain unemployed at the completion of the program in which they were enrolled and (b) does the number quoted include those who dropped out of the program; if the answer to either (a) or (b) is in the affirmative, how does he justify his inclusion of these figures?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): The previous Coalition Government abandoned the long term unemployed. It abolished employment programs and left this disadvantaged group to fend for themselves knowing that the Coalition Commonwealth Government had also abandoned support for the long term unemployed.

The number of participants quoted represents the number of real opportunities provided for long term unemployed people and people at risk of facing long term unemployment to gain work experience and gain workplace skills.

At this stage of implementation many people are still participating in the Employment programs and therefore the number of people who will not gain employment at the completion of these programs cannot be determined.

There is a high retention rate to date. While it is acknowledged that some may drop out, leaving a program of this sort for alternative employment is a positive outcome for the individual resulting from participation in the program.

2039. TAFE

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his response to Questions on Notice 1319 and 1511—

(1) Why is he refusing to provide the information requested in Questions on Notice 1319 and 1511?

(2) Is it because he does not want the taxpaying public to find out how much extra it is costing some TAFE institutes to have work undertaken by in-house staff simply to keep peace with some of his union allies?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): As I said in my response to Question on Notice 1319, whether or not functions or activities are outsourced is considered by Institute Directors and their Councils, on a case by case basis, having regard to, among other things, a detailed analysis of the costs and benefits, both direct and indirect, and the views of stakeholders, including staff and unions. I play no part in those decisions.

2040. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice 1487 and to his statement therein that "This Government undertook to create an additional 6,000 traineeship places and 500 apprenticeship places in public sector agencies across four financial years"—

Will not this Government goal, which involves a 12 to one bias against traditional apprenticeships, create an even greater imbalance than that about which the Smith Report warned him?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): Targets of 6,500 were established based on occupational groupings covered by public sector agencies and the capacity of those organisations to train in those occupations. The Government has not relied totally on the public sector to address the shortages of apprentices. As at 13 December 1999 private sector incentive payments have supported an additional 3387 apprenticeship and 2517 traineeship places. In percentage terms 57% of the jobs supported are apprenticeships.

2041. Durian Fruit

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (7/12/99)—

With reference to the threat of imports from Thailand of large quantities of fresh durian fruit and the damage such imports can wreak by way of market collapse and threat of disease and as he is fully aware of the dangers and risks involved from such imports—

What action has he taken to lend support to horticultural and fruit and vegetable growers affected?

Mr PALASZCZUK (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (24/12/99):

1. On the question of durian fresh fruit imports, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has provided advice both to the durian industry in Queensland, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia (AFFA).

2. DPI commented on the draft Import Risk Assessment prepared by AQIS, and DPI scientists provided technical information to Queensland industry.

3. DPI opposed the importation of fresh durian fruit on the basis of the risk of introducing insect pests that are present in Thailand and not in Australia, of which the durian seed borer was the most significant. DPI did not consider the phytosanitary protocol proposed by AQIS was sufficiently secure or practical. DPI has not opposed the importation of frozen durian fruit.

4. On receiving the final Import Risk Assessment and AQIS's determination to allow imports, DPI lodged an appeal based on the lack of consultation over the substantive issues raised previously.

5. I have also written on two occasions, in September and November, to the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Honourable Warren Truss in relation to the draft Economic Impact Assessment prepared by AFFA. Industry concerns regarding discrepancies between figures utilised by AFFA and industry estimates were highlighted in my letters to the Federal Minister. I recommended that agreement be reached on these figures prior to a final decision being made with regard to economic impact.

6. I have also encouraged that a meeting of stakeholders be held. The proposed meeting of stakeholders has been postponed until after the final Import Risk Assessment report was released. At this stage a meeting date has not been set.

2042. Surat Basin/Dawson Valley Project

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (7/12/99)—

With reference to the Surat Basin/Dawson Valley infrastructure development—

(1) When the original memorandum of understanding between the Queensland Government and Sudaw Developments to establish the financial and environmental viability of this project expired in March, what agreement then came into force to extend the life of the public/private partnership?

(2) When was this agreement ratified and when is it now due to expire?

(3) Has Sudaw given the Government any indication whether or not it will proceed with the Coonarr Coal Port option of the new rail line project; if so, when?

(4) Given the Member for Bundaberg's barrage of public criticism of my Government while working through the expressions of interest process through to the signing of project development agreements with Sudaw, will the Deputy Premier accept any responsibility for the project having fallen behind schedule?

Mr ELDER (6/1/00):

(1) The original Development would have expired on 8 April 1999, and was extended, by a Variation Agreement, for an additional 12 month period.

(2) The Variation Agreement was signed on 7 April 1999, thereby extending the term of this Development Agreement between the State and SUDAW until 8 April 2000.

(3) At this time, Coonarr is still a potential consideration. The Impact Assessment Studies being undertaken by SUDAW have not as yet been completed. SUDAW has undertaken considerable Hydrological Engineering work in conjunction with these studies in an effort to minimise potential impacts from dredging and dredge spoil disposal. At present SUDAW are evaluating the undertaking of the extensive studies on the potential impacts to the local ecology and marine organisms which may be impacted upon by the dredging and dredge spoil disposal.

(4) There has been no delay in the facilitation of this project under this Government. The timing for the delivery of SUDAW's potential export rail project is driven by market demand. Additional time was requested of this Government by SUDAW allowing them to bring together the elements of the project, which will take it to a financially bankable position. SUDAW was and remains committed to undertaking this feasibility study at their risk and cost.

It is true that delays did occur under the previous Government which was unable to make a decision in so many areas of responsibility. Those delays certainly moved the timing of this project for SUDAW back into a period of much greater uncertainty on coal and resource prices. It is only possible to speculate as to whether SUDAW could have got through their processes more quickly in that more favourable investment climate without the unnecessary delays and indecision that was endured under your Government.

2043. Road Rules

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/12/99)—

With reference to the failed distribution of the Australian Road Rules brochure that has still not been received by many regions and communities around Queensland—

- (1) Who was awarded the contract for the distribution of this material?
- (2) What was the price tendered for this distribution and how did this price compare to that of other tenderers?
- (3) What action is being taken to ensure that payment is not made for distribution that was not made in accordance with the contract?
- (4) What action is to be taken to ensure that these communities are advised of their obligations?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00):

- (1) Salmat, a letterbox distribution company, was awarded the distribution contract.
- (2) The price per thousand for distribution through Salmat was \$40.64. Other tenderers quoted rates of \$41.50 (Progress Press) and \$84.93.

In addition to cost, factors such as auditing processes and days/months of delivery were taken into account in the selection of the supplier (eg. Australia Post do not deliver advertising material in December due to high volumes of seasonal mail).

(3) We are satisfied distribution has been made in accordance with the contract. Factors such as the large amount of junk mail at this time of the year, or the letterbox-clearer not showing the brochure to other residents of the household can account for some of the 'perceived' non-delivery.

(4) An additional distribution to the areas not covered by the initial distribution was completed by Australia Post within a few days of evidence of difficulties by some communities.

In addition, the internet site, a 1800 number and regular publicity in local and state newspapers has

ensured these communities have been made aware of the changes.

2044. Director of Public Prosecutions

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (7/12/99)—

(1) Will he provide a breakdown of the individual number of staff (a) who have retired from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), (b) who have resigned from the office of the DPP and (c) who have sought a transfer from the office of the DPP since 1 July 1998 including details of what positions they held, the date on which their employment ceased and the office from which they were working?

(2) Will he also provide the total number of resignations and retirements from the DPP's office for each year since 1993-94?

Mr FOLEY (10/1/00):

(1) I refer to my Ministerial Statement of 14 September 1999, my answer to Question on Notice No. 276 and related confidential correspondence of 22 April 1999.

(2) I do not consider it an appropriate use of Departmental resources to seek to locate information as to all staff changes, including use of temporary clerical staff, for the last financial year and the preceding five financial years. My previous statements on this issue reveal that there have been no untoward departures of senior staff from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

2045. Ambulance Service, Stress Claims

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (7/12/99)—

With reference to claims that there is an increasing number of Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) officers suffering from stress disorders and that concern has been raised over the number of officers who have left the service over the past two years as a result of this problem—

- (1) Will she provide the number of ambulance staff currently suffering from stress-related disorders on a State-wide basis and regional basis?
- (2) Will she provide the number of ambulance staff who have been retired out of the service in the last two years on a State-wide basis and regional basis?
- (3) Have Workcover premiums been affected by the number of stress claims in the last two years?
- (4) How many adverse reports have been furnished on the QAS case management of stress-related disorders and claims and what has been the nature of the criticism?

Mr ROBERTSON (Minister for Emergency Services) (6/1/00):

(1) WorkCover Queensland data on QAS stress claims, as at the end of November 1999, shows that QAS currently has thirty-six (36) current WorkCover claims relating to psychiatric disorders, which

includes, but is not limited to, stress disorders, across the Regions as follows:

Region—Number of Current Claims

Northern Region—	1
Central Region—	3
South Western Region—	2
North Coast Region—	13
Greater Brisbane Region—	15
South East Region—	2
Far Northern Region—	0
Central Office—	0
Total—	36

(2) A total of eight (8) Officers retired from the Service in the past year on medical grounds, including all work related physical and psychological disorders, across the Regions as follows:

Region—Number of Retired Officers

Northern Region—	0
Central Region—	1
South Western Region—	1
North Coast Region—	4
Greater Brisbane Region—	2
South East Region—	0
Far Northern Region—	0
Central Office—	0
Total—	8

* Detailed figures were not recorded in previous years.

The particular grounds for retirement are not known.

(3) Stress claims have contributed to the 1998/99 QAS WorkCover premium.

(4) The QAS is unaware of any formal reports from WorkCover Queensland on this issue.

The QAS has introduced a network of Regional Occupational Health and Safety Coordinators/Rehabilitation Administrators and has intensified training of certified Regional Rehabilitation Officers. Case management of all QAS WorkCover claims will continue to be a focus for the QAS into the year 2000.

The QAS has revised its rehabilitation procedures to ensure that stress claims management reflects current best practice and incorporates the experience of rehabilitation implementation over the last five years.

2046. KPMG Consultancies

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies where KPMG was/are engaged by his department/s—

Will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 26 June 1998 up to and including 1 December 1999?

Mr BRADY (6/1/00): Details of KPMG consultancies between 26 June 1998 and 01 December 1999 are as per Attachment 1. The costs stated are total expenditures up to 01 December 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2047. Police Resources

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (7/12/99)—

(1) When will the review of the police staffing allocation model be completed?

(2) When will it be implemented?

(3) Will it result in a fairer distribution of police officers to the North Coast region?

Mr BARTON (6/1/00):

(1) The review has not been completed at this time. A draft report is expected from the working group in early 2000 for the consideration of the Queensland Police Service Board of Management.

(2) The Queensland Police Service cannot advise of a set implementation date at this time.

(3) It is not expected that any alterations to the model will result in significant changes to the North Coast Region's staffing allocation in isolation of changes to other regions.

2048. Electoral Laws

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Premier (8/12/99)—

Will he concede that (a) the principle of one vote, one value completely ignores consideration of quality of representation by an elected Member, (b) in spite of a 1800 free phone access to an electorate office, mobile phones (where they work) and a larger electorate allowance, the Member for Warrego cannot possibly personally visit and discuss relevant issues with constituents spread over such a large area to the same degree a metropolitan Member of Parliament can service his/her constituency and (c) equity in quality of representation for 365 days of each year should be considered, as well as the principle of one vote, one value?

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99):

(a), (b) and (c) The Electoral and Administrative Review Commission carefully analysed the problems of representation in large rural electorates and the arguments in favour of equal suffrage for all Queensland electors.

The weighting system which applies in large rural electorates was the compromise reached by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission after comprehensively examining a wide range of alternative systems operating throughout the world.

After the recent redistribution of State electorates, there are 28,765 "notional" electors in the five large rural electorates. Therefore, the electors in these electorates already have a vote of greater value than all other electors throughout the State.

2049. Whitsunday Electorate, HACC Program

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Health (8/12/99)—

With reference to health services in the Whitsunday electorate—

What is the (a) level of funding for homecare in the district (i) this quarter and (ii) annually, (b) number of hours of homecare service provided between 1 July and 30 September, (c) average number of hours of homecare service provided each quarter during 1998, (d) number of clients who received homecare services between 1 July and 30 September, (e) average number of clients who received a homecare service during each quarter of 1998, (f) number of staff hours utilised in direct service provision, per week, across the electorate and (g) estimated date when previous service levels will be reinstated?

Mrs EDMOND (7/1/00): (a-g) The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program funds four agencies to deliver home care services to clients living in the Whitsunday Electorate. These agencies are the Mackay Health Service District, Mackay Community Options Program, Bowen Health Service District and Girudala Community Co-Operative Society Ltd. The total amount of funding provided specifically for home care in the Whitsunday electorate is \$232,939. There were no reductions in funding or levels of service during the period in question. Fluctuations in service delivery levels are a reflection of the changing needs of clients over time. All potential home care clients are assessed using the same risk assessment tool so that eligibility for home care services is uniform and services are implemented based on a client's level of risk.

2050. Spectacle Supply Scheme

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Health (8/12/99)—

- (1) What is the cost (fully itemised) of providing a patient with two sets of spectacles fitted with "stock" lenses?
- (2) What is the cost (fully itemised) of providing a patient with a single set of spectacles fitted with "ground" lenses?
- (3) Has increased wear from continuously alternating between spectacles and the greater likelihood of misplacement been factored into the comparative cost structure?
- (4) Will eye examinations no longer be available at regular two year intervals after 2001?
- (5) Will the remaining life of the frames be used as the determining factor for authorising eye examinations/consultations?
- (6) What measures will be taken to ensure that those who take greater care of their frames are not penalised by less frequent eye examinations and old scripts?

