

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****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** (10/2/00): The information the Honourable Member seeks is already published and publicly available in Budget Papers and Annual Reports for the relevant years.

**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** (10/2/00):

1. Two policies exist in this area—Managing Behaviour in a Supportive School Environment, and School Disciplinary Absence Policy, Guidelines and Advice. The first of these outlines both proactive and reactive strategies for schools in addressing these issues, and the second outlines procedures for schools to follow for suspensions and exclusions.

The Education Act also requires all schools to have a Behaviour Management Plan, which is reviewed regularly, and which outlines the manner in which misdemeanours, including violence, are addressed. These plans are developed both by both school and community representatives.

Resources specifically targeted to deal with the promotion of safe and supportive environments, and to address issues of violence and harassment include:

- (a) Fifty-one (51) Senior Guidance Officers and in excess of 400 guidance officers located in District Offices and schools to support students and schools in the area of violence and harassment. This support is within the broader context of their proactive work in areas

such as educational, personal and crisis counselling, behaviour management interventions, assessments, and special needs programs.

- (b) Three Hundred (300) Behaviour Management personnel, including teachers, aides, youth and social workers and psychologists located in teams across the state to work with schools in the area of preventing and dealing with violence. This support is also within a context of both proactive and reactive work. Such as assisting schools with Behaviour Management Plans, addressing issues of violence through classroom teaching, intervention processes for students with behaviour problems, such as the setting up of alternative programs and running individual anger management programs for students.
- (c) All Guidance Officers, many Behaviour Management staff and other school personnel are trained in conflict resolution and professional counselling.

Since coming to office, I have also initiated a number of measures to combat bullying in schools. Anti-bullying strategies being implemented by Education Queensland include anti-racism and anti-harassment workshops which are provided on request at centres throughout Queensland by the Equity Unit; the use of the professional development resource BULLYING—NO WAY! which has been provided to all State schools; direct assistance to schools provided by the Behaviour Management Unit in identifying the extent to which bullying is occurring, where it is occurring and options for addressing it through the curriculum and with the wider school community, as well as with students who are directly involved. Education Queensland's website also provides schools with information on workable solutions to bullying developed by State primary and secondary schools. Schools may access a range of good practice in managing bullying on the Behaviour Management Unit website, which currently lists about 40 school programs.

2. Conflict within school environments is dealt with largely by personnel in schools. However, on some occasions the expertise of external organisations is accessed. Some of the private agencies which are commonly used and jointly worked with are for example, the Conflict Resolution Network of Australia, Logan Learners for Life, and Peer Mediation Training.

Both Guidance Officers and Behaviour Management support staff work closely with other government agencies in dealing with issues of violence and students. Some of these agency workers are social and youth workers. The Youth Support Coordinators run by DYFCC, school-based police officers and nurses, and Young People at Risk (YPAR) workers funded by Queensland Health and personnel from the Child and Youth Mental Health Service are all examples of officers from other agencies contacted on a regular basis to support schools and their students.

3. Elements of the Behaviour Management Initiative constitute opportunities for schools to take a holistic

approach to dealing with violence and taking a proactive stance.

In addition to the Behaviour Management support staff allocated to the 36 education districts and to their associated clusters of schools, financial resources are provided for the development of support programs for students at educational risk. District management teams decide how funds will be used locally.

There are also seventeen school-based police officers across the state involved in preventive anti-violence programs. The school-based police officer is appointed to a school cluster to assist that school community and police in promoting positive relationships between the school community and police, and dealing with police related matters including violence within the school community, where appropriate.

Funds for behaviour management initiatives are made available to each district and schools in each district are involved in decision-making about the allocation of those funds on a district wide basis.

4. The Peace Builders Program is a long-term community crime and violence prevention program which is being trialled in a number of Queensland schools. The outcome data of a longitudinal study into its effectiveness is due for release soon. Discretionary funds currently available to schools have been used to support this program.

#### 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** (10/2/00): The department informs me that a design has been prepared by a private engineering consultant in conjunction with Beenleigh State School for a car park to be developed in the school grounds at an estimated cost of \$70,000. This is for a full bitumen car park with lighting, kerbs and channels, concrete pathways, etc, and exceeds funds available. Some potential savings options have been suggested that offer savings opportunities of around \$14,000. These have not contemplated substitution of, say, crusher dust for bitumen or doing without kerb and channelling. Many schools, of course, use areas of their grounds for staff parking without needing to go the extent of full bitumen pavements, etc.

In terms of the departmental Capital Investment Plan, the car park proposal at Beenleigh State School is a minor work. Funds for minor works have been allocated equitably among all schools and school principals have been given responsibility for use of these funds to meet their minor works needs. In other words, most of the minor works money available to the Department has been devolved to schools. With devolution comes responsibility to take the hard decisions as to how to prioritise the expenditure. Some additional minor works funding is administered through Facilities Service Centres and is predominantly intended for use on minor works at non-school centres that do not receive a minor works grant. Beenleigh State School received \$10,793 for minor works in 1999, and an additional \$2,701 as a SIAS direct grant for capital improvements. It also received around \$13,000 in 1998. These are the funds available for such works as the proposed car park. Beenleigh State School has the option of establishing its car park in lower cost materials and finishes and meeting the cost from its 1999 grant and any earlier, unexpended grant funds, or of putting minor works funds aside until it has sufficient funds to undertake the work. The school community could also seek funds from other sources and may wish to consider seeking approval for recoverable funding that would be able to be repaid from future minor works grants.

I am aware that the local Council plans some street scaping in Beenleigh and that the school has consulted its Councillor as well as the Honourable Member about opportunities to combine the proposed car park with this work. Beenleigh State School has also approached its Facilities Service Centre for possible financial assistance, but a staff car park has not been a sufficient priority in comparison with other minor works needs to attract supplementary funding from the minor works funds administered by the Facilities Service Centre. The Facilities Service Centre has relayed the request to Central Office, but unfortunately all minor works funds have been distributed to schools or Facilities Service Centres. There is no other funding available from Central Office. I have also considered the situation and am unable to assist financially.