Mrs EDMOND (7/1/00):

(1) and (2) The information relating to cost is subject to a competitive tendering process. I can advise that the prices vary depending on the lenses and types of

frames. A recent review of Spectacle Supply Scheme costed the administrative cost of the scheme to be approximately \$10 per client.

(3) The Scheme looks at the individual situations when spectacles are misplaced. Issues relating to wear and replacement are considered when developing policy options and related costings.

(4) The Spectacle Supply Scheme is for the provision of spectacles and lenses only. Eye testing is not provided as part of the Spectacle Supply Scheme. Clients attending Optometrists do so utilising Medicare, which is a Commonwealth Government responsibility. The supply of spectacles is considered under the Spectacle Supply Scheme after a recommendation by an optometrist that a client has a clinical need for assistance.

(5) The condition of a client's spectacles is one of the factors taken into account by the optometrist when considering the clinical need for new spectacles.

(6) There is no restriction by Queensland Health on the frequency of eye examinations. Supply of optometrical aids is based on clinical need. The optometrist makes a recommendation on whether the client requires new spectacles taking into consideration each client's individual clinical need. Scripts are provided by optometrists as an outcome of the patient's refraction (eye) test.

2051. Swanbank Landfill

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (8/12/99)—

With reference to Thiess Environmental Services, Swanbank landfill site—

- (1) What environmental impact study has been made at this site at Swanbank?
- (2) Is rubbish being carried by Pacific Waste Management evading its 30 year contract with Brisbane City Council Rochedale landfill to Swanbank?
- (3) How many trucks are expected to impact on the local area of Swanbank and what route are the trucks expected to take?
- (4) What impact will this landfill have on Swanbank Power Station and the residents of Ripley, Redbank and Riverview?
- (5) Is there any danger of such a massive garbage landfill leaching into Bundamba Creek and other waterways to the Brisbane River?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00):

(1) An Environmental Impact Study for the landfill at Swanbank operated by Thiess Environmental Services was conducted in 1997 during planning for the development and before the landfill was licensed under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

(2) Trucks operated by Pacific Waste Management have recently started to transport waste from Brisbane City to the landfill at Swanbank operated by Thiess Environmental Services. My Environmental Protection Agency has had no involvement in any

contractual arrangements between Brisbane City Council, Pacific Waste Management and Thiess Environmental Services.

(3) It is expected that up to 30 extra truckloads of waste will be transported from Brisbane City to the Swanbank landfill site each day. Ipswich City Council is responsible for regulating the routes and frequencies of waste transport vehicle movements through the Ipswich City area.

(4) The licence under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 prohibits the release of noxious and offensive odours beyond the boundary of the landfill site. This applies regardless of the number of vehicles transporting waste to the landfill each day. The licence also sets clear requirements for the collection, treatment and disposal of leachate from the site. The landfill poses no major environmental threat to either Swanbank Power Station or the residents of Ripley, Redbank and Riverview.

(5) There is no likelihood of leachate from the landfill causing major environmental damage to Bundamba Creek or other tributaries of the Brisbane River. The licence requires the landfill operator to monitor regularly groundwater quality in the vicinity of the landfill, and to report on any significant variations from background groundwater quality in the area.

2052. Gympie, Sprint Racing

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (8/12/99)—

With reference to a very strong desire within the Gympie community to implement sprint racing at the South Side complex where the facilities are excellent and the hinterland is ideal to support this industry and also a great need based on unemployment statistics and the need to boost the local economy—

Will he give an undertaking to support this project, subject to the approval of the Queensland Principal Club?

Mrs ROSE (Minister for Tourism and Racing) (4/1/00): I would be prepared to consider a proposal in relation to sprint racing that has the approval of the Queensland Principal Club, which is the statutory Control Body established to control and regulate racing in Queensland.

2053. Road Rules

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/12/99)—

With reference to the recent changes to the road rules to bring Queensland into line with the rest of Australia—

- (1) Why have the majority of residents in the Lockyer electorate been disfranchised by not receiving the promised information booklets in the post?
- (2) How many Queenslanders hold driver's licences?
- (3) Why weren't these drivers mailed directly, rather than the obviously flawed system that was used?

(4) Why weren't police stations and electorate offices issued with these booklets before the implementation date?

(5) How much has been spent on advertising to date in the electronic media and the print media?

(6) What will his department do to rectify this lack of information to Queensland road users?

Mr BREDHAUER (6/1/00):

(1) Residents in the Lockyer Electorate should have received booklets by now. Places such as Willowbank were delivered by Salmat. Areas including Coominya, Grantham, Harrisville, Helidon, Lowood and Rosewood were delivered by Australia Post.

(2) 2,062,301 Queenslanders hold an Open Driver's Licence, while 148,261 Queenslanders hold a Provisional Licence. This figure totals 2,210,562.

(3) Distribution through licensed drivers was considered but when all costs were taken into account, it was decided that the unaddressed letterbox distribution supplemented by a television campaign was the more effective method of reaching Queenslanders. It has been necessary to ensure not only motorists but also skateboarders, pedestrians and cyclists were provided with information on the changes being made.

(4) Police stations were mailed the information brochures shortly before the implementation date, but following the commencement of the TV advertising promoting the 1800 number. This timing was designed to reduce the amount of wastage of brochures through people trying to obtain a brochure prior to the statewide distribution.

Whilst electorate offices have previously received such information, it was felt the distribution methods used would have seen the public exposed to the message in numerous alternative ways.

(5) A total budget of \$1.5 million was spent through electronic and print media and the production of a variety of publications.

(6) The information has been available through a variety of means. The Department has engaged Australia Post to deliver the brochure to those townships that reported non-delivery of the brochure. Queenslanders have been exposed to an enormous amount of publicity surrounding the changes through a variety of mediums such as TV advertising, feature stories and newspaper articles as well as the brochure.

2054. Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre

Miss SIMPSON asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (8/12/99)—

(1) For how much will the State Government subsidise the Gold Coast's new convention centre?

(2) How much will the State Government provide to a Sunshine Coast convention centre?

Mr ELDER (7/1/00):

(1) The amount of Government funding for the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre is the subject of commercial negotiations with Jupiters (the Preferred Developer) and has not yet been determined.

(2) A feasibility study was completed for the Maroochydore Shire Council at the end of October 1999 and is currently being assessed by Council and the Government.

2055. Internet "Cookies"

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (8/12/99)—

With reference to Internet "cookies" which are rather innocent sounding, however, they are used to attract significant information, in many cases unbeknown to the Internet user, of personal details of that user—

- (1) Does the Government have an internal/external "cookies" policy, if so, what is it?
- (2) When is/did this policy come into force and what is its jurisdiction?
- (3) Do any Queensland Government departments issue "cookies", if so, which ones and what are they used for and what level of security to protect that information is used?
- (4) Does he have an overall privacy policy for Government websites; if so, what is it, when was it initiated and will he provide that policy?
- (5) Has there been any instances of secure information being accessed externally from Government computers using "cookies"; if so, what type of information was accessed, when and what was done about it?
- (6) Has there even been an audit of the types and numbers of "cookies" on Government computers; if so, when and what was the result?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): Internet "cookies" are a simple mechanism used by an Internet web site server to deliver data to an Internet user, and in some circumstances, return the information to the web site. Cookies allow web sites to "remember" information about users as they move around a particular web site. For example, cookies allow people to use "shopping cart" facilities on web sites—the "cookie" allows the web site to remember what a shopper has added to their shopping cart, or removed from their shopping cart, before they go to the "checkout" to pay for their purchases. Cookies can also be used to manage access to a secure portion of a web site by remembering user passwords.

Cookies were not created to invade the privacy of Internet users—they can only store information that is explicitly provided by the Internet user in the first place, or information the web site already knows about the user. They cannot be aggregated across

different web sites. It is important to remember that Internet users do not have to accept cookies if they do not want to—they can set their browser to notify them when a cookie is received, giving them the chance to decide whether to accept the cookie or not.

The United States Government—Computer Incident Advisory Capability (CIAC)—has issued advice that Internet "cookies" present no risk other than potentially tracking a visitor's browsing patterns within a website. It should be noted that some user information, such as their internet address, browser software and operating system environment, is automatically provided by an internet user's computer to any website they visit, and that this occurs regardless of whether "cookies" are used.

(1) No, the Government does not have a policy on internet "cookies". Cookies are a minor technical feature that will be addressed in a review of the Government's overall information security policy.

(2) See 1.

(3) Yes, some Government department web sites do issue cookies, however, no central register is kept of these. For example, some agencies engaged in electronic commerce, such as Goprint, use cookies for tracking "shopping cart" purchases.

(4) There is no specific privacy policy for Government web sites at present. However, the Government has a firm commitment to privacy and recognises that there are quite legitimate concerns about how the information it stores is used. Information Standard No 24, for example, provides an explicit requirement on State Government agencies to "ensure the privacy and confidentiality of its information resource, and take all reasonable precautions to ensure that personal information (about individuals), commercial-in-confidence information (about organisations), or other sensitive information is not misused, intentionally or unintentionally, either within the agency or when shared with external organisations."

(5) There have been no known instances of secure information being accessed externally from Government computers through the use of "cookies".

(6) There have been no audits of the types and numbers of "cookies" stored on Government computers although it is reasonable to expect that most Internet capable Government computers would hold "cookies".

2056. Maryborough, Police Citizens Youth Club

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (8/12/99)—

With reference to a submission made by the Maryborough Community Recreation Centre, the Maryborough Police Youth Association (PCYC) and the Maryborough City Council for a \$1,000,000 Government grant which would allow the PCYC of Hervey Bay to establish a PCYC branch to be set up at Ariadne Street, Maryborough—

Will he give a clear and detailed explanation as to the present status of this submission?

Mr BEATTIE (4/1/00): In November 1998, the Maryborough City Council submitted a proposal to the then Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing for funding to establish a Police Citizens Youth Association Centre at Ariadne Street, Maryborough, under the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program.

In March 1999, the Maryborough City Council was advised that the proposal was unsuccessful, as it was not sufficiently developed to justify consideration of funding. Officers of the newly formed Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Sport are however, continuing to work with Maryborough community organisations and the Maryborough City Council. I anticipate that a more detailed funding proposal will be submitted for consideration in the near future.

2057. Proston, Ambulance Service

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (8/12/99)—

- (1) Why was an SES volunteer in the Proston area asked on 14 November to drive an ambulance for the ambulance officer because no first responders were available?
- (2) Why were none available when it has been stated that Proston has 24 hour first responder coverage?
- (3) Why was the ambulance officer forced to hunt up a driver when first responders were supposed to be available, so that the officer could attend the patient in the rear of the vehicle?
- (4) When will a full-time permanent QAS officer be reinstated to the Proston area?
- (5) If a QAS officer was prepared to move to Proston will she approve the transfer?

Mr ROBERTSON (Minister for Emergency Services) (7/1/00):

- (1) The day duty ambulance officer at Proston was called to a patient with chest pain. To support the provision of immediate high quality pre-hospital care, the ambulance officer requested the assistance of a back-up crew from Murgon station. In order to transport the patient to Murgon in the least possible timeframe, the ambulance officer asked a local SES volunteer, who is a fireman, to drive the ambulance towards Murgon until the back-up vehicle was met.
- (2) The first responder program was established to support the community after hours. Ambulance officers from neighbouring stations attend Proston during business hours, 7 days per week. After hours, the first responders attend the case and are immediately supported by ambulance officers from nearby Murgon station.
- (3) In order to transport the patient to Murgon in the least possible timeframe, whilst the patient received the best possible ambulance care, the ambulance officer contacted a local SES volunteer, who was known to be available, to drive the ambulance towards Murgon until they met the back-up vehicle.

(4) The QAS has been unable to attract any applicant for ambulance officer position at Proston.

(5) Should a suitably qualified officer apply to voluntarily transfer to Proston, the QAS would consider the appointment.