The aspirations of the Beenleigh State School community to improve the school site with the development of a staff car park are laudable, but need to be restrained to match the funds available for such minor works. I have suggested a variety of approaches by which this could occur and will ensure that the school's Account Manager from the Facilities Service Centre liaises with the school principal in the new school year to offer assistance in considering how this project can be progressed, given the overall circumstances.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### 1. Tablelands, Health Budget

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Health (29/2/00)—

With reference to her recent assertion that there is an extra \$1.1m for the Tablelands district health budget allocated to the Atherton hospital—

- (1) Will she provide a bottom line single figure total for the Tablelands district health budget for each year commencing 1995 (eg \$24m for 1995, \$24m for 1996, and so on)?
- (2) Will she provide a detailed breakdown of the spending allocation for the alleged extra \$1.1m?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/3/00): An additional \$1.1m was allocated to Tablelands Health Service District recurrently in 1999/2000 for growth. The District has determined how the majority of these funds are to be distributed to Atherton, Mareeba and Herberton Hospitals. This information has been made publicly available on February 15 2000. However, I am still waiting for the apology from the Member for Tablelands.

### 2. Women's Domestic Violence Centres

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (29/2/00)—

- (1) What is the amount of funding made available to Women's Domestic Violence Centres?
- (2) What is the amount of funding made available to Women's Refuges?
- (3) With reference to these centres in Queensland (a) what are the bed costs per night to operate, (b) what are the full details of the length of stay of residents eg one night, seven nights, 14 nights, 60 nights or longer, (c) what is the number of permanent residents throughout Queensland, (d) are residents charged for any of the services provided, including accommodation; if so, how much is paid by residents or on what basis is payment calculated and (e) what are the number and percentage of residents with children?

**Ms SPENCE** (30/3/00): I thank the Honourable Member for his questions. All these questions concern issues that are not related to responsibilities within my portfolio. I refer him to redirect his questions to the Minister responsible.

### 3. Mackay-Elliott River, Rail Crossings

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (29/2/00)—

Will he supply a list of all road crossings between Mackay and the Elliott River that are to be closed due to upgrading of the main Brisbane/Cairns rail line?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (30/3/00): Queensland Rail (QR) is reviewing the safety of level crossings under the Rockhampton to Townsville and Cairns Track Renewal Project. As part of this detailed assessment of each respective crossing QR will be in

communication with the affected owner and the local government or the Department of Main Roads. In addition, the Mackay and Proserpine Canegrowers Associations have been contacted to act as a liaison point to represent the interests of their respective members.

The level crossings are being reviewed on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with the affected owners. The review of level crossings between Mackay and the Elliott River is expected to be completed over the next twelve months, and therefore, no decision about crossing closures has been made.

### 4. Walloon State School

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Education (29/2/00)—

With reference to the Walloon State School—

When is a tuckshop to be made available at this school?

**Mr WELLS** (30/3/00): The department informs me that provision of such a facility is subject to enrolment levels and prioritisation against other needs for facility improvements at all schools across the State. Further consideration will be given to this matter when formulating the 2000/2001 Capital Works Program in relation to other priorities, the school's enrolment and the level of funds available.

### 5. East Coast Training and Employment

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/2/00)—

With reference to an advertisement which appeared in the "Caboolture Shire Herald, on 22 February concerning "East Coast Training and Employment—free training for indigenous people"—

- (1) What explanation can he offer to non-indigenous unemployed residents of the Caboolture electorate, who have contacted my electorate office, claiming that the advertisement is of a discriminatory nature?
- (2) When will East Coast Training and Employment be offering equivalent training opportunities for all unemployed residents of the Caboolture shire?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00):

1. Since 1998, seven (7) projects have been approved worth \$337,300 under CEAP in the Caboolture and nearby electorates to assist a total of 276 unemployed people and place an estimated 186 into jobs. Two (2) of these projects have specifically targeted unemployed indigenous persons, indicating that \$84,425 or only 25% of the total funding has been allocated to this particular at risk group.

East Coast Training and Employment were approved for a grant of \$39,450 under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiative Community Employment Assistance Program (CEAP) to deliver the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Job Search Training Programs. The project aims to provide culturally specific job search training to disadvantaged indigenous job seekers from the Pine

Rivers, Caboolture, Redcliffe, North Brisbane and surrounding areas. A specific need was identified within these communities for a specific program response to unemployed indigenous persons, who are extremely disadvantaged in the labour market, experience high unemployment rates and face many barriers to accessing employment and training opportunities. The Community Employment Assistance Program targets persons who have been unemployed for 12 months or more and those disadvantaged in accessing labour market assistance and at risk of experiencing long-term unemployment.

2. East Coast Training and Employment is already offering a range of assistance to the long-term unemployed and those at risk of facing long-term unemployment in the Caboolture area. Since early 1999, East Coast Training and Employment have been approved to deliver nine (9) CEAP projects worth \$418,325 to assist a total of 517 unemployed people and place an estimated 354 into jobs. Two (2) of these projects have specifically targeted unemployed persons from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background, another two (2) projects have targeted mature aged unemployed persons, one (1) project has targeted disadvantaged unemployed young people, and the remaining four (4) projects have targeted long-term unemployed persons or those at risk of facing long-term unemployment.

Five (5) projects are still current and will be on going throughout 2000 in the Caboolture and Redcliffe areas and, given the local high unemployment rate, it is anticipated that CEAP projects will continue to be funded to assist the long-term unemployed people of these communities.

I should bring to the honourable member's attention the fact that more than \$3.3 million worth of Government funded accredited training was provided to the Caboolture district during 1999.

This training, from all programs including User Choice, Competitive Purchasing and through TAFE Direct Grant, covered such diverse areas of study as business and management, hospitality, information technology, child care, construction, and office administration, as well as access programs such as spoken and written English and health and community services.

## 6. Choice Support Service

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Health (29/2/00)—

With reference to the severe lack of funding for Choice Support Service in the Gympie region and in light of the fact that Government policy is to de-institutionalise those with mental illness, causing a massive increase in demand for support services and in light of the fact that it is only selfless dedication and hard work by the volunteers that is avoiding a disaster of catastrophic proportions—

Will she undertake to review the situation in Gympie with the aim of providing sufficient funding for this much needed facility?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/3/00): Choice Support Service is a non-government community service

recurrently funded under Queensland Health's Mental Health Community Organisation Funding Program to provide a volunteer support service for people with mental illness living in the Gympie area.

The service was established and first funded in 1994/95 and has since received recurrent funding from Queensland Health at the level requested by that organisation through an annual application process. Since the initial allocation, the level of funding provided has, in fact, increased by 26%. Additional non-recurrent funds have also been provided over the years to assist the organisation to purchase and upgrade equipment needed to provide the service, and to assist in the urgent relocation of the service made necessary through the floods of 1999. In this financial year, Queensland Health is providing additional funding to meet unexpected rental costs.