2058. Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning Department

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department, will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (7/1/00): The following consultancies were entered into by my Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning:

- (a) Needs of small business to remain sustainable and expand in the Western Gateway area.
- (b) Smart Business—Putting Ipswich First—Ms Robyn Hanelt
- (c) \$5,000
- (d) Performance will be determined by outputs not a specified number of days.
- (e) Yes
- (f) No. However there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value.
- (a) WHAM 2015 Regional Planning Project—Primary Element Assessment—Culture and Cultural Heritage
- (b) Mapro P/L—David Grogan
- (c) \$28,895
- (d) Contract is measured against four milestones.
- (e) Draft report to be submitted.
- (f) Yes
- (a) WHAM 2015 Regional Planning project—Primary Element Assessment—The Regional Environment and Natural Resources
- (b) Environment North—David Rivett
- (c) \$30,000
- (d) Contract is measured against four milestones.
- (e) Draft report received
- (f) Yes
- (a) WHAM 2015 Regional Planning Project—Primary Element Assessment—The Regional Economy
- (b) AEC Group—Carey Ramm
- (c) \$49,230
- (d) Contract is measured against four milestones.
- (e) Draft Report to be submitted.
- (f) Yes
- (a) Audit of Internet Services—ISRC,
- (b) Queensland University of Technology
- (c) \$17,500

- (d) 61 days
(e) Yes
(f) Quotations sought from three organisations.
- (a) Market Research (CITEC CONFIRM)
(b) Enhance Management
(c) \$30,092
(d) 42 days
(e) Yes
(f) Quotations sought from three organisations.
- (a) Strategic planning day facilitation
(b) Network Australia—Dr Peter Long
(c) \$4,500
(d) 3 days
(e) No
(f) Quotations sought from six organisations.
- (a) Market Research
(b) Debra Wilson Consulting Services—Ms Debbie Archbold
(c) \$9775
(d) 40 days
(e) In progress—due upon completion
(f) Quotations sought from two organisations
- (a) Strategic planning day facilitation
(b) Competitive Dynamics—Dr Geoff Kiel
(c) \$10,000
(d) 5 days
(e) No
(f) Quotations sought from three organisations.
- (a) Strategic planning day facilitation
(b) Latemore and Associates—Mr Greg Latemore
(c) \$5,000
(d) 2 days
(e) No
(f) Quotations sought from three organisations
- (a) CITEC Senior management group workshop
(b) Prospect Management Consulting—Ms Maryanne Mooney
(c) \$3,000
(d) 1 day
(e) No
(f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value.
- (a) Codification of on-site building codes to codify standards for on-site works that are additional to the requirements of the Standard Building Regulation.
(b) Bruce Robb and Associates Pty Ltd
(c) \$9,995.00
(d) 60 days
(e) Yes
(f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value.
- (a) Codify standards for on-site works that are additional to the requirements of the Standard Building Regulation.
(b) The Housing Industry Association Pty Ltd
(c) \$4,200.00
(d) 20 days
(e) Yes
(f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value.
- (a) Selection processes for the filling of vacant positions
(b) Genesis Management Consulting Pty Ltd
- (c) \$4,000.00
(d) 96 days
(e) Yes
(f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value.
- (a) The hearing of an appeal against a Private Certifier under Section 41 of the Building Act
(b) Ann Reed Consulting Pty Ltd
(c) \$3604.63
(d) 73 days
(e) Yes
(f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value.
- (a) Flowchart of IDAS Procedures
(b) Ann Reed Consulting Pty Ltd
(c) \$5,000.00
(d) 44 days
(e) Yes
(f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value.
- (a) Develop a draft Queensland Government response to the Commonwealth Discussion paper "Provision of the Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation: Request for comments and expressions of interest".
(b) Gibson Quai and Associates
(c) \$36,682.06
(d) 19.1 days
(e) Yes
(f) Quotations sought from three organisations
- (a) Public Key Infrastructure legal advice
(b) Gadens Lawyers—Mr Adrian McCullagh
(c) \$50,000
(d) Flat fee
(e) Yes
(f) Quotations were sought from four organisations
- (a) Design and Implementation of Regional IT Awareness Seminar
(b) AussieWeb Pty Ltd—Monte Huebsch
(c) \$14,800
(d) 120 days
(e) Yes
(f) Quotations were sought from six organisations
- (a) Review of C&I Industry Development within the State Purchasing Policy
(b) Corporate Context
(c) \$15,000
(d) 90 days
(e) Yes
(f) Quotations were sought from three organisations
- (a) Support for Archives One for 1999/2000
(b) Technology One Pty Ltd—Mike Clahsen
(c) \$150,000
(d) 360 days
(e) Consultancy on schedule not yet completed—written report not yet submitted
(f) Yes
- (a) Conduct of a client satisfaction survey for Queensland State Archives.
(b) AC Nielsen
(c) \$11,000
(d) 60 days
(e) Consultancy on schedule not yet completed—written report not yet submitted
(f) Yes

- (a) Development of Queensland State Archives Website
 (b) CITEC
 (c) \$11,200
 (d) 30 days
 (e) Consultancy on schedule not yet completed—written report not yet submitted
 (f) Yes
- (a) Development of a search program for both Public Access Room and Internet access to Archives One database
 (b) Technology One Pty Ltd—Mike Clahsen
 (c) \$134,620
 (d) 51 days
 (e) Written report not submitted yet
 (f) Yes
- (a) Conduct a needs analysis of the services, products and corporate governance functions required by the DCILGP's Service Areas in 1999-2000
 (b) Sagacity Consulting
 (c) \$3000
 (d) 1.8 days
 (e) Yes
 (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value.
- (a) Projections of Households for Queensland, Statistical Division and selected LGAs
 (b) Demographics Australia
 (c) \$6,300
 (d) 19 days
 (e) No
 (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Development of Methodology and Principles for setting local government charges imposed under the Building Act
 (b) Australian Economic Consultants (AEC Group)
 (c) \$10,000
 (d) 60 days
 (e) No
 (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Implementation Group for the Integrated Planning Act
 (b) C&B Consultants Cairns—Kim Campbell
 (c) \$5,000
 (d) 312 days
 (e) No
 (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Implementation Group for the Integrated Planning Act
 (b) Sinclair Knight Merz—Peter Zahnleiter
 (c) \$5,000
 (d) 312 days
 (e) No
 (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Implementation Group for the Integrated Planning Act
 (b) Design Marketing and Management—Geoff James
 (c) \$5,000
- (d) 312 days
 (e) No
 (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Implementing Benchmark Development Sequencing
 (b) Spiller Gibbins Swan Pty Ltd
 (c) \$35,000
 (d) 312 days
 (e) No
 (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Preparation of 'Guidelines for Determining Planning Requirements for Building Work Development
 (b) Humphries Reynolds Perkins Planning Consultants
 (c) \$15,000
 (d) 150 days
 (e) No
 (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Sample Infrastructure Charges Plan
 (b) Spiller Gibbins Swan Pty Ltd
 (c) \$39,880
 (d) 80
 (e) No
 (f) Yes
- (a) Preparation of a State Agencies Interests Resource IPA document
 (b) Gary Lee Consulting Services
 (c) \$10,000
 (d) 56 days
 (e) No
 (f) No. However there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Proposal to Prepare Job Evaluation Documentation
 (b) Genesis Management Consulting Pty Ltd
 (c) \$5,900
 (d) 17 days
 (e) Yes
 (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Southern Moreton Bay Island Land Use and Development Strategy Review
 (b) Real Property Dynamics
 (c) \$9,800
 (d) 16 days
 (e) Draft report submitted
 (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Development of communication strategy for the consultation phase of the CQANM regional planning project
 (b) Barker Campbell & Associates
 (c) \$10,000

- (d) 37 days
- (e) No
- (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Preparation and realisation of a regional study audit and preparation of an associated database
- (b) Gannon & Gannon Pty Ltd
- (c) \$9,000
- (d) 180 days
- (e) No
- (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Development and implementation of a communication plan for the pre and post launch phases of the CQANM regional planning project
- (b) QCCN (Qld Corporate Communications Network)
- (c) \$7,020
- (d) 120 days
- (e) Yes
- (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Provision of technical expertise regarding the Grouputer GSS for the CQANM Strategic Planning Workshop 23-24 July 1999
- (b) Laotran Pty Ltd
- (c) \$750
- (d) 8 days
- (e) No
- (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Preparation of a regional profile—Overview for the CQANM regional planning project
- (b) Argo Consulting
- (c) \$2,075
- (d) 68 days
- (e) Yes
- (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Coordination of Education Program for ICM Project
- (b) Royal Australian Planning Institute
- (c) \$2,000
- (d) 120 days
- (e) No
- (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value
- (a) Preparation of Education Program for ICM Project
- (b) Local Government Association of Qld
- (c) \$3,000
- (d) 129 days
- (e) No
- (f) No. However, there is no requirement to publicly advertise a consultancy of this value.

2059. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr **STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department, will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mr **BRADY** (7/1/00): You already have the details for 1998/99, which includes those details from 1 January 1999 up to 30 June 1999. I can only assume that you have not yet taken the trouble to read what I have supplied. Details of consultancies from 01 July 1999 to 30 November 1999 are as per attachment 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2060. Police Department; Corrective Services Commission

Mr **GRICE** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department, will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mr **BARTON** (6/1/00): See attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2061. Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Mrs **SHELDON** asked the Premier (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department, will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mr **BEATTIE** (4/1/00): A table of the consultancies engaged by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Office of the Public Service Commissioner, since 1 January 1999, along with details of these consultancies, is provided in Attachment One. The Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel did not engage any consultants during the relevant period. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2062. Mines and Energy Department

Mr **SEENEY** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department, will he provide the following

details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mr McGRADY (7/1/00): The Honourable Member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken in their annual reports. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information contained in these annual reports.

2063. Tourism, Sport and Racing Department

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department, will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mrs ROSE (Minister for Tourism and Racing) (4/1/00): Details of consultancies engaged by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing since 1 January 1999 are contained in the attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2064. Health Department

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by her department, will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mrs EDMOND (7/1/00): I refer the honourable member to Question on Notice No. 1956 that detailed consultancies where KPMG was engaged; to Estimates Committee E Question on Notice No. 4. that detailed contract staff/consultants engaged during 1998/99 and to Question on Notice No. 1149 advising additional information will be documented in the Queensland Health Annual Report.

2065. Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department, will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days

engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mr FOLEY (10/1/00): I refer to my response to question on notice No. 1148 which provided the sought information for my portfolio for the period 26 June 1998 to 18 August 1999 and to Attachment A which contains the information for my Department since that time.

Attachment B details additional costs of consultancies for my Department covered in my response to question on notice 1148.

The guidelines of the State Purchasing Policy have been followed. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2066. Primary Industries Department

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department, will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mr PALASZCZUK (Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities) (24/12/99): In summary, the Department expended a total of approximately \$6.8 M on consultancies during the period 1 January 1999 to 31 October 1999. Details for November 1999 are in the process of being finalised/reconciled. Details of consultancy expenditure by Business Group are provided in the attached table.

A large proportion of this expenditure (\$6.2 M) on consultancies during this period relates to the implementation of the new Departmental computerised financial and human resource management system (SAP). These consultancy figures include services provided to DPI Forestry and the Corporate Services Agency. The engagement of consultants by the Department is governed by appropriate Departmental Standards and is in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2067. Transport Department; Main Roads Department

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department, will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly

advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/1/00): As my portfolio includes departments which deliver a major proportion of infrastructure requiring the engagement of a significant number of consultants, the magnitude of the task in answering this question in any detail is enormous.

The work involved to complete this exercise would, if carried out, substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of my departments away from the performance of their functions. Something like 50,000 vouchers would need to be manually extracted, analysed and then sent to the appropriate areas for confirmation prior to preparation of a response.

To illustrate the size of this task, the 1998-99 Annual Reports from my departments show consultancy expenditure of \$52.421 million for Main Roads and \$23.876 million for Queensland Transport, totalling \$76.297 million. These figures are categorised under Professional/Technical, Financial, Information Technology, Human Resources, Management, Communication and other. An audited figure for consultancy expenditure also will be provided in the Annual Reports for 1999-2000.

This question has been too general to provide the specific information requested.

2068. Environment and Heritage Department; Natural Resources Department

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department, will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mr WELFORD (7/1/00): Attachment 1 provides details of Consultancies utilised/engaged by my Department of Natural Resources since 01/01/1999. Attachment 2 provides similar details for my Environmental Protection Agency. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2069. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development Department; Equity and Fair Trading Department

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by her department, will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal

consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Ms SPENCE (23/12/99): The Department of Equity and Fair Trading and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development have not utilised/engaged any consultancies since 1 January 1999.

2070. State Development Department

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (8/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by his department, will he provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each such consultancy since 1 January 1999?

Mr ELDER (7/1/00): This question was previously asked (on 1 December 1999) and answered.

2071. State Development Department

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (8/12/99)—

With reference to all persons either by secondment or by appointment that have been appointed in a permanent or acting capacity to a Senior Executive Service or Senior Officer position with his department since 26 June 1998—

Will he list (a) position title, (b) division/program/branch, (c) name of officer, (d) Public Service classification and (e) date of appointment?

Mr ELDER (12/1/00): The information as requested above is provided in Attachment A. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2072. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (8/12/99)—

With reference to purchases over \$10,000 but below \$100,000 (excluding building contracts) made by the department within the Brisbane Statistical Division during 1998-99—

What was the total value of such purchases used (a) outside the Brisbane Statistical Division and (b) within the Brisbane Statistical Division?

Mr BRADY (7/1/00): To provide this information would be an unreasonable divergence of resources.

2073. Public Works Department; Housing Department

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/12/99)—

With reference to purchases over \$100,000 (excluding building contracts) made by the department within the Brisbane Statistical Division during 1998-99—

What was the total value of such purchases used (a) outside the Brisbane Statistical Division and (b) within the Brisbane Statistical Division?

Mr SCHWARTEN (7/1/00): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my departments. This would be an expensive and an inappropriate waste of taxpayers' funds that could be used towards providing more job opportunities for our young people and for the delivery of quality housing services to people in need. If the Honourable the Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide the relevant information.

2074. Education Department

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (8/12/99)—

With reference to purchases over \$10,000 but below \$100,000 (excluding building contracts) made by the department during 1998-99—

What was the total value of such purchases from (a) suppliers located outside the Brisbane Statistical Division and (b) suppliers located inside the Brisbane Statistical Division, (c) suppliers located in other Australian States/Territories and New Zealand and (d) suppliers located elsewhere overseas?

Mr WELLS (11/1/00): The Department informs me that payments made by Education Queensland over \$10,000 but below \$100,000 during the 1998-99 year for purchase orders raised on suppliers other than for building contracts were:

- (a) suppliers located outside the Brisbane Statistical Division—\$578,253
- (b) suppliers located inside the Brisbane Statistical Division—\$5,737,708
- (c) suppliers located in other Australian States/Territories and New Zealand—\$1,269,661
- (d) supplied located elsewhere overseas—Nil

Purchasing information from schools is not readily available and would involve an inordinate amount of administrative effort to collect and collate.

It should be noted that the information provided above has been obtained from records, in particular purchase orders, held by Education Queensland and is based on information available at this time. However, this information is subject to change over time in accord with new and emerging Departmental needs and priorities.

2075. Police Department; Corrective Services Commission

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (8/12/99)—

With reference to purchases over \$100,000 (excluding building contracts) made by the departments during 1998-99—

What was the total value of such purchases from (a) suppliers located outside the Brisbane Statistical Division and (b) suppliers located inside the Brisbane Statistical Division, (c) suppliers located in other Australian States/Territories and New Zealand and (d) suppliers located elsewhere overseas?