Queensland Health has been actively working with Choice Support Service to prepare a submission for additional funding. Applications closed on 25 February 2000 and Choice's application will be given careful consideration in line with current priorities.

## 7. Correctional Centres

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (29/2/00)—

- (1) Will he assure the public that all is being done to ensure the inmates and staff working and living in our correctional centres are in a safe and controlled environment?
- (2) Given that offenders on remand are assumed innocent until they appear in court, why are these remand prisoners (sometimes first offenders) mixing freely with sentenced prisoners?
- (3) Do correctional staff with legitimate suspicion and verifiable intelligence have the power to search a visitor to a prison?
- (4) Is it true that the 'Ion Scanner' used to detect drugs entering Correctional Centres is out of commission?
- (5) Is it true that people banned from one prison for introducing contraband are able to proceed to another prison; if so, why is there not a 'blanket ban' of all access to prisons of these persons?

**Mr BARTON** (30/3/00):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Upon admission to the correctional system, all prisoners including remand prisoners, are assessed in relation to their immediate safety and security risks and needs. Based on the assessment and other relevant information, the most appropriate placement for a prisoner within the correctional centre is determined. This principle is there to ensure that prisoners are placed in relation to their identified risks, needs and compatibility with other prisoners. The practice does result in some remand prisoners being placed with sentenced prisoners to ensure stability within the correctional centre and appropriate recognition of the actual prisoner needs.

(3) Yes. I refer the Member to the Corrective Services Act 1988.

(4) No. The department has five lonscan narcotic detection units in service throughout the state. The units are serviced through a maintenance contract, which ensures their operational effectiveness. One machine was damaged during delivery and the maintenance contractor loaned the department a replacement machine while repairs are being undertaken. A second machine was sent to the maintenance contractor for minor adjustments and returned within 24 hours under arrangements with the contractor.

(5) People who are banned from visiting one prison may apply for permission to visit another prison. A computer database is used to manage visitor applications and records bans and this information is available at other centres. The general manager of each prison must approve visit applications and the notification of bans elsewhere is an important factor when considering applications.

#### 8. Brisbane Light Rail Project

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (29/2/00)—

With reference to the decision of the Government to require the integration of the light rail project with Queensland Rail facilities—

- (1) Were amendments made to the specifications of light rail rolling stock after the tender documents were issued?
- (2) Were these amendments required because rolling stock made to the specifications issued would not be able to use Queensland Rail passenger platforms?
- (3) Have these amendments resulted in additional costs for companies tendering for the project?
- (4) Is he satisfied that the revised specifications will enable light rail to use Queensland Rail infrastructure?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (30/3/00):

(1) The tender documents, issued on 6 August 1999, clearly detailed the specifications for the light rail rolling stock which would allow future integration with Queensland Rail facilities. There were no amendments made to the specifications of the light rail rolling stock during the tendering period.

(2) As I have just stated there were no amendments made to the original rolling stock specifications.

(3) As there were no amendments there would be no additional costs for the companies tendering for the project.

(4) There were no revised specifications. The light rail vehicles to be provided as part of the tender process are not presently intended for use on the Queensland Rail network without significant future modifications. The reason for specifying a system which uses narrow gauge is to ensure that future options of improved transport integration between the light rail system and the Queensland Rail system are not precluded by a choice of an incompatible track gauge now.

#### 9. Gold Coast Hospital, Early Discharge Program

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Health (29/2/00)—

With reference to the Gold Coast Hospital which offers women who have given birth the very worthwhile Early Discharge Program, available to families between Oxenford and Christine Avenue (Burleigh Waters) and to the Tweed Hospital which offers a complimentary program for women and their families between Pottsville (NSW) and Currumbin Creek and as a black hole between Burleigh Heads and Currumbin means that women and families who live in this very large area are unable to gain equal access to valuable midwifery services associated with the Early Discharge Program which is not of course a new problem and in noting her recent announcement that a new initiative, The Family Care Home Visiting Program, would be trialled over four health districts (including Gold Coast) (29/2/00)—

Will a midwife also be employed to visit women and their newborn babies between Christine Avenue (Burleigh) and Currumbin Creek (Currumbin) in order to fill the gaps in the Early Discharge Program?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/3/00): The Gold Coast Health Service District is undertaking a review of the current service boundaries of the Early Discharge Program.

The Family CARE Home Visitors Program is a new initiative that I announced on 1 February 2000 under the State Labor Government's Strengthening Families strategy. This is a separate initiative from the Obstetric Early Discharge Program.

The Family CARE Home Visiting Program will commence in July 2000. Families visited by the child health nurses are selected antenatally according to certain criteria. Services will target families with known vulnerability factors, for example, a history of family violence, childhood abuse, neglect, drug and alcohol abuse. The aim of this program is to address the health inequalities of more vulnerable families with newborns, by providing supportive professional home visiting services. This new program builds on the Government's other parenting support initiatives across the State, such as Triple P, to better equip Queensland parents to build positive relationships with their children, strengthening the family unit and creating positive environments for children to grow up in.

#### 10. Youth Crime, Charters Towers

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (29/2/00)—

With reference to youth crime in Charters Towers and as residents and business owners in Charters Towers are sick and tired of the continuous spate of break and enter crimes in the city and I fear that people are about to take matters into their own hands and police are continuously frustrated by the revolving door scenario of youth offenders being let off by the courts and back on the streets within hours of arrest—

When will this Government legislate to rectify these problems and have some powers for the courts to be more severe on these continuous offenders?

**Mr FOLEY** (30/3/00): Juvenile justice is within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care.

#### 11. WorkCover

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/2/00)—

- (1) Will he confirm that WorkCover has now realised the severe detrimental effect that the loss of experienced staff, resulting from implementation of the service project, has had on claims management?
- (2) With the Service Improvement Program being fully implemented in September 1999, why is WorkCover now extensively advertising for new claims managers when nearly 300 experienced staff were strongly encouraged to leave as a result of substantial financial redundancy rewards being offered?
- (3) Is this an admission that the Government got it wrong in allowing WorkCover to remove experienced staff at a redundancy cost of \$9.1m and is now faced with having to pay substantial recruitment costs?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00):

- (1) WorkCover has advised that since the implementation of the Service Project the claims management performance has improved. When compared with baseline data from 30 June 1998, data for the 1999/2000 financial year to date indicate that:

For statutory claims:

Average time lost claims cost, decreased from \$4282 to \$4267 despite continued increases in average weekly earnings.

Average time lost claim duration, has decreased from 29.3 days to 27.4 days (6.5%).

In the time taken to determine claims within 14 days, there has been an improvement from 61.7% in the 97/98 year to 77.8% in 99/2000.

For common law damages claims:

Average common law settlement amount of settled claims has decreased from \$81,000 to \$78,404 (3.2% decrease).

Average time elapsed from date of injury to legal process has decreased from 2.36 years to 2.3 years (2.5% decrease) due to active claims management.

The net effect of these outcomes is an overall increase in efficiency in the administration of the scheme resulting in both cost and performance improvements.

- (2) WorkCover has advised that as part of the implementation of the Service Delivery Project a new organisational structure was established, with an accompanying change to roles and responsibilities within the organisation. Employees who were affected by restructure were encouraged to review

their skills and career aspirations through Career Management Workshops. Following this process, some employees have opted to take up the option of VERs while others have opted to improve their skills through additional training. WorkCover has also sought to complement existing internal human resources by recruiting experienced Case Managers from external sources.

(3) WorkCover advises that at 29 February 2000, the cost of VERs associated with the Service Delivery Project was \$5.4 million. Business indicators confirm that positive overall outcomes are already being achieved as a consequence of the Service Delivery Project. Recruitment costs of the magnitude currently being experienced are not to be unexpected in an organisation of the size of WorkCover.

#### 12. Residential Tenancies

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (29/2/00)—

With reference to the residential tenancies for the calendar year concluding on 29 February—

What was the total number of (a) tenancies lodged under the Residential Tenancies Act, (b) Notice to Remedy Breach issued under the Residential Tenancies Act and (c) Notice to Remedy Breach (Rent Arrears) issued under the Residential Tenancies Act?

**Ms SPENCE** (30/3/00):

(a) There were 216,869 new rental bonds lodged under the Residential Tenancies Act 1994 during the period from 1 March 1999 to 29 February 2000. At 29 February 2000 the RTA held 289,204 rental bonds. It is not compulsory to charge a bond in residential tenancies and therefore not all residential tenancy agreements involve bonds lodged under the Act. If a bond is charged, then it must be lodged with the Authority under the Act. Based on the 1996 Census of Population and Housing results, the RTA estimates that, at Census time, bonds were being held for more than three quarters of the private rental market.

(b) Under the Act, "Notices to Remedy Breach" are issued by the parties to residential tenancy agreements, that is, lessors, agents and tenants as a mechanism for reaching a resolution of the breach quickly and directly between the parties. The RTA does not issue these notices and therefore no record of the number of these notices issued under the Act is available.

(c) While no record of these notices is available, the level of formal dispute under the Act on the issue of rent arrears remains relatively low compared to the number of residential tenancies in Queensland. There were 655 disputes involving rent arrears in ongoing tenancy agreements received by the RTA during the period from 1 March 1999 to 29 February 2000, for first level dispute resolution. A further 6,850 applications were made to the Small Claims Tribunal due to tenants failure to leave a premises, generally following a rent arrears issue. The majority of these claims at the Small Claims Tribunal involve urgent

applications under the Act and therefore they do not proceed through the RTA although this figure could also include some matters not resolved by the first level of dispute resolution. The RTA estimates that this represents approximately 2.5% of tenancy agreements in Queensland for that period.

### 13. Burnett River

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (29/2/00)—

With reference to the more than three years that has elapsed since the State Government, through the Department of Primary Industries, initiated a program of monitoring the Burnett River lungfish (*Neoceratodus forsteri*) and the potential impacts of water impoundment on their long-term prospects for survival—

- (1) Given the high-level public interest in the conservation of this species and the Commonwealth Government's environmental requirements set down during Walla Weir deliberations, will a finalised scientific report on this baseline data be collated and released for public dissemination?
- (2) When is this report scheduled for finalisation and how can I obtain this information?
- (3) Has the project received ongoing funding from the State and for how long?
- (4) Do the preliminary findings indicate insurmountable challenges to further water infrastructure development on the Burnett River?
- (5) When will the impact assessments specifically relating to the expansion of Walla Weir be completed?
- (6) What is the status of studies to determine the impacts of water infrastructure on the ecology requirements of the Elseya Tortoise and Platypus?
- (7) When will these be completed and have any preliminary findings been released?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (30/3/00):

(1) The lungfish study has been in progress for two years and much of the scientific works has been completed. However some aspects are still being completed. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) funds the work undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). DPI provides scientific reports annually to DNR and I understand that these are made available to the public.

A scientific report for the year 1999 will be forwarded by DPI to DNR shortly. This will outline the status of the study in relation to the Commonwealth Government's requirements. I expect this report to be available to the public through DNR.

At the completion of the study a final report will be forwarded to DNR and again I would expect this report to be available to the public.

(2) Refer answer 1.

(3) DNR is providing funding for the lungfish project pending confirmation from the Commonwealth that they agree to the use of Sugar Industry

Infrastructure Package (SIIP) money for continuation of the studies until 30 June 2000. Funding after that date is yet to be secured.

(4) Until the findings are fully analysed, it is not possible to conclude on the opportunities available to designers and managers of sustainable infrastructure.

(5) This is a matter for DNR.

(6) DPI is not involved in undertaking studies into either of these animals.

(7) See answer to 6.

### 14. Nambour Hospital, Radiologist

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (29/2/00)—

- (1) How long has Nambour Hospital been without a staff radiologist?
- (2) How many should there be on staff for a hospital this size?
- (3) What is the Government doing to fill the vacant position?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/3/00):

(1) Over the last 10 years, Queensland Health has used a number of different methods to provide radiology services to its public hospitals. These have included Visiting Medical Officer appointments, full-time and part-time staff radiologist appointments and contract services. Following the resignation of the Nambour General Hospital, Director of Radiology in 1992, the then Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority went to open tender for the provision of radiology services for a three year period. This then extended for a further three year period. The firm elected to withdraw from its contract as of 21 October 1999, about 11 weeks before the contract would have expired on the 5 January 2000. The District advertised for and appointed a staff radiologist, who commenced duty on 3 March 2000. During the period 21 October 1999 to March 2000, the District entered into interim arrangements with private specialists and radiology firms including the previously contracted firm to ensure continuity of the radiology service.