Mr BARTON (6/1/00): The material given in these answers does not refer to the point of purchase and therefore an interpretation of the figures as an indication of where the funds were spent would be misleading. Purchases are recorded where the invoice was paid, rather than where the supplier is located. As most invoices are paid at the State or national headquarters of firms, most of the records would therefore indicate payment in Brisbane or in some cases interstate. For example, fuel purchases are recorded against 'Other States' as BP Australia is based in Melbourne, although the purchase of fuel would have taken place at various suppliers around Queensland.

In all answers the first figure relates to Police and the second, Corrective Services—

- (a) \$295,000, \$1,559,292
- (b) \$58,389,000, \$34,296,191
- (c) \$19,422,000, \$3,121,692
- (d) \$909,000, \$0.

2076. Public Works Department; Housing Department

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/12/99)—

With reference to purchases over \$10,000 but below \$100,000 (excluding building contracts) made by the department during 1998-99—

What was the total value of such purchases from (a) suppliers located outside the Brisbane Statistical Division and (b) suppliers located inside the Brisbane Statistical Division, (c) suppliers located in other Australian States/Territories and New Zealand and (d) suppliers located elsewhere overseas?

Mr SCHWARTEN (7/1/00): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my departments. This would be an expensive and an inappropriate waste of taxpayers' funds that could be used towards providing more job opportunities for our young people and for the delivery of quality housing services to people in need. If the Honourable the Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide the relevant information.

2077. Emergency Services Department

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (8/12/99)—

With reference to purchases over \$100,000 (excluding building contracts) made by the departments during 1998-99—

What was the total value of such purchases from (a) suppliers located outside the Brisbane Statistical Division and (b) suppliers located inside the Brisbane Statistical Division, (c) suppliers located in other Australian States/Territories and New Zealand and (d) suppliers located elsewhere overseas?

Mr ROBERTSON (12/1/00): For clarity in responding to your question, I have excluded payments in the following categories: building/construction costs; salary-related expenses; grants and subsidies; telephones; payments to other Government Departments; and insurance payments.

In 1998-99 my Department made purchases totalling \$45,773,964 (greater than \$100,000 and excluding building contracts).

- (a) Purchases of \$16,805,806 were from suppliers located outside the Brisbane Statistical Division.
- (b) Purchases of \$28,968,158 were from suppliers located inside the Brisbane Statistical Division.
- (c) Purchases of \$15,643,544 were from suppliers located in other Australian States/Territories. There were no purchases exceeding \$100,000 from suppliers located in New Zealand.
- (d) There were no purchases exceeding \$100,000 from other overseas suppliers.

2078. Southport, Court House Hotel Project

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (8/12/99)—

With reference to her answer to the Member for Noosa on 7 December in the Parliament, wherein she railed the Shadow Minister regarding the Queensland Building Services Authority and subcontractors being left owing substantial amounts of money—

- (1) Is she aware that the hotel in Southport known as the Court House Hotel (formerly the Queensland Hotel) is now open and trading, even though some subcontractors who worked on the renovations of the hotel are still owed sums in the vicinity of \$80,000?
- (2) Will she intervene on behalf of these cash-strapped subcontractors?

Ms SPENCE (23/12/99):

(1) I am aware that subcontractors are owed money in relation to the Southport Court House hotel project. I am advised that this is another example of project management contracts under which subcontractors have been disadvantaged. As Members would be aware BSA has a limited jurisdiction in relation to disputes between owners/developers and subcontractors. In this instance the project owner, Beralt Pty Ltd, engaged

a project manager who in turn contracted to subcontractors. The owner was responsible for payment to the builder, subcontractors and suppliers.

The changes to the QBSA Act passed by this House in August 1999 and which came into effect on 1 October 1999 now require that a specific warning be included in all contracts of this type so that subcontractors acknowledge that they are dealing with an entity which has not had to meet any financial tests. They are advised that they should undertake their own checks as to the developers' ability to pay them.

(2) BSA has already intervened in relation to the dispute assisting creditors to receive their contract entitlements. The BSA has extended this invitation to other creditors but none have as yet accepted the offer. Such action may result in the winding up of Beralt. I personally wrote to the Federal Minister for Financial Services and Regulation, Joe Hockey, in March 1999 advising him of concerns in relation to the actions and possible Corporations Law offences by Beralt. Also the BSA wrote to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) in March 1999 requesting an urgent investigation into Beralt's conduct.

The Chairman of the Building Services Authority Board has taken the step of writing to the ASIC's Regional Commissioner requesting an investigation.

2079. Suncorp-Metway Stadium

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (8/12/99)—

With reference to numerous media reports which indicate he believes construction work on the redeveloped Suncorp/Metway Stadium must start by July 2000 if the stadium is to be completed in time for testing prior to the 2003 Rugby World Cup—

- (1) What is the time frame to allow the Government to give proper consideration to the results of the public consultation involved in the Impact Assessment Study which is not due for completion until the end of June 2000?
- (2) Will the Impact Assessment Study take into account all the aspects of the final design and infrastructure requirements of the redeveloped stadium?
- (3) When will the detailed planning for the City West Precinct Vision announced by the Premier in August 1999, of which Suncorp/Metway Stadium is a major component, be unveiled?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (6/1/00):

(1) The draft Terms of Reference for the Impact Assessment Study (IAS) are open for public input for two and half months from 30 November 1999 to 15 February 2000. The Queensland Government will consider all submissions and seek to finalise the Terms of Reference for the IAS as expeditiously as possible.

(2) The draft IAS report will be released for public comment for six (6) weeks from 4 May to 14 June 2000. All submissions will be considered before finalising the IAS by 28 June 2000. The results will then be reported to the Queensland Cabinet.

The IAS will assess the concept designs which are to be prepared. The IAS is intended to determine the parameters of what infrastructure may be required, particularly transport infrastructure.

(3) As the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development is responsible for the City West strategy, this question should be referred to him.

2080. Child Protection Workers

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/12/99)—

With reference to her assurance to Parliament that 70 permanent front line professional child protection workers will be employed during 1999-2000 replacing 48 temporary staff—

By work group, how will these workers be allocated, when will they be taking up duty and what additional administrative support will be provided for these officers?

Ms BLIGH (6/1/00): An additional 77 frontline workers will be allocated as per the attached table. Interviews for the front line positions commenced on 14 December 1999 and are scheduled to continue throughout January and February 2000. The majority of appointments to positions will be completed by the end of February 2000. Eight additional administrative staff will be employed to assist those larger area offices with existing administrative staff inequities. Administrative positions have been allocated to Logan, Sunshine Coast, Cairns, Rockhampton, Mackay, Gold Coast, Toowoomba and Inala. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2081. Miners; Native Title

Mr ROWELL asked the Premier (8/12/99)—

With reference to small miners throughout Queensland who are in many cases finding it impossible to continue with their operations due to native title issues and their machinery is rusting as debts increase and income is being denied to their families for the essentials of life and they believe that they have been tricked into "just around the corner solutions" to their dilemma and to the North Queensland Miners' Association members who have requested support through low interest finance but recently were refused—

Why is he not prepared to assist this group of Queenslanders who, through no fault of their own, have their backs to the wall and are desperately in need of support to carry them through this difficult period?

Mr BEATTIE (24/12/99): My Government, upon taking office, acted immediately to seek solutions to native title and land management issues.

My Government initiated the Small Mining Project, which has already resulted in 47 mining leases and 14 mining claims being approved since July 1998. Both my Department and the Department of Mines and Energy have spent considerable time and resources negotiating agreements to facilitate these approvals and great progress has been made across the State with two new Right to Negotiate agreements and an Indigenous Land Use Agreement already in place. On 16 December 1999 at a signing ceremony, the Minister for Mines and Energy on behalf of the State, two mining associations, three traditional owner groups and indigenous representative bodies, agreed to the grant of 72 mining tenements for the Yowah area and 21 mining tenements for the Opalton area near Winton. These agreements clear the way for approvals of over 125 operations.

I am aware that negotiations have proven to be more difficult in North Queensland, however, officers in Native Title Services within my Department are continuing to actively promote a negotiated agreement with both parties. There are no mechanisms available for Government to provide low interest loans directly to miners.

2082. Wamuran State School

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/12/99)—

With reference to an impending upgrading of the Wamuran State School and to an approach from the Caboolture Shire Council (to Education Queensland) seeking funding for the associated upgrade of Spillane Street adjacent to the school—

- (1) Will he offer funding assistance for this very necessary project via the SafeST program or any other source from within his departmental budget?
- (2) Will he undertake to instigate negotiations between his department, Education Queensland and the Caboolture Shire Council to facilitate the necessary improvements to set-down areas in Spillane Street as depicted in Education Queensland's site plan?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/1/00):

(1) The Department of Main Roads has not received a formal application for funding to upgrade Spillane Street at Wamuran. A 50% subsidy is available from the State Government, via the Safe School Travel (SafeST) Infrastructure Subsidy Scheme, to assist local governments in providing the necessary infrastructure for travel to schools, such as set-down facilities.

Applications for funding under the SafeST Scheme are administered by Main Roads and assessed on a priority basis, to ensure funds are directed towards those projects which have the greatest need.

(2) I have made arrangements for the Department of Main Roads to contact Caboolture Shire Council highlighting the SafeST scheme, and inviting Council to make a submission for funding to allow this work to be considered at the next review of the program.

2083. Gympie, Bruce Highway

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/12/99)—

With reference to the extremely dangerous intersections on the Bruce Highway through the built-up area of Gympie—

Does his department have plans to four-lane the highway through Gympie and upgrade the life-threatening intersections; if so, when is work likely to commence?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/1/00): As the Bruce Highway through Gympie is part of the Federally-funded National Highway System, the Department of Main Roads will continue to seek funding for upgrading of this section of the highway in submissions to the Federal Government.

2084. Drug Courts

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier (9/12/99)—

With reference to the Drug Court program and an article in The Courier Mail which said the Government was looking at the south-east corner only for drug courts and the Australian Parents for Drug Free Youth's detailed submission to Government on behalf of the Maryborough/Hervey Bay Public Health Planning Committee—

- (1) Is he aware that the Attorney-General in his letter dated 17 September to the Australian Parents for Drug Free Youth said they would be given the opportunity to make a formal submission about a pilot program in the Wide Bay area when it comes before Cabinet?
- (2) Has the Government changed its mind; if so, why?

Mr BEATTIE (4/1/00):

(1) I am now aware of a request by your constituents to make a submission to the Minister and of a response by the Senior Policy Adviser to the Attorney-General that the request had been "passed on to the Department so that this may occur in due course and as matters become clearer, such as whether the Department of Health will be a service provider or a purchaser of services".

(2) Cabinet left the location of the pilot to be resolved by the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, and the Departments of Justice and Attorney-General, Corrective Services and Health. As one Magistrate will run the pilot, it will be confined to the courts in the south-east corner of the State dealing with the greatest number of drug dependent offenders.

2085. Maryborough Housing Action Group

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (9/12/99)—

With reference to the Management Committee of the Maryborough Housing Action Group (HAG) (9/12/99)—

- (1) Does that committee include (a) Mrs Lexie Tudman, wife of co-ordinator John Tudman, (b) Mr Brendan Hansen, reportedly a blood

relative of the Tudman family and (c) Mr Brendan Hansen's sister?

- (2) Are any other relatives of Mr and Mrs Tudman employed in the HAG?
- (3) Is this in conflict with the model constitution for community-based organisations and her own department's rules for such bodies?
- (4) Are all these people closely connected with the Labor Party?
- (5) Has an instruction been issued from her department to conceal details of the membership of this HAG Management Committee?

Ms BLIGH (10/1/00):

(1)(a) Mrs Alexia Tudman, Deputy Mayor of Maryborough, holds the position of Committee Member of the Housing Action Group, Maryborough District.

(b) The late Mr Brendan Hansen held the position of Vice President of that Management Committee. It is not known what blood ties, if any, Mr Hansen had with the Tudman family.

(c) The staff of the Maryborough office of my Department are not in possession of any information regarding the relationship of any other members of the Committee of the Maryborough Housing Action Group to Mr Brendan Hansen.

(2) Records in the Maryborough office show that Mr R J Tudman, brother of Mr John Tudman, is employed as a Supervisor at the Men's Refuge, (Coolooli House). Maryborough Housing Action Group auspices this service. The position held by Mr R J Tudman is a part-time position.

(3) The model constitution for community based organisations does not make reference to the employment of relatives of paid staff or Management Committee members. Staff of my Department support organisations to develop appropriate policies and procedures for the selection of Management Committees and paid staff.

(4) It is not considered professional practice to inquire into the political beliefs of staff or management committee members, unless there is clear evidence that these beliefs are impinging on their voluntary or paid role, or affecting clients. There is currently no evidence provided to my Department that such interference has occurred.

(5) No instructions have been issued from my Department to conceal details of the membership of this Management Committee.

2086. Grey Water

Mr PAFF asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (9/12/99)—

With reference to the proposal for the use of grey water from the Brisbane, Logan and Ipswich cities—

- (1) What industries will be involved in the construction and preparation of this proposed water resource?

- (2) What encouragement is the Government giving to local authorities, such as Ipswich, Logan City and Brisbane for the provision of local industries to be involved in the use of this valuable resource?

Mr ELDER (10/1/00): My Department of State Development is currently leading an Inter-Agency Committee to:

identify opportunities for private sector involvement in funding the development of this proposal; and

to gather the information that would be needed if a call is made for expressions of interest from the private sector to participate in the funding, ownership and operation of all or part of the project.

Membership of this Committee includes the Departments of Natural Resources and Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan City Councils.

My Department is working closely with a broad range of stakeholders to identify and address all project risks. Until this work is completed, it is not possible to identify what industries or firms will be involved in the development of this proposal. However, many issues still need to be resolved before the commercial viability of the project can be confirmed.