(2) The Nambour General Hospital considers two staff radiologists adequate to service the current needs of the District. Recruitment of a second staff radiologist is currently being undertaken.

(3) No suitable applicants applied as a result of newspaper advertisements in December 1999. The District has since undertaken a direct mail out to radiologists through the Royal Australasian College of Radiologists and this has resulting in some expressions of interest.

### 15. Disabled Citizens, Lifestyle Support

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (29/2/00)—

With reference to Lifestyle Support packages for people with disabilities—

- (1) What criteria are used to determine relative levels of need for each applicant?

- (2) In relation to the needs of persons who are not skilled in the preparation of submissions, how are those needs determined for decision-making purposes?
- (3) Who determines priorities between applicants?
- (4) What levels of competence are required of those who make the decisions or formulate the effective recommendations in this process?
- (5) What appeal mechanism or other method of redress is available to persons aggrieved by this process?

**Ms BLIGH (30/3/00):**

- (1) The priority rating process assigns ones of the following ratings to a person's application for lifestyle support:

Priority 1: currently experiencing any one of the indicators of criticality listed below.

Priority 2: high to moderate risk in the near future in any of the indicators listed below.

Priority 3: moderate to low risk in the long term in any of the indicators listed below.

Priority 4: no risk in any of the indicators listed below but requiring support to enhance general quality of life.

The indicators of criticality used to determine the relative level of need for each applicant are:

The person, carer or family is vulnerable to injury due to violence, abuse or neglect;

The person has no carer or the age, health or capacity of the carer is placing the person or carer at significant risk;

The person's current funded support arrangements are only temporary;

The person is involved in the criminal justice system;

The person is homeless and may be living on the streets or in minimal shelter;

The person has inappropriate temporary accommodation in a respite facility or alternative emergency accommodation;

The person will be inappropriately admitted to institutional care without immediate intervention;

The person's abilities are significantly deteriorating due to an impoverished environment and inadequate support arrangements.

As well as being prioritised people's application can also be classified as:

Early Intervention if a lower level of support would significantly reduce the likelihood of the person experiencing critical and urgent need in the near future or long term.

Low Support Needs if the person has intermittent, occasional or minimal support needs.

- (2) The form can be completed by an individual, or by someone else on their behalf. This might be a

service provider or a person who acts as an advocate such as a parent, family member, friend, or advocacy worker. Additional assistance may be obtained from officers of my Department located in each region or by contacting Disability Services Queensland Information Line.

(3) Regional Priority Panels assess all applications and determine a priority rating.

(4) Regional Priority Panel members have a broad range of skills, experiences and knowledge and include people with a disability, family members, departmental representatives and service providers. These people are acknowledged leaders in the disability sector in their community.

(5) The process for changing a priority rating is to update the current Registration of Need application and request a redetermination of the rating. The Regional Priority Panel will then reconsider the updated registration when they next convene. When the person is informed in the letter advising them of their priority rating they are advised that they are welcome at any time to seek a redetermination should their needs or situation change. A person appealing a priority rating can request a Priority panel from another Region to redetermine their rating.

## 16. Farnborough State School

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (29/2/00)—

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' 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 BREDHAUER (30/3/00):** In response to the question from the Honourable the Member for Keppel, I am pleased to be able to advise—

(1) The children who reside in the area have access to school transport on the same guidelines as every other school child in Queensland. Children who live in this area have a choice. They can either access a bus route which is funded by the government to travel to school in Yeppoon, or they travel on a commercial bus service for the payment of a fare to Farnborough State School. This is in contrast to the 75% of students in Queensland whose parents have no choice but to meet the full cost of travel to get their children to and from school.

(2) This matter has been fully investigated by Queensland Transport on a number of occasions over recent years by both this government and previous governments. I am satisfied that their investigations have been thorough and accurate and that the current arrangements are satisfactory, taking all factors into account.



### 17. Drug Education

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Education (29/2/00)—

Where specifically is the \$82 per student for drug education allocated and how is it spent, category by category?

**Mr WELLS** (30/3/00): Unlike the policies of the previous administration, which focused on the support of high profile, politically appealing programs which from a student's perspective were likely to be "one-off" activities, Drug Education now impacts on every student because it is integrated into mainstream curricular and co-curricular activities.

Good practice, based on research, suggests that programs that are teacher facilitated and student oriented rather than those, which are drug oriented, one off and information based, are more likely to achieve positive educational outcomes.

The \$82 per student for Drug Education is based on a conservative calculation of the costs involved in three general areas of activity.

These are:

School based costs, which include a calculation of a small proportion of the time of specialist teachers, Guidance Officers and Behaviour Management Support staff, as well as a similar proportion of the costs involved in the implementation of the new Health and Physical Education Syllabus.

System Priorities and Programs, which include dedicated State and Commonwealth Drug Education funding and a proportion of the time of central office support staff.

Joint Government Initiatives, which include a small proportion of the time of school based nurses and school based police officers.

At the end of the day, school drug education is about equipping students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes, which will help them become productive members of our community.

The school drug education program is, however, only part of the answer to the problems of drugs. Parents and the broader community also have an essential role to play.

### 18. Queensland Events Corporation; Willowbank Raceway; Lakeside International Raceway

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (29/2/00)—

- (1) Why is the Queensland Events Corporation continuing to lobby AVESCO to retain the Queensland round of the Shell Australian Touring Car Championship in addition to the Queensland 500 at the Willowbank raceway?
- (2) Does he concede that the Government's support for Queensland Raceway (in liquidation) has caused the privately owned Lakeside raceway to reach the end of its commercial viability?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (30/3/00):

(1) The Queensland Events Corporation falls under the portfolio of my colleague the Honourable Peter Beattie MP, Premier of Queensland.

(2) I do not concede that this, or the previous, Government's support of the development of the Queensland Raceway has had an affect on the commercial viability of the Lakeside Raceway.

### 19. South West Queensland Structural Adjustment Strategy, Applications

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Treasurer (29/2/00)—

With reference to the Productivity Grant/Productivity Interest Subsidy administered under the South West Queensland Structural Adjustment Strategy and in conjunction with the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority—

- (1) How many applications under the scheme have been approved to date and how much did each applicant receive?
- (2) How many applications are still outstanding and what action is being taken to ensure that funds will be made available to fund these outstanding applications?

**Mr HAMILL** (27/3/00):

(1) There have been 79 applications approved under the Interest Subsidy provisions of the Scheme. There have been 22 Productivity Grants approved.