By including the Councils which could supply effluent for this proposal in the Inter-Agency Committee, it will be possible to address the needs of each of these Councils in detail. As far as offering incentives for local industries to use this resource, until the feasibility of the project is confirmed it is far too early to make any definitive statement.

2087. Eimeo Road State School

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/12/99)—

With reference to the extremely dangerous unsupervised crossings at Eimeo Road State School, upon which recent surveys indicate the following results (a) 148 out of 345 (43 per cent) completed responses have been received, (b) 31 children currently cross on Eimeo Road, but 84 would do so if it were not so dangerous and (c) 34 children currently cross on Bucasia Road, but 66 would do so if it were not so dangerous—

Is the criteria for supervision usage by 25 children; if so, and in light of the fact that even the current usage is in excess of that number on both roads, (and would double if safety was assured), will he ask his department to immediately appoint crossing supervisors to both these crossings?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/1/00): Main Roads installed a pedestrian refuge outside the school on Eimeo Road in 1998 following approaches from the Parents and Citizens Association. The speed zone in the vicinity of the school is 40 kilometres per hour during peak crossing times. There is also a combined bikeway and footpath across Mackay-Bucasia Road, adjacent to Eimeo School. The speed limit on Bucasia Road at this location has recently been reduced from 90 to 60 kilometres per hour.

Main Roads has spent \$3.5 million over the past 3 years upgrading the Mackay-Bucasia Road, including the improvement of five intersections with further \$1.8 million to be spent upgrading 2 more intersections in the next four years.

However, the minimum warrant for a school-crossing supervisor is not met. Queensland Transport has attending meetings with the school and Parents and Citizens Association to discuss safety options for the school.

2088. Electoral Laws

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Premier (9/12/99)—

Bearing in mind that the British Isles is only one-sixth of the land area of Queensland and the vast majority of Queenslanders live within 60 km of the coastline, will he concede that the principle of one vote-one value is hard to defend in Queensland when, in the United Kingdom, a much smaller country, the variation in the number of electors per electorate can vary as much as six times in number, yet there is no outcry of unjust electoral laws?

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99): The Electoral and Administrative Review Commission carefully analysed the problems of representation in large rural electorates and the arguments in favour of equal suffrage for all Queensland electors.

The weighting system which applies in large rural electorates was the compromise reached by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission after comprehensively examining a wide range of alternative systems operating throughout the world.

After the recent redistribution of State electorates, there are 28,765 "notional" electors in the five large rural electorates. Therefore, the electors in these electorates already have a vote of greater value than all other electors throughout the State.

2089. Killarney Pine and Warwick Sawmills

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

With reference to the closure of the Killarney Pine and Warwick Sawmills in mid-September and to his media release of 5 November within which he indicated that the immediate response team, a part of the Worker Assistance Program, would be in Warwick on 10 November to assist workers directly affected by the closure of the mill—

Why has the immediate response team not lived up to its name and has taken almost two months to get to Warwick and assist the displaced workers from the Killarney Pine and Warwick Sawmills?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): I am advised that the Department was unable to act until the Liquidator had made the necessary information available. Within one week of the release of the contact details for employees, the team had contacted all available retrenched workers and arranged interviews.

2090. Townsville Industrial Land Project

Mr KNUTH asked the Premier (9/12/99)—

Will he or any of his Ministers provide a comprehensive list of landholders, including investment syndicates, which fall into the existing proposed areas of the Townsville Industrial Land Project, including the new sub-division of Rocky Springs?

Mr BEATTIE (4/1/00): There are currently seven remaining landholders who are directly impacted by the Townsville Industrial Land Project, however, it would not be appropriate for me to table their personal details without their knowledge or consent. The Honourable Member may view the Woodstock Industrial Area Site Selection Report and the discussion paper, which are available for perusal at the State Development Centre, Townsville, the Townsville City Library and the Thuringowa City Library, and conduct land title searches using the Department of Natural Resources' facilities to ascertain further information about the affected landholders.

The proposed Rocky Springs subdivision is not part of the current area being assessed for the Townsville Industrial Land Project. Rocky Springs was one of the final four areas selected for comparison as part of the area selection process. As is detailed in the Area Selection Report completed in August 1997, Rocky Springs was excluded, along with two other sites, in favour of Woodstock. Rocky Springs has subsequently been identified in the Townsville Thuringowa Strategic Plan as the preferred location for a new integrated urban community of approximately 55,000 people. Details of specific individual land ownership of the Rocky Springs area have not been considered as part of the Townsville Industrial Land Project study. Again, the Honourable Member may access this information through land title searches.

2091. Disability Services Queensland

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (9/12/99)—

Having accepted responsibility for "Project 300" from Queensland Health and with about six months of the financial year having now passed, how many of the 300 persons concerned has she placed into community locations since 1 July and at what cost?

Ms BLIGH (10/1/00): In addition to the 185 persons already placed, since 1 July 1999 Disability Services Queensland has funded 16 new packages of individual support into community locations at a total cost of \$911,895.

2092. New Years Eve, Taxis

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/12/99)—

With reference to the threat by the taxi drivers to boycott taxi services in Brisbane on New Year's Eve—

- (1) What arrangements has he made to ensure that contracted taxi services will meet service level requirements of their contracts over the Christmas—New Year period?
- (2) What arrangements have been made to monitor the performance of taxis and other public transport over this period?
- (3) Is he satisfied that the public will be able to rely upon public transport on New Year's Eve in particular?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/1/00):

(1) All contracted taxi booking companies received a letter from Queensland Transport prior to Christmas reminding them of their responsibilities to provide adequate levels of services in accordance with their contract requirements. The companies then made arrangements to ensure appropriate numbers of vehicles were available. Similarly, all taxi service licence holders were contacted and advised of their responsibilities to provide services as demanded by their affiliated taxi booking companies.

In addition, taxi booking companies agreed to take pre-bookings from customers for travel on New Year's Eve up until 6 pm that night.

(2) Taxi booking companies will report on their performance in their quarterly returns in accordance with their contract requirements.

Similarly with other public transport services, reporting will be undertaken through their service contracts.

I also required officers of Queensland Transport to undertake additional measures to monitor the performance of taxis over the Christmas—New Year period especially on New Year's Eve. A number of senior Queensland Transport officers were on duty on New Year's Eve and one of their prime responsibilities was to monitor the performance of public transport services.

In addition, arrangements were made for the Acting Executive Director (Public Transport) to contact the President of the Taxi Council of Queensland at 8.30 pm and 11.30 pm on New Year's Eve and at 1.30 am on New Year's Day to ascertain, firstly, the number of taxis on the road in Brisbane and each major provincial city in Queensland at each time and secondly, the delay, if any, being experienced by customers booking taxi services.

At least 85 per cent of the taxi fleet was on the road in Brisbane on New Year's Eve at a minimum, with supervisors being engaged at major ranks to assist the public to obtain taxis as soon as possible. In major provincial cities, at least 90 per cent of taxis were on the road and rank supervisors were also engaged at a number of centres to assist the public.

(3) Yes, the lead up arrangements put in place by my Government ensured that public transport services were an outstanding success on New Year's Eve and few delays were experienced by the public.

2093. Police Department; Corrective Services Commission

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (9/12/99)—

With reference to purchases over \$10,000 but below \$100,000 (excluding building contracts) made by the departments during 1998-99—

What was the total value of such purchases from (a) suppliers located outside the Brisbane Statistical Division, (b) suppliers located inside the Brisbane Statistical Division, (c) suppliers located in other Australian States/Territories and New Zealand and (d) suppliers located elsewhere overseas?

Mr BARTON (6/1/00): The material given in these answers does not refer to the point of purchase and therefore an interpretation of the figures as an indication of where the funds were spent would be misleading. Purchases are recorded where the invoice was paid, rather than where the supplier is located. As most invoices are paid at the State or national headquarters of firms, most of the records would therefore indicate payment in Brisbane or in some cases interstate. For example, fuel purchases are recorded against 'Other States' as BP Australia is based in Melbourne, although the purchase of fuel would have taken place at various suppliers around Queensland.

In all answers the first figure relates to Police and the second, Corrective Services

- (a) \$456,000, \$4,406,278
- (b) \$39,254,000, \$17,213,447
- (c) \$11,559,000, \$3,121,692
- (d) \$143,000, \$0.

2094. Public Works Department; Housing Department

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (9/12/99)—

With reference to purchases over \$10,000 but below \$100,000 (excluding building contracts) made by the department within the Brisbane Statistical Division during 1998-99—

What was the total value of such purchases used (a) outside the Brisbane Statistical Division and (b) within the Brisbane Statistical Division?

Mr SCHWARTEN (7/1/00): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by my departments. This would be an expensive and an inappropriate waste of taxpayers' funds that could be used towards providing more job opportunities for our young people and for the delivery of quality housing services to people in need. If the Honourable the Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide the relevant information.

2095. Tully-Innisfail, Electricity Supply

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (9/12/99)—

With reference to the high voltage power line proposed by Powerlink between Tully and Innisfail which is receiving strong opposition from property owners that are to have the lines running through

their properties and to technology using a converter at either end of the existing aerials and energising the power lines with DC rather than AC current which could increase the capacity of the existing system—

Has Powerlink considered this technology rather than cause the enormous disruption and concerns to property owners along the proposed corridor?

Mr McGRADY (10/1/00): Powerlink has advised that it has not considered, in detail, DC technology for any of the transmission lines in Far North Queensland. Rebuilding the Kareeya line using DC technology would be far more expensive than the alternative line and would fail to meet many of the other criteria relevant to Powerlink's considerations for this project.

2096. Youth Participation Strategy; State Youth Council

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (9/12/99)—

Will she (a) provide a date on which she intends to table the report from the Generate document that outlines the results of her department's consultations, (b) ensure that all young Queenslanders will have an opportunity to participate in this forum and (c) give an assurance that members of the State Youth Council will not be hand picked by her?

Ms BLIGH (10/1/00): In response to the question on notice, I provide the following information—

(a) The Report of the Generate consultations entitled "Youth Participation Charter and Strategy, Consultation Report" was released in November 1999. Almost 2,000 copies of this report have been circulated to date.

(b) The Youth Participation Strategy will ensure that the voices of the young people of Queensland are heard in Government, not just the voices of a select few. This is not an easy task and it is acknowledged that a range of strategies and processes will be required to engage the diverse range of young people within the State. The components of the proposed strategy will be designed to be inclusive of all young people, including young people who may be marginalised within society.

(c) Membership of any Youth Council will be subject to Cabinet approval.

2097. Queensland Events Corporation

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (9/12/99)—

With reference to his statement in the House on 7 December in answer to a Question Without Notice concerning the achievements of the Queensland Events Corporation in which he said, "In 2000 alone, events to be hosted by Queensland will generate an estimated \$150m in economic activity for the State. This will be generated by the estimated 104,000 interstate and international visitors who will travel to Queensland for major events in 2000"—

- (1) Will he identify the events and the Queensland Events Corporation's contribution to those events which make up the estimated \$150m in economic activity?
- (2) Will he provide a breakdown of the estimated interstate and international visitor numbers to each of those events?

Mr BEATTIE (Premier) (24/12/99): (1 & 2) My Government will support some twenty-two major events, which will be held throughout Queensland, in 2000. A further three major events for 2000 and two major events for 2001, are expected to be announced shortly. I am unable to provide details of the financial arrangements between the Queensland Events Corporation and the various events the Corporation supports, as these arrangements are subject of commercially binding contracts and as such are commercial-in-confidence. The events that my Government has already announced for 2000, including the estimated number of interstate and international visitors are listed below.

Event—Number of Visitors

Australian Women's Hardcourt, Gold Coast—	500
Magic Millions Summer Carnival, Gold Coast—	4,000
Australian Surf Life Saving Championships, Gold Coast—	7,500
Australian Triathlon Championships, Mooloolaba—	1,000
Queensland Winter Racing Carnival, Brisbane—	1,000
Down Under Bowl X Tournament, Gold Coast—	2,500
Gold Coast Marathon, Gold Coast—	6,400
Asia Pacific Masters Games, Gold Coast—	2,400
Noosa Triathlon, Noosa—	8,300
ANZ Players Championships, Brisbane—	500
Woodford Folk Festival, Woodford—	9,750
Queensland 500, Ipswich—	2,507
City of Cairns Half Ironman Triathlon, Cairns—	250
Beef 2000, Rockhampton—	4,000
Asia Pacific Orienteering Championships, Warwick—	1,770
Australian Ladies Masters Golf, Gold Coast—	7,620
Down Under International Games, Gold Coast—	500
Down Under Hoops, Gold Coast—	500
Australian Movie Convention, Gold Coast—	700
World Outriggers Championships, Townsville—	1,000
Honda Indy 300, Gold Coast—	40,000
Pre-Olympic Science Congress, Brisbane—	1,800

2098. Lamington National Park, Search for Bushwalkers

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (9/12/99)—

With reference to her statements following the search during the week ending 4 December for six missing bush walkers in the Lamington National Park, in which she stated the State Government would pay for the cost of the search—

- (1) What is the total cost being met by the Government for this search and what is the breakdown of those costs in terms of ground and air searching?
- (2) Does the total cost include the \$39,000, 15 hours and 5000 litres of fuel reportedly expended by the RACQ helicopter?

Mr ROBERTSON (Minister for Emergency Services) (12/1/00): I am not in a position to provide the total cost to the Government for the search for six missing bush walkers in the Lamington National Park. I can however, provide the cost to my Department.

The Queensland Police Service tasked the Department of Emergency Services' helicopters to assist in the search for six missing bushwalkers in the Lamington National Park between 29 November 1999 and 2 December 1999.

The Brisbane based Bell 412 helicopter and Squirrel helicopter were both used to assist with this search. These aircraft expended 25.8 hours of engine time for a total direct operating cost of \$29,038.50.