(2) The Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority is currently holding 16 applications for interest subsidies and 30 applications for productivity grants. Because these applications remain outstanding, I am advised that the Chair of the Strategy Committee has made an application to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services, the Hon John Anderson MP, for new funding to continue the Strategy under the Commonwealth's Rural Communities Project.

### 20. Police, Shift Allowance

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (29/2/00)—

- (1) How many police officers receive operational shift allowance and what percentage of the sworn police numbers does this represent?
- (2) How many police officers are at one and two man stations and receiving the 34 per cent loading for duties at these stations and what percentage of sworn police numbers does this figure represent?

**Mr BARTON** (30/3/00):

(1) There are 5241 police officers who receive operational shift allowance, which equates to 71% of total officers.

(2) There are 166 police officers attached to one and two officer stations who receive the all up allowance of 34%, which equates to 2% of total officers.

### 21. Vegetation Management Legislation

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (29/2/00)—

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—

- (1) What is the estimated financial and social impact on each local government in Queensland?
- (2) What is the estimated financial and social impact on each regional community?
- (3) What is the estimated financial and social impact on each rural community?

**Mr WELFORD** (30/3/00): (1-3) The Government recognised during the preparation of the framework for native vegetation management that proposed controls on vegetation clearing would impact on individuals and communities through some loss of access to development opportunities. That is why the Government undertook not to proclaim the Vegetation Management Act 1999 in its original form unless there was an adequate assistance and incentives package negotiated with the Commonwealth Government.

The Queensland Government proposed that these impacts would require an assistance package of \$103M over four years. The State Government is working with the Commonwealth Government to refine the analysis of the financial and social adjustment assistance needed on a regional basis. This work was to be undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) based on data supplied by Queensland to avoid duplication of effort. Data on the areas likely to be affected by restrictions on clearing were supplied to ABARE in October 1999 and recent press reports indicate that a report has been presented to Federal Minister for the Environment, Senator Robert Hill. The Queensland Government has yet to see a copy of the report.

When assessing the implications of the vegetation management initiative, governments must also consider the benefits of retaining vegetation and the costs to the community of not acting. The social and financial benefits for Queensland of improved vegetation management are greater sustainability of agricultural production and the protection of biodiversity. Furthermore, investment in the prevention of land degradation such as dryland salinity is much more cost-effective than repair.

The National Dryland Salinity Program—a consortium of Commonwealth and State resource management agencies and scientists—suggests that dryland salinity has an annual cost to the Nation of approximately \$270M per annum (\$130M in lost production; \$100M in damage to infrastructure; \$40M in loss of environmental assets). Nationally 2.5M ha are affected by dryland salinity, increasing by 3-5% annually. This means that the costs to the Nation are increasing by some \$10M per annum.

It has also been estimated that the costs to rehabilitate cleared land to control land degradation range from \$100/ha up to \$15,000/ha depending on the method of revegetation and the productivity of the area. In some areas of southern and western Australian, salinity caused by over clearing and over irrigation is destroying the economic, social and

environmental fabric of whole regional and rural communities. The Government clearly has a responsibility and duty to ensure that similar devastation is not allowed to occur in Queensland.

As we agreed at the recent meeting between the Premier and Prime Minister's official, both governments are continuing to discuss the provision of an appropriate assistance and incentives package. As the initiative has national benefits, the Queensland Government expects the Commonwealth to ensure it meets its obligations to support such a package.

## 22. Bookmakers; Ouncourse Telephone Betting

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (29/2/00)—

What plans does the Government have to assist bookmakers at Queensland racetracks to remain viable and will the Government consider amendments to the Racing and Betting Act to allow more flexibility for minimum amount telephone bets to on-course bookmakers?

**Mrs ROSE** (30/3/00): Bookmakers and control bodies assisted the Department with a survey and analysis of bookmaking late last year. In addition, bookmaker issues are related to the National Competition Policy (NCP) Review of the Racing and Betting Act 1980. The Government intends to release an NCP issues paper in the near future.

## 23. Q-Build

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (29/2/00)—

With reference to the Community Service Obligation (CSO) payments made to Q-Build so far in 1999-2000—

- (1) What is the (a) total budgeted CSO payment for 1999-2000, (b) quantum of CSO payment made to Q-Build year-to-date (29 February) and (c) source of the funding for the CSO payments?
- (2) What are the identified items for which the CSO payments are based?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (30/3/00):

(1) (a) The total budgeted CSO payment for 1999-2000 is \$6,723,000, (b) The quantum of CSO payment made to Q-Build year-to-date is \$4,395,807, (c) Funding comes from the Department of Public Works in the form of a grant. The funding is appropriated to the Department as part of the Administered Fiscal Limit.

(2) Items for which the CSO payments are based are the Q-Build Apprenticeship Program; Indigenous Training and Employment Program; and Disaster Management.

## 24. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, Survey

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (29/2/00)—

With reference to the Comprehensive Health and Emergency Services Survey conducted by the University of Southern Queensland on behalf of the

Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA), the results of which were to have been made available in January—

- (1) Will he make the survey results public?
- (2) What percentage of eligible fire officers took part in the survey and what was the breakdown per region?
- (3) What stress "hot spots" were identified by the survey?
- (4) What was the total cost of the survey including the cost of time contributed by staff from the QFRA?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (31/3/00):

(1) A decision to publish survey results will be considered once a comprehensive evaluation of the final report has been completed.

(2) Twenty three percent of eligible fire officers responded to the survey. The number of respondents returning the questionnaire provided a strong database from which to establish findings and represents an acceptable return rate for a long questionnaire. The percentage breakdown of respondents by region was 23% for Brisbane North, 17% for South Eastern, 15% for Brisbane South, 11% for North Coast, 10% for Northern, 9% for Central, 8% for Far Northern, 5% for South West and 2% for Kedron Park.

(3) Stress hotspots include events involving death, events involving horrific injury, events involving children, events involving friends and acquaintances, events which involve professional and management issues, pressure on individuals in carrying out the job, the death of a work colleague, personal safety issues, relationship and family problems, and personal wellbeing.

(4) The total cost of the research, including estimates of QFRA staff time and resources, is approximately \$15,000.