The total cost for the ground search conducted by SES Volunteers was \$1163.89.

The costs to the Department do not include the costs reportedly expended by the Gold Coast Helicopter Rescue Service (RACQ CareFlight), however the State Government subsidises RACQ CareFlight's operation with a minimum \$600,000.00 annual grant.

2099. Sunshine Motorway

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/12/99)—

With reference to the high accident and death rate on the Sunshine Motorway, particularly between Maroochydore Road and Buderim Avenue—

Will the State Government fast track the four-laning of this road and the redesign of the Buderim/Mooloolaba interchange?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/1/00): Main Roads has reviewed all crashes which have occurred during the past five years along this section of road. Although there has been a number of accidents, the crash rate is less than the average rate for similar types of road on the Sunshine Coast, and, therefore, it is not considered to be a 'black spot'.

The State Government is unable to fast track works on the Sunshine Motorway due to the financial irresponsibility of the former government in its administration of the Main Roads budget and in

particular the ongoing cost to budget of the removal of tolls from the Motorway.

2100. Timber Harvesting

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (9/12/99)—

With reference to proposed controls of millable timber on private land which will have significant impact on projected farm income and while recognising the call on Federal Government funds for compensation—

What level of funding from the Queensland Government has been budgeted to assist affected landowners?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00): The Vegetation Management Bill 1999 does not impose any controls over the harvesting of millable timber from private forestry plantations. Such harvesting activities will continue to be designated as exempt development under the Integrated Planning Act 1997.

The situation with the harvesting of millable timber from native forests on private land is similar. Harvesting trees from native forests will also continue to be exempt development under the Integrated Planning Act provided it is clearly focused on producing timber or other value-added products and maintains the long term productivity of the forest.

Moreover, the Government is committed to the establishment of a sustainable forest industry in SEQ based on supplies from plantations and well managed private native forests, and has budgeted \$80M to achieve this outcome.

2101. Queensland Transport, Customer Service Centres

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/12/99)—

With reference to Queensland Transport Customer Service Centres and, in particular, Queensland Transport's generic telephone number 132 380 and to numerous complaints that have been recorded about lengthy delays in receiving service when that number is called—

- (1) Are calls to this number from areas outside the Brisbane local call area charged STD rates?
- (2) Are the Moreton Bay Islands outside the local call charge area; if so, are they charged local call rates or STD rates when accessing the 132 380 number?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/1/00): All callers from within Queensland can access Queensland Transport's Call Centre on 132 380 for the cost of a local call.

2102. Brisbane TAFE Institute

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

What is the projected total cost of the strategic realignment being undertaken at Brisbane Institute of TAFE between now and 2002 (as per the Institute's Business and Project Plan)?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): I am advised that costings are not yet available.

2103. Wide Bay TAFE Institute

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

With reference to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE and, in particular, the quotas for the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE and to the statement within that memorandum that the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE has agreed to engage 32 trainees under the "Breaking of the Unemployment Cycle" public sector employment initiatives and that these trainees will be employed in 1998-99—

How many of its quota of 30 trainees for 1998-99 under the "Breaking the Unemployment Cycle" public sector initiative did the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE actually employ?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): I am advised that 32 trainees were engaged at the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE.

2104. Community Jobs Plan

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

With reference to the "Matters for the Minister's Attention" of 27 April and to that item which refers to Signs for Community Jobs Plan Projects and the statement that "Ten signs have been distributed to each of the six departmental regions. The signs are to be erected when the project starts, and removed after the project is completed"—

What was the cost of designing, manufacturing and erecting these ten signs?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): The cost of designing and manufacturing 60 of these signs was \$2,496. There were no costs involved for erecting these signs, as regional officers put the signs up themselves.

2105. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

Why has "Work on developing standard terminology across all units of the department" not yet commenced, particularly in relation to distinguishing between fully on the job training delivery and other delivery modes?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): I am not clear what the question is directed at.

2106. Client Purchase Arrangement Program

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

How much has his department allocated for the Client Purchase Arrangement Program in 1999-2000?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): No new funding has been allocated to the Client Purchase Arrangement Program. Approximately \$1 million has been allocated to fund previously established arrangements.

2107. Tropical North Queensland TAFE Institute; Queensland Apprenticeship Services

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

With reference to the "Matters for the Minister's Attention" of 31 May and to the "Contentious Issue—Allegations against Tropical North Institute of TAFE" and the statement that, "A number of allegations by Mr Ian Kuch of Employment Apprenticeship and Traineeship Services, a new apprenticeship centre, have been made against the Tropical North Institute of TAFE"—

What is the nature of these allegations and the outcome of the investigation by Internal Audit?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): In April 1999, Ian Kuch of Employnet, a New Apprenticeship Centre, made allegations of an improper relationship between Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE and Queensland Apprenticeship Services, a New Apprenticeship Centre. It was alleged that confidential information was being released to Queensland Apprenticeship Services.

I am advised that the investigation conducted by the Internal Audit Unit of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations found no evidence of any improper relationship between the Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE and Queensland Apprenticeship Services. Nothing was found that would suggest that the Institute or any staff members derived any benefit from a relationship with Queensland Apprenticeship Services, or that there was any conflict of interest on the part of any staff member.

The investigation did find, however, that Institute staff had provided information to New Apprenticeship Centres without establishing whether or not the recipients were entitled to receive the information. Steps have been taken to prevent this occurring in the future.

2108. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department; Carter Newell

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

With reference to "Matters for the Minister's Attention" of 5 April and, in particular, to the reference to Audit Issues in relation to a number of

breaches in the delivery of training under competitive tendering offer—

Did the legal firm (Carter Newell) mentioned in relation to audit issues, work for the department at no cost as would appear to be the case from his response to Question on Notice 1481; if so, will he outline to the House what arrangements the department has with this legal firm and other legal firms which undertake the audits on behalf of the department?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): I am advised that Carter Newell did not work for the department at no cost. I am also advised that no legal firms undertake audits on behalf of the Department.

2109. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

With reference to those documents provided to me under Freedom of Information legislation and to one document in which one of the department's independent investigators indicates that she considers it important to ensure that my Freedom of Information request relating to this investigation not proceed—

- (1) What reasons did that public service officer put forward for seeking to avoid the operation of Freedom of Information processes in relation to this investigation as he was obviously swayed by such arguments put forward to him by departmental officers and wrote to me accordingly?
- (2) Why was it necessary to advise non-FOI officers of the name of the person requesting FOI materials (in this case myself) as surely such personal information is irrelevant to such officers?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): Over the past 12 months, a total of 3,316 documents have been released to the Honourable Member under the Freedom of Information legislation. In order to identify the specific document to which he refers and to thereby answer the question, further information is required.

(Note: for the purposes of reporting, the Department of Justice and Attorney General deem 1 page to equal 1 document)

2110. Audits of Training Providers

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

- (1) How many trained audit staff will DETIR have in place by 1 February 2000, to conduct audits of training providers?
- (2) How many audits will each auditor need to finalise, prior to 31 March 2000, in order for the departmental goal of auditing three-quarters of all RTOs, including TAFE, to be achieved?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00):

(1) 105 staff within the Department have been trained to carry out audits of training providers in a professional and ethical manner.

(2) Your question should refer to Registered Training Organisations with a current User Choice Contract with the Department. In this case, 175 audits will need to be completed by 31 March 2000, which is an average of seven audits for each full time equivalent officer.

2111. Carpentaria Shire Council

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

With reference to the "Matters for the Minister's Attention" of 16 August and, in particular, the reference to the Carpentaria Shire Council and Mornington Island where it is stated that "A recent audit of Carpentaria Shire Council, Normanton may result in further action being taken in relation to the non compliance of outstanding notices"? "Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors will visit Mornington Island 17-19 August at the request of the local police in relation to a dangerous event"—

Will he inform the House what these non-compliances and dangerous events might have been?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): A workplace health and safety compliance audit of the Carpentaria Shire Council was conducted in August 1999. While at the time of the audit there were discussions in relation to workplace health and safety issues, there were no outstanding notices. Since the audit was conducted, the Carpentaria Shire Council has taken the initiative of appointing a Workplace Health and Safety Officer and Workplace Health and Safety Representatives, and has commenced inductions for all staff.

The Department was notified of a dangerous event on Mornington Island where a council worker operating an all-terrain forklift collided with a council motor vehicle containing council employees. There were no injuries as a result of this incident.

2112. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 1481—

Were legal opinions and services obtained by other departmental agencies for or on behalf of the Purchasing Branch of DETIR to check the legality of contracts used by the department for user choice and other programs involving competitive funding and for opinions and services relating to the cancellation of contracts and/or de-registration of providers?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): I refer the member to the response to Question on Notice No. 2033.

2113. Mature Aged Workers

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

Why does he claim that the Government is concerned with the plight of the over-40s who are unemployed when one of his department's primary planning documents specifically refers to "Shifting the focus of traineeships to youth under 24 years of age"?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): Contrary to the impression you appear to have, traineeships are not the only training and employment program available through the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

Unlike the Coalition government, this Government has a range of labour market and training programs available to the community, including those which form part of the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiative.

2114. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

Will he list the domestic airline, accommodation and taxi expenditure incurred by each departmental officer (including TAFE officers) at or above the AO6 level, during calendar year 1999?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): To provide this information would be an unreasonable divergence of departmental resources.

2115. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

With reference to the Government's "Breaking the unemployment cycle" initiatives—

- (1) How many trainees and apprentices have been employed in TAFE Queensland institutes up to and including 8 December?
- (2) Of this number, how many undertook the off the job training component of their traineeship and apprenticeship with a training provider other than TAFE Queensland?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00):

(1) According to the latest reports submitted to the Employment Taskforce, there have been 5 apprentices and 218 trainees employed by TAFE Queensland Institutes.

(2) There were no apprentices or trainees undertaking their off the job training component with a training provider other than TAFE Queensland.

2116. Apprentices and Trainees

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

With reference to the Government's "Breaking the unemployment cycle" initiatives—

- (1) How many trainees and apprentices have been employed in Government departments and agencies up to and including 8 December?
- (2) Of this number, how many undertook the off the job training component of their traineeship and apprenticeship with a training provider other than TAFE Queensland?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00):

- (1) According to the latest reports submitted to the Employment Taskforce, there have been 474 apprentices and 2,611 trainees employed by Government Departments and agencies.
- (2) There were 36 apprentices and 942 trainees who are undertaking their off the job training component with a training provider other than TAFE Queensland.

2117. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/12/99)—

With reference to Question on Notice 1476 and to his assertion that the "Data is not available on the number and percentages of those employed in each age cohort" and given that he is able to provide a breakdown in age cohorts of applications—

- (1) Is it not reasonable to assume that the department would be able to provide the data on the number and percentages of those employed in each age cohort indicated in his answer to Question 1467.
- (2) If this is a reasonable assumption, will he now provide the number and percentages of those employed in each of the age cohorts indicated in his response to Question No. 1467?
- (3) If this information is not collated and available, will he explain why this is the case?

Mr BRADY (10/1/00): (1-3) The Government does analyse demographics of the intakes of apprentices and trainees but not in the age cohorts as requested by you. The age cohort data is collected as follows:

- Less than 21;
- 21 to 24;
- 25 to 40; and
- More than 40.

2118. Emergency Services Department

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (9/12/99)—

With reference to the consultancies utilised/engaged by her department—

Will she provide the following details (a) nature/topic, (b) company and principal consultant, (c) total cost, (d) number of days engaged, (e) whether a written report was submitted and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly advertised for each consultancy since 1 January?

Mr ROBERTSON (Minister for Emergency Services) (12/1/00): The consultancies engaged by the Department of Emergency Services for the period of 1 January 1999 to 10 December 1999 are presented in the attached table. These consultancies have been engaged in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy.

Each of these engagements contains the four characteristics that are prescribed in the State Purchasing Policy as being evident for the service provided to be regarded as a consultancy. These characteristics are:

- That the Consultancy is generally engaged for a fixed period of time at an agreed rate of payment;
- That the work is not directly supervised by the Department;
- That independent research/investigation is carried out by the consultant; and
- That expert advice with a recommendation is provided.

The Department has recently reviewed the engagement process for consultants and has also implemented revised procedures for the reporting and monitoring of these services. These actions have been designed to minimise the use of consultants and to ensure the accuracy of reported information. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2119. Government Legislation

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Premier (10/12/99)—

With reference to recent sittings of this House when at least two of his Ministers introduced an abnormal number of amendments to Bills they had already presented to his Cabinet and, with his Cabinet's approval, introduced into the House—

- (1) Is he concerned that these inaccuracies in Bills, and the need to amend, reflects badly on his Government?
- (2) What action will he take, if any, to ensure his legislation is better prepared before introduction into the House?

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99): (1 & 2) I believe that the legislation which has been prepared under my Government has been of extremely high quality and I pay tribute to the hardworking officers of the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel, along with other public servants who have assisted my Government in implementing our legislative program.

If concerns are raised with my Government after a Bill has been tabled, or if suggestions are made to improve the legislation, we take these into consideration, which may mean that on occasions, Bills may need to be amended in Committee.

2120. Endeavour Foundation

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (10/12/99)—

With reference to the extremely hard working self-help organisation, Endeavour Foundation and their Gympie based Spring Valley which is a showcase training farm for disabled clients, where they are presently embarking on a level two TAFE course in Rural Skills as part of a very successful initiative to place disabled clients in worthwhile employment, however one limiting factor being lack of housing—

- (1) Will she consider additional funding for housing disabled clients?
- (2) Will she coordinate discussions with her colleague, the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations to seek additional support for this most effective and worthy venture?

Ms BLIGH (10/1/00): In response to your question on notice, I provide the following information.