## 25. Community Jobs Plan

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/2/00)—

- (1) Will he detail to the House the number of Community Job Priority projects considered by each of the community jobs priorities committees, the value of each proposed project and the number and value of each project which was approved?
- (2) Will he also provide any detailed guidelines provided to each committee as a means of ensuring that the distribution of funds is done objectively (ie. that one committee would not approve the same proposal that another committee would reject)?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00):

(1) The fourteen Statewide Community Jobs Priorities Committees make recommendations only for project funding under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiative Community Jobs Plan and Community Employment Assistance Program to

the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations. Due to budget limitations, projects recommended for funding may not be approved immediately depending on funding availability. The number and value of projects considered to date by each Community Jobs Priorities Committee and subsequent approvals is detailed below:

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

(2) Each Community Jobs Priorities Committee member is provided with an Induction Kit providing guidelines for the Community Jobs Priorities Committees, Community Jobs Plan Guidelines for Funding and Community Employment Assistance Program Guidelines for Funding. Copies of the Induction Kit and Guidelines are attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

## 26. WorkCover

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/2/00)—

With reference to WorkCover's Service Improvement Program for which he advised in September 1999 that all three stages of the State-wide implementation are now complete—

- (1) What was the total cost to WorkCover of the Service Improvement Program, including the total cost of redundancies?
- (2) What is the precise, identifiable details of savings, including the savings from the reduction in staff numbers which resulted from its implementation?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00):

(1) WorkCover advises that as at 29 February 2000, implementation costs for the Service Project were \$2.737 million. The cost of redundancies associated with the Service Project was \$5.4 million. Associated human resources costs were estimated at 30 August 1999 to be \$488 000.

(2) WorkCover advises that the primary focus of the WorkCover Service Project is enhanced service delivery for WorkCover Queensland. WorkCover's claims' handling performance shows there are marked improvements in performance.

When compared with baseline data from 30 June 1998, data for the 1999/2000 financial year to date indicate that:

For statutory claims:

Average time lost claims cost, decreased from \$4282 to \$4267 despite continued increases in average weekly earnings.

Average time lost claim duration, has decreased from 29.3 days to 27.4 days (6.5%).

In the time taken to determine claims within 14 days, there has been an improvement from 61.7% in the 97/98 year to 77.8% in 99/2000.

For common law damages claims:

Average common law settlement amount of settled claims has decreased from \$81,000 to \$78,404 (3.2% decrease).

Average time elapsed from date of injury to legal process has decreased from 2.36 years to 2.3 years (2.5% decrease) due to active claims management.

The net effect of these outcomes is an overall increase in efficiency in the administration of the scheme resulting in both cost and performance improvements.

WorkCover estimates that savings from the reduction in staff numbers will exceed the total \$5.4M cost of redundancies.

## 27. Building and Construction Industry, WorkCover Premiums

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/2/00)—

With reference to the Government's proposal to introduce a revised Workers' Compensation premium levy system for the Queensland Building and Construction Industry—

- (1) Will he confirm grave concerns within the house building industry that the levy will cause the cost of housing to home buyers in Queensland to rise by up to 4 per cent?
- (2) Does the Government not regard this increase as extremely detrimental to the affordability of housing to struggling new home buyers and employment potential within the building industry?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00):

(1) Compliance with workers' compensation obligations has been an ongoing problem in the building industry, and responsible builders are already fulfilling their legal obligation to pay WorkCover premiums. The levy is aimed at ensuring that those builders who are freeloading on the current system are forced to make a fair and adequate contribution to the workers' compensation system. This policy is aimed at ensuring that all builders make their fair contribution. The proposed levy is a more efficient means of collecting premiums that should be being paid in any case.

(2) Given that there is no evidence to support the claim that housing costs will change, I cannot agree that the policy is detrimental to either the housing industry or new home buyers. The policy is being developed in conjunction with an Industry Consultative Group.

## 28. Building and Construction Industry, WorkCover Premiums

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/2/00)—

With reference to the Government's proposal to introduce a revised Workers' Compensation premium levy system for the Queensland Building and Construction Industry—

- (1) Does he not share industry concerns that the proposal is, at its heart, simply a means of appeasing the CFMEU whose demands are based only on anecdotal union perceptions of the need for change?
- (2) Will he provide the House with the evidence that such a fundamental change in scheme design is required in the light of high cost impacts on housing affordability?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00):

(1) No, there is broad support within the building and construction industry for the concept of a levy.

(2) The opposition has provided no evidence to support its claim that the introduction of the building and construction industry levy will add significantly to the cost of building a house in Queensland. The proposed scheme is designed to ensure that there is maximum compliance in the building and construction industry.

The Government will release an options paper that will address workers' compensation issues in the building and construction industry, including the nature of the industry and what this means for workers' compensation.

## 29. WorkCover

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/2/00)—

With reference to the previous advise to this House that there have been no forced redundancies within WorkCover but despite this assurance, the Opposition has received a complaint from a former employee of WorkCover that he was forced to take a redundancy as he was not being considered for any positions within the organisation and therefore would have been left without a job—

Will he confirm that, despite his assurances to this House, that the inequitable refusal to consider some employees for vacant positions was not an underhanded tactic to force downsizing within WorkCover?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00): I am advised by WorkCover Queensland that all WorkCover Queensland employees were entitled to apply, and be considered, for any advertised position within the organisation. All applicants for positions were considered equally on their relative merits, and appointments made accordingly.

## 30. Building and Construction Industry

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/2/00)—

With reference to the Government's proposal to introduce a revised Workers' Compensation premium levy system for the Queensland Building and Construction Industry—

- (1) Will he confirm that there has been poor consultation with large individual construction companies that create major employment opportunities through the development of large Queensland projects?

- (2) If he agrees with this claim, will he provide to the Parliament the full details of the consultation process?
- (3) Will he also confirm that the proposal to levy this tax on total contract value, including high cost plant components, will cause very inequitable levy collection which bears no relationship to the actual cost of the labour engaged?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00):

- (1) I do not accept that there has been poor consultation. The consultative process has included:
- the establishment of an Industry Consultative Group consisting of major stakeholders who provide advice on the many issues involved and act as a conduit between the Department and the building and construction industry;
  - a two-day forum which was held in September 1999 to develop the proposal; and
  - the publication of a detailed discussion paper in the near future.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) The basis upon which the levy will be collected will be canvassed in the options paper which is currently being developed. Further consultation will then occur with industry.