- (1) The provision of housing sits within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Housing, and I would encourage you to contact my colleague in regard to this matter.
- (2) The area of employment and training support services for people with a disability is a Commonwealth responsibility and as such falls outside my portfolio. However, I have asked staff from Disability Services Queensland to coordinate a meeting with Endeavour Foundation and the local TAFE to discuss these issues.

2121. Agricultural Show Societies

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (10/12/99)—

With reference to the agricultural show societies that are struggling to make ends meet with council rates and waste disposal—

- (1) Are there any plans to change the subsidy scheme now operating?
- (2) Are there any plans to grant funds to carry out capital works for their very worthwhile community organisations?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (10/1/00):

(1) I have no plans to make changes to the subsidy scheme, however, in March 1999 I indicated to the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies, if they had a consensus view on a different approach to the distribution of the funds I would be willing to consider it. I have not had any response. Local governments already have the discretion to grant concessions on rates and charges to community organisations.

(2) The Showground Capital Works Subsidy Scheme gives assistance to show societies and local governments for the construction of capital works undertaken at showgrounds.

The subsidy payable is up to 33 1/3% for public toilet facilities and 40% for other capital works at showgrounds.

2122. Lockyer Electorate, Police Resources

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/12/99)—

With reference to the police stations in the Lockyer electorate—

- (1) What is the police strength in each of the stations in the electorate?
- (2) What is the break-up for each station of uniform and plain-clothes officers?
- (3) Are there any plans for increasing police numbers in any of these stations?
- (4) Are there any plans to upgrade any of these stations in the next five years?
- (5) Are there any plans for any new stations in this electorate in the next 10 years?

Mr BARTON (6/1/00):

(1 & 2) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) There are no current plans to increase police numbers at these stations, however, the Southern Region has been allocated an additional 34 officers in the recent staffing model review. These officers will be deployed in the region by 31 August 2000. The Assistant Commissioner for the Region is responsible for allocation of these officers to specific stations.

(4 & 5) There are no plans to upgrade any of the stations listed above or construct any additional stations in the 1999/2000 financial year. Capital works priorities for future years will be determined on a year-to-year basis in the context of statewide and regional priorities at that time.

2123. Hummock Hill, Satellite Launch Facility

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (10/12/99)—

With reference to potential major private investments in the Bundaberg district, namely, the proposed satellite launch facility at Hummock Hill and the possible establishment of a major call centre—

- (1) On what date is the Sinclair, Knight Merz environmental impact study on Hummock Hill due for completion and public release?
- (2) What is the State Government doing to facilitate such a project and when is it anticipated that work could conceivably begin?
- (3) Has the State Government offered incentives such as a Government subsidy or tax concessions to attract this project?
- (4) If successful, how many jobs are expected to flow from a fully-operational low earth orbit satellite launching facility and will Bundaberg locals have the opportunity to apply for a large proportion of these?

- (5) Has any further progress been made on the feasibility studies for the establishment of a major Bundaberg call centre for a Canadian consortium?
- (6) When are the studies due for completion?
- (7) Is he prepared to name the company proposing this centre?

Mr ELDER (10/1/00):

1. Draft Terms of Reference have been prepared for a joint State/Commonwealth Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the UNITY Launch Project. The Draft Terms of Reference were advertised for public comments on 22 December 1999. The public will have a six week period in which to review the draft Terms of Reference and make submissions to the Government.
2. The State Government through the Department of State Development is facilitating the project through the coordination of the Environmental Impact Statement and development approval processes.
3. No incentives have been offered to the proponent of the UNITY project.
4. The proponent, United Launch Systems International Pty Ltd (ULSI) anticipates the project will provide between 150 to 225 jobs in the operational stage of the launch facility. Initially, suitably qualified Australian technicians will participate with an imported launch crew. However, ULSI has indicated that in time, Australian personnel will be trained in these jobs and the international crew numbers will reduce progressively. The proponent expects that immediate employment opportunities for the local community will be available in the administration, logistics, maintenance and security areas of the launch base.
5. No! It is understood that the company has elected not to establish in this country at this time.
6. Not applicable.
7. That would not be productive.

2124. Power Poles

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (10/12/99)—

With reference to his concurrence with forecasts of an unusually violent storm season—

- (1) How many power poles have been condemned?
- (2) How many have been temporarily repaired by staking?
- (3) Is he confident that the maintenance program is adequate to avoid a major disaster?
- (4) Has he given any thought to where replacement poles will be sourced following the implementation of the RFA?

Mr McGRADY (10/1/00):

- (1) The combined advice of ENERGEX and Ergon Energy is that 8949 poles were identified as requiring replacement or reinstatement in the last 12 months.

(2) It is assumed that the term "temporarily repaired by staking" refers to pole nailing. This process is not a temporary arrangement but is a proven, standard industry practice designed to extend the life of the pole by 15 to 20 years. The combined advice of ENERGEX and Ergon Energy is that of the total poles identified, 5197 poles were able to be reinstated by nailing in the last 12 months.

(3) ENERGEX and Ergon Energy advised that their maintenance standards are capable of minimising the effects of a major natural disaster.

(4) I am advised by ENERGEX that there is a sufficient supply of hardwood to continue to supply at historical rates.

Ergon Energy advises that the supply of poles is secured for the short to medium term, and that they are evaluating the longer term alternatives for the sourcing of poles.

2125. Year 2000 Compliance

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of his portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mr FOLEY (10/1/00): Yes.

2126. Year 2000 Compliance

Mr COOPER asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of his portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mr ELDER (10/1/00): There are no areas of the portfolio dependant upon computers for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury. The Department of State Development has as part of its year 2000 preparations taken all reasonable steps to ensure business continuity is not interrupted as a result of Y2K related disruptions. A thorough assessment and remediation program has been completed and contingency plans prepared for all business areas.

2127. Year 2000 Compliance

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of his portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the

computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mr HAMILL (10/1/00): Yes.

2128. Year 2000 Compliance

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of his portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): All desktop computers in the areas of the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning responsible for "critical 24-hour operations ... where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury" are fully compliant to level 3 or above.

In addition, CITEC has completed Year 2000 testing procedures relating to critical area computers with such CITEC computers being Year 2000 compliant to Level 3 of Standards Australia's SAA HB 121-1998.

2129. Year 2000 Compliance

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of her portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mrs EDMOND (10/1/00): Queensland Health has had an extensive Year 2000 (Y2K) program that involved both Corporate Office and Health Service Districts. This program categorised computers as detailed in SAA/SNZ HB104: 1997. Rectification progressed in order of priority.

Queensland Health participated in a whole-of-government evaluation panel to select a panel of software package suppliers to assist agencies with the implementation of the tasks stipulated in Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998. An Information Technology and Telecommunications policy signed by the Director-General in February 1999 provides for the removal of any critical item (both software and hardware) where rectification was not completed by the target date. This process was scheduled for completion on 17 December 1999.

Queensland Health has well-developed contingency plans to cover all foreseeable Y2K eventualities.

2130. Year 2000 Compliance

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Premier (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of his portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mr BEATTIE (23/12/99): The Government Airwing is the only area of the portfolio dependent upon computers for critical 24 hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury. The Government Airwing has received written undertakings from the aircraft manufacturer and suppliers of essential components that the aircraft and components are year 2000 compliant. The manufacturer and the suppliers are based overseas and do not specify year 2000 compliance against Standards Australia SAA HB 121-1998. As year 2000 testing is dependent upon the manufacturer and the suppliers, verification of compliance against the standard is impracticable.

2131. Year 2000 Compliance

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (Mr Gibbs) (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of his portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mrs ROSE (Minister for Tourism and Racing) (5/1/00): There are no areas of my portfolio where computers are used for critical 24-hour operations. In addition there are no areas of my portfolio where non-compliance may cause significant risk of personal injury.

2132. Year 2000 Compliance

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of his portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mr SCHWARTEN (10/1/00): The only areas within Public Works or Housing using computers that are required to operate across the change of century without being re-booted are Building Control Systems and Security Monitoring Systems.

These systems have been successfully tested using diagnostic tools and found to meet the Level 3 compliance described in the Australian Standards document HB121-1998 in all situations where this is necessary.

Additionally, these systems have all been tested in their normal operational environment and found to function correctly across the date change.

2133. Year 2000 Compliance

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of his portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/1/00): A comprehensive pre and post Year 2000 program of testing and evaluation was undertaken by all areas within the portfolio to ensure critical computers are Year 2000 compliant. All areas have reported a successful transition at roll over to Year 2000 with no incidents of hardware date related failure to critical systems.

All computers in the portfolio were tested in accordance with the risk they represented to the community, with potentially safety critical items receiving extra testing attention to ensure the correct handling of date information, and this was supported by the development of contingency plans.

2134. Year 2000 Compliance

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of his portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mr McGRADY (10/1/00): In response to the specific question made by Mr Seeney, I can advise as follows: The Y2K Compliance program carried out by the Department of Mines and Energy did not identify any critical 24-hour operations that rely on personal computers compliant to Level 3 of SAA HB121. The Department has completed its Y2K compliance project including the development of contingency plans for all business-critical systems.

In respect of the electricity industry, all Queensland electricity entities reporting to the Y2K Program Office, Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning have finished all remediation work on mission-critical systems and equipment. Similarly, all major gas suppliers have reported Y2K readiness.

2135. Year 2000 Compliance

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of his portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the

Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mr BARTON (6/1/00): Yes. My departments have assured me that all computers in critical areas met government and industry Y2K compliance standards.

2136. Year 2000 Compliance

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (10/12/99)—

Are all computers in critical areas of her portfolio Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant to Level three (3) of the Standards Australia SAA HB121-1998—the recommended level of compliance "where the computer is used for critical 24-hour operations and where non-compliance may cause significant risk of loss or personal injury"?

Mr ROBERTSON (Minister for Emergency Services) (12/1/00): In 1997 DES identified that a Year 2000 testing program was required for all personal computers within the Department.

DES reviewed Standards Australia SAA HB 121-1998 when it was released. The DES testing program either meets or exceeds the Standards Australia standard in all areas except one. This area relates to the Real Time Clock (RTC). The advice to DES is that there is no fully compliant RTC personal computer available on the market. DES has further reviewed this matter and is satisfied that all personal computers in life and business-critical applications have the highest level of compliance available.

As at 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 5 January 2000 DES had not experienced any Y2K-related problems with computers used for business or life-critical systems in the Department.

2137. Comalco

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (10/12/99)—

With reference to the importance of jobs for both young people and mature adults—

- (1) Has Comalco agreed to have welding and fabrication works contracted overseas?
- (2) What action is the Government taking to ensure Queensland workers benefit (by additional jobs) when major projects are established in Queensland?

Mr ELDER (10/1/00):

(1) For some time now Comalco has been designing its proposed alumina refinery. The refinery is being designed in such a way that it is capable of being placed on a site at Gladstone, Malaysia or somewhere else.

I understand that this design work is being undertaken in consultation with suppliers of materials and fabricators so that design efficiencies can be achieved.

It is therefore likely that Comalco is well advanced with its design and fabrication arrangements.

However the Government is holding ongoing discussions with Comalco to ensure that where the quality of goods and services is comparable and the costs are competitive, use will be made of local materials and labour.

(2) On 13 December 1999 the Government released its Local Industry Policy (subtitled A Fair Go For Local Industry).

An effective strategy to assist in the achievement of the State Government's key priorities (More jobs for Queenslanders; Building Queensland's regions; and Skilling Queensland—the smart state) is to ensure the maximum involvement of local industry and local employment opportunities within major projects undertaken in Queensland. Figures provided by the Industrial Supplies Office (ISO) indicate that for every \$100 million of infrastructure expenditure that is available to the local construction industry, there are approximately 2,200 jobs created.

Through the Local Industry Policy the Government gives a strong and clear message to the community, the local construction industry and potential project tenderers that the issue of local content in major policy is an important one.

The Local Industry Policy is designed to support local industry involvement in major projects undertaken in Queensland, whether these are Government-funded infrastructure or private-funded ventures. Project proponents are encouraged to seek out capable local industry, and local industry is assisted to become internationally competitive and to be ready to take advantage of opportunities in the supply chain.

2138. Youth Arts Policy

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (10/12/99)—

With reference to the Queensland Labor New Directions Statement on youth released prior to the 1998 State election—

- (1) What action has been undertaken and how much has he expended to date, to implement the youth arts policy and, in particular, provide "access to adequate space, resources and other forms of support"?
- (2) What initiatives, programs and facilities have been established, or opened, as a direct consequence of this policy?
- (3) How much additional rehearsal space has been provided for young artists by the Government as a direct consequence of this policy?

Mr FOLEY (10/1/00):

(1) Arts Queensland entered into an agreement with QMUSIC to provide youth with access to rehearsal, recording and videomaking facilities, merchandise design, production facilities and internet access.

Through the Youth Entertainment Scheme, 33 entertainment events have been held throughout Queensland involving over 60 young band members and musicians.

Arts Queensland has undertaken development work for the TUTE music mentoring program and youth radio traineeships which will commence in early 2000.

The Public Art Youth program provided on the job experience in public art projects (art in public places) for young people.

Expenditure to date on youth arts initiatives is \$636,453 (\$536,453 expended by Arts Queensland and \$100,000 by the Office of Youth Affairs).

(2) The programs outlined above use existing facilities.

(3) The agreement with QMUSIC provides subsidies for 100 rehearsals.

2139. Heavy Vehicles

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/12/99)—

- (1) Will he confirm that as a result of information being removed from vehicle registration certificates the owners of heavy vehicles are no longer being advised when motor vehicle inspections are due?
- (2) How many vehicles currently have outstanding vehicle inspections?
- (3) Will the registration and insurance of these vehicles be invalid if no current inspection certificate is held?
- (4) What action is he taking to ensure that the integrity of the motor vehicle inspection system is restored?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/1/00):

(1) No details about inspection requirements have ever appeared on Registration Certificates.