### 31. Building and Construction Industry

**Mr BORRIDGE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/2/00)—

With reference to the Government's proposal to introduce a revised Workers' Compensation premium levy system for the Queensland Building and Construction Industry—

- (1) Will he confirm wide spread industry fears that this scheme will become a high revenue, high claims cost, social benefits scheme with the inherent flaws of other levy based and blanket benefit schemes which have been introduced and which have failed in other jurisdictions and countries?
- (2) Will there be incentives provided in the scheme to prevent over-utilisation of this scheme, particularly during building industry cycle downturns?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00):

(1) The details of the proposed levy scheme will be canvassed in the options paper that is currently being developed.

(2) While the scheme is still being developed, an important component will be the use of incentives to ensure that the scheme operates fairly. The details of these proposals will be made available in the options paper that is currently being developed.

### 32. WorkCover

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (29/2/00)—

With reference to information he has previously provided in respect of the reduction in staffing numbers in WorkCover Statewide and also on the use of private consultants—

- (1) Will he confirm that as a result of the Government's mishandling of the above issue and the loss of experienced staff within WorkCover, that private consultants have been engaged in the case management of Workers' Compensation statutory claims?
- (2) If such consultants have been used for case management, will he advise the names of consultants and the consultancy costs involved?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00): WorkCover has advised that the Service Project identified efficiencies which would be gained through more effective methods of dealing with customers. Previously, the case management role encompassed two separate roles, a claims manager role and a rehabilitation role. The case management role was redesigned to better meet customer needs.

WorkCover has advised that it has not undertaken the use of private consultants (as defined under the State Purchasing Policy guidelines) to undertake the case management of Workers' Compensation statutory claims.

WorkCover used the following rehabilitation services as operational contractors (as defined under the State Purchasing Policy guidelines) to assist in the case management workload while WorkCover employees were being trained in the newly created Case Manager's role:

- Work Directions
- Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services Initiatives
- Wesley Corporate Health
- IRS
- EKCO
- Jan Collins
- Kerry Garbutt
- Carolyn Davitt.

This ensured that the needs of WorkCover clients, were still being met while WorkCover officers were undertaking training.

These contractors were engaged on commercial terms for a short period, for a total cost of \$371,000. The requirement for their services is anticipated to cease by the end of March 2000.

### 33. Redlands Hospital; QE II Hospital

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Health (29/2/00)—

What is the budgeted cost for cleaning services at Redlands Hospital and QE II Hospital respectively for 1999-2000 and what was the actual figure for cleaning services for both hospitals in 1998-99?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/3/00): The Redland Hospital Budget for cleaning services in 1999/2000 is \$535,424. The actual cost for cleaning services for 1998/99 at Redland Hospital was \$257,740.

The data is not comparable because in 1998/99 the old Redland Hospital was operational until 11 January

1999. It was then closed for renovations and the new Redland Hospital was progressively commissioned. For QE II Hospital the Budget for cleaning services in 1999/2000 is \$540,000. Actual cost for cleaning services for 1998/99 at QE II Hospital was \$652,720.

#### 34. Logan Hospital

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Health (29/2/00)—

What is the estimated capital expenditure on Logan Hospital redevelopment in 1999-2000 and what is the total estimated cost of the project?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/3/00): Estimated capital expenditure for 1999-2000 is \$23.322 million. Project budget for the redevelopment of Logan Hospital is \$65.56 million.

#### 35. Fraser Coast Health District

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Health (29/2/00)—

With reference to the Fraser Coast Health District—

What was the cost of cross cultural training in 1998-99 and what has been budgeted for or spent in 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/3/00): In 1998-99 expenditure on cross-cultural training in Fraser Coast District was \$33,000. Expenditure to date in 1999-2000 is \$23,000. More than 120 staff are expected to receive training this year.

#### 36. Health Budget, Capital Works Spending

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Health (29/2/00)—

What percentage of the health budget is spent on equipment for new capital works?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/3/00): Percentages range from 15% to 20% of the construction cost for new capital works. There is no precise percentage utilised, as every redevelopment is assessed to determine the quantum of funding necessary to be allocated from the overall project budget. Existing equipment is considered and dependent on the functionality and age of the equipment, decisions are made in relation to its use in the new or redeveloped facility.

#### 37. Crop Insurance, Stamp Duty

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (29/2/00)—

With reference to the latest natural disaster in north and north west Queensland and with particular reference to stamp duty on crop insurance and given that the effect on State revenue is a minimal \$1.3m—

Will he publicly state his support for the removal of this iniquitous tax in order to relieve primary producers of this unfair burden and also to encourage farmers to take out crop insurance in the future?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (30/3/00): The matter has been discussed with Queensland Treasury. The

current position is that all forms of state revenue, including stamp duty, will be retained until possible implications and uncertainty of the impending national tax reform have been addressed.

The State Government is encouraging producers to take up crop insurance to offset the impacts of natural disasters through its support of a broad based crop insurance scheme. The Department of Primary Industries has representatives on a joint Commonwealth/State Steering Committee to examine the feasibility of establishing the scheme.

#### 38. Elimbah State Primary School

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Education (1/3/00)—

With reference to the redevelopment of the Elimbah State Primary School—

- (1) When will Stage 1 begin?
- (2) As construction was to be completed by May 2000, ready for the commencement of Semester 2, has the time line been altered?

**Mr WELLS** (31/3/00):

(1) I am advised by the Department that construction of Stage 1 should start at the end of April 2000.

(2) The department informs me that they had initially intended to begin completion in May 2000 but as planning progressed, the timeline for the redevelopment had to be altered to ensure that the school met approved building standards and more importantly that the needs of the local community were addressed.

I am advised by the Department that the construction contract period is for sixteen (16) weeks with an expected completion date of late August 2000 allowing for wet weather delays.

#### 39. Department of Housing, Car Parking

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (1/3/00)—

- (1) What are the requirements regarding the number of parking spaces allocated per Department of Housing unit?
- (2) What are the requirements regarding the number of parking spaces allocated per Department of Housing duplex?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (31/3/00):

(1) The Department's Residential Design Requirements outline the Department's standards for public housing accommodation. The following standards apply for car parking in new departmental accommodation:

Detached dwellings or duplex accommodation have one enclosed and/or secure car accommodation such as a garage or carport per dwelling.

In multiple units car-parking spaces are based on a ratio of 0.5 car spaces per unit for seniors' units and 1.25 car spaces per unit for one, two and three-bedroom accommodation, with additional spaces as required by the local authority.

The Department of Housing aims to include a space for one visitor's car in new detached houses