(2) Registered operators of motor vehicles under 16 tonne are able to have their motor vehicle inspected at an AIS at a time convenient to them however, Queensland Transport does not receive advice from AIS that an inspection has been performed. This information is recorded when the registered operator presents the Certificate of Inspection, generally with their inspectable vehicle registration renewal payment. Without collecting data from each AIS, it is not possible to determine the number of vehicles with expired certificates.

(3) There is an offence for operating a heavy vehicle without a current COI. However, this does not affect the validity of the vehicle's registration or compulsory third party insurance. Any comprehensive insurance (covering vehicle damage) is a matter between the operator and the insurance company concerned.

(4) The current system for managing inspections has been operative since 9 June 1998 and only a very few complaints have arisen. The system is working well and no immediate changes are necessary.

2140. Chevron Gas Pipeline

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (10/12/99)—

With reference to a price disadvantage for gas over coal of at least 30 per cent a gigajoule—

- (1) How can gas brought into Queensland via the proposed Chevron Pipeline produce competitively priced power on the national electricity market at Wivenhoe, particularly in light of advertised prices around \$28 per megawatt hour from Millmerran and Kogan Creek?
- (2) Will the price for power using Chevron gas for generation in North Queensland be as competitive as the prices being advertised by Millmerran and Kogan Creek?

Mr McGRADY (10/1/00): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Rowell, I can advise as follows:

- (1) There are a number of important factors influencing the competitiveness of generators, the key ones being the capital and operating costs of the power station, the cost of fuel, the efficiency of the power station as well as the proximity of the station to consumers and competitors.

Typically in Queensland, coal fired powered stations have a high capital construction cost but low operating costs as a result of cheap and plentiful sources of steaming coal. On the other hand, gas fired power stations have lower capital costs but higher operating costs as a result of higher delivered gas prices compared to coal.

Gas fired power stations are, however, more fuel efficient than even the modern day advanced cycle coal fired power stations presently being built in Queensland.

Thus, I am advised that every megawatt hour produced from a gas fired power station requires on average, two-thirds of the same equivalent fuel input as is required in a coal fired power station.

The cheaper capital cost and higher efficiency of gas fired power stations will thus enable gas units to competitively complement new coal fired power stations such as Millmerran and the recently announced Tarong North Project.

- (2) Queensland generators are participants in the competitive national electricity market and hence, the cost of generation is commercial in confidence information.

Feasibility studies conducted by potential proponents of gas generators would have to determine the comparative competitiveness of individual projects.

2141. State Purchasing Policy

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/12/99)—

With reference to the State Purchasing Policy—

Are all Government agencies required to seek three quotes for purchases over \$10,000 even when

purchasing from Government Owned Enterprises or Government Commercialised Business Units; if not, why not?

Mr SCHWARTEN (10/1/00): The Honourable Member should be aware that a new Statewide Purchasing Policy is being formulated. The information in this answer refers to the existing State Purchasing Policy which will be replaced by the new Policy. The arrangements detailed here have been in operation under this and the previous Coalition Government.

Where a government agency to which the current State Purchasing Policy applies is purchasing goods or services likely to have a value greater than \$10,000 but not greater than \$100,000, the general requirement of the existing State Purchasing Policy is that the Government agency must make "at least three invitations in writing" to "genuine competitors known to be capable of supplying the requirement at competitive prices" (State Purchasing Policy, Part A, Section 1, paragraph 2.2).

The State Purchasing Policy applies to the procurement of all goods, equipment and related services, construction contracts and service contracts by departments and statutory bodies as defined in the Financial Administration and Audit Act (State Purchasing Policy, Preface, page v).

This requirement to make three invitations in writing does not apply when the government agency to which the State Purchasing Policy applies is purchasing from a department or authority which is funded "predominantly from the Queensland Government Consolidated Fund (ie. between departments and authorities representing the Crown in the same right)" (State Purchasing Policy, Part A Section 1, paragraph 2.5).

The inclusion of the exception to the requirement to make at least three invitations in writing is a result of the Crown's ability to deal with itself in its own right—ie: the State of Queensland as represented by its Departments of State is indivisible.

Following from the above, an individual government owned enterprise or commercialised business unit must make at least three invitations in writing when purchasing goods or services likely to have a value greater than \$10,000 but not greater than \$100,000; subject to the State Purchasing Policy as a department or statutory body as defined in the Financial Administration and Audit Act; and purchasing from a department or authority which is not funded predominantly from the Queensland Government Consolidated Fund.

It is also noted that Government commercialised business units are required to operate within the policy framework set down in the document "Commercialisation of Government Service Functions in Queensland" published by Queensland Treasury—October 1994.

2142. Local Governments, Remuneration Packages

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for

Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (10/12/99)—

Is there any legislative requirement either under the Local Government Act or another associated piece of legislation for a local government authority to publicly gazette the salary packages of their senior executives in a similar process to that exercised by the State Government for senior executives and directors-general; if not, why not?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): There is no legislative requirement for local governments to gazette salary packages of their senior executives.

The general approach in the Local Government Act 1993 is to provide local governments with a high degree of autonomy balanced by accountability. This general approach also applies in relation to employment matters. The Act sets a broad framework for the employment of staff. The Act does not set any requirements in relation to the employment of staff on a contract basis because there is a range of industrial awards that apply to local government. Information about award rates of pay is publicly available.

The Act also requires all council resolutions to be made in public, so that any council decisions about employment of staff on conditions above award levels would be publicly available. The Freedom of Information Act 1992 also provides a mechanism for public access to information about remuneration of employees. In addition, there is nothing to prevent a local government from disclosing details of executives' salary packages in the council's annual report.

At this point in time this is a matter for councils to deal with independently.

2143. TAFE

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/12/99)—

With reference to information technology related expenditure for each separate TAFE institution in Queensland—

Will he provide a breakdown of the expenditure for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date and anticipated) on (a) software (packages and licensing fees), (b) hardware, (c) Internet access charges, (d) maintenance, (e) personnel (teaching) and (f) personnel (non teaching)?

Mr BRADY (11/1/00): To provide this information would result in an unreasonable divergence of departmental resources.

2144. Vegetation Management

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (10/12/99)—

With reference to the analysis conducted by the State Government on the potential financial and

social impact at both farm and local government levels from the vegetation management legislation—

What is the estimated financial and social impact on each (a) local government in Queensland, (b) regional community and (c) rural community?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): Responsibility for vegetation management rests with the Department of Natural Resources and not my Department. Accordingly my Department has undertaken no analysis of the financial and social impact of the vegetation management legislation.

2145. Water Recycling Strategy

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (10/12/99)—

- (1) What are the role and objectives of the Queensland Water Recycling Strategy and who makes input into it?
- (2) What was the purpose and results of the recent A C Nielsen Questionnaire on recycling?
- (3) Does the State Government have an agenda to coerce local governments to adopt potable re-use of treated effluent?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/00):

(1) The Queensland Water Recycling Strategy is a whole of Government initiative setting the future Government direction in all areas of water recycling. Its specific aim is to provide a framework to maximise recycling of urban, industrial and rural water, and stormwater in a manner that is efficient, economical, environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable without causing any adverse health impacts.

To date the technical input to the Strategy has been through four Technical Advisory Groups made up of State and Local Government representatives, specific technical consultants, industry and community organisations, and university and health representatives. The Steering Committee is an inter-department committee with representation also from the Local Government Association Queensland. The process is also scrutinised by an Independent Reference Panel made up of organisations representing community and industry groups, which reports directly to me on any matters associated with the strategy.

(2) The recent A C Nielsen Questionnaire was undertaken to identify the community's knowledge and attitude to recycled water so as to assist in the development of the Queensland Water Recycling Strategy. It was also used to identify future information requirements and as a benchmarking tool. The survey played an important role in ensuring that the developed Strategy meets the needs of all Queenslanders.

The results of the survey showed there is wide community support for water recycling with 96% of the general community respondents indicating they would like to see increased use of recycled water in the near future. Uses such as irrigating parks,

gardens, golf courses and crops received a corresponding high level of support. The survey found that only 28% supported using recycled water in cooking and drinking. This finding was particularly important as it supports the Government's approach to developing a Strategy that focuses on the many uses for recycled water other than drinking water. Information requirements were also surveyed with 94% of respondents wanting further information on water recycling

The survey was conducted by AC Nielsen and the questionnaire was reviewed by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research to ensure the results would be valid. A report detailing all the findings of the survey will be publicly released soon.

(3) No.

2146. Wide Bay TAFE Institute

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/12/99)—

With reference to those documents provided to me under freedom of information legislation which pertain to an investigation of management issues at Wide Bay Institute of TAFE and to several of these documents which indicate that the institute director, who was not one of the investigators appointed to review a range of management decisions made at the institute, was invited not only to actively participate in the formulation of the draft report and final report of the investigators and approve those reports, but also to assist in the drafting of a letter from the director-general to herself, advising of the outcome of the investigation —

As the investigators were considering some issues directly or indirectly pertaining to the institute director's management decisions, doesn't their invitation to her to contribute to and approve of their report, constitute putting the institute director into what many reasonable staff of the institute would consider as a conflict of interest situation?

Mr BRADY (11/1/00): I am advised by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations that:

There was no conflict of interest involved in seeking the Institute Director's input into the draft report and finalising the recommendations to be approved by the Director-General.

The reason for sending a draft of the investigation report to the Institute Director was to seek the Director's "comment", as per eMail messages dated 5th and 7th July 1999. The report was sent to the Institute for comment by the Director and also other employees who were respondents to the allegations and who had been interviewed about the allegations. This approach is standard practice because it ensures respondents are given a right of reply in accordance with the principles of natural justice. This is consistent with the Department's Code of Conduct. Requesting respondents to comment also enables investigators to check their facts before proceeding to the Director-General with a final report.

The Institute Director was sent a copy of the draft letter including the report's recommendations for the Director's input into what management action may be necessary and reasonable in the circumstances. It is noteworthy that, despite the Director being given an opportunity to propose alternative actions, the recommendations were not altered and were accepted in full by the Director-General. The Director later advised of the actions taken by her in response to the Director-General's letter.

2147. Education Department

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Education (10/12/99)—

With reference to purchases over \$10,000 but below \$100,000 (excluding building contracts) made by the department within the Brisbane Statistical Division during 1998-99—

What was the total value of such purchases used (a) outside the Brisbane Statistical Division and (b) within the Brisbane Statistical Division?

Mr WELLS (7/1/00): The Department informs me that payments made by Education Queensland over \$10,000 but below \$100,000 during the 1998-99 year for purchase orders raised on suppliers, other than for building contracts, for inside the Brisbane Statistical Division were \$5,737,708. Information on the usage of these purchases, either inside or outside the statistical Division, is not readily available and would take an inordinate amount of administrative time and effort to collate.

It should be noted that the information provided above has been obtained from records, in particular purchase orders, held by Education Queensland and is based on information available at this time. However, this information is subject to change over time in accord with new and emerging Departmental needs and priorities.

2148. Brisbane City Council, Remuneration Packages

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (10/12/99)—

With reference to the ongoing refusal by the Lord Mayor to publicly release the remuneration details of senior bureaucrats employed by the Brisbane City Council—

Does he support the stance taken by the Lord Mayor not to advise tax and ratepayers of Brisbane of such details?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): There is no specific legislative requirement for local governments (including Brisbane City Council) to publicly disclose salary packages of their senior executives.

The general approach in the Local Government Act 1993 is to provide local governments with a high degree of autonomy balanced by accountability. This approach applies in relation to employment matters.

The Freedom of Information Act 1992 also provides a mechanism for public access to information about remuneration of employees.

In addition, there is nothing to prevent a local government such as Brisbane City Council from disclosing details of executives' salary packages in the council's annual report.

Given the autonomy of local government, this is a matter for determination by the Brisbane City Council and accordingly it is not for me to support or otherwise question the Council's policy on the matter.

2149. Emergency Services Department

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mrs Rose) (10/12/99)—

With reference to purchases over \$100,000 (excluding building contracts) made by the department within the Brisbane Statistical Division during 1998-99—

What was the total value of such purchases used (a) outside the Brisbane Statistical Division and (b) within the Brisbane Statistical Division?

Mr ROBERTSON (Minister for Emergency Services) (12/1/00): For clarity in responding to your question, I have excluded payments in the following categories: building/construction costs; salary-related expenses; grants and subsidies; telephones; payments to other Government Departments; and insurance payments.

- (a) In 1998-99 my Department made purchases totalling \$16,805,806 from suppliers located outside the Brisbane Statistical Division (greater than \$100,000 and excluding building contracts).
- (b) In 1998-99 my Department made purchases totalling \$28,968,158 from suppliers located within the Brisbane Statistical Division (greater than \$100,000 and excluding building contracts).

Purchases made centrally from the Brisbane Statistical Division may be utilised across the state to provide services in local and regional communities.

2150. Annual Reports, Regional and Rural Communities

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (10/12/99)—

- (1) What action has he taken to ensure that the ALP policy requiring State Government departments to monitor and report on the impact of their activities on regional and rural communities each year in their annual report, has been complied with?
- (2) Which State Government departments have included in their annual reports details on the impact of their activities on regional and rural communities?

Mr MACKENROTH (Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport) (4/1/00): In the main, content requirements for annual reports are covered by the Financial Administration and Audit Act and the associated Finance Management Standard 1997. Further, in May 1999, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet released Guidelines for Annual Reports requiring Departments to include a report on their activities in rural regions in their annual reports. It is the responsibility of each Minister to ensure his or her Department complies with this requirement.

2151. Beenleigh State School

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Education (10/12/99)—

With reference to off-street car parking at the older style Beenleigh primary school and the apparent problems the department has in funding the construction of internal car parking facilities—

What will he do to remedy this school's disadvantage before the commencement of the 2000 school year?

Mr WELLS (Answer not received by 18/1/00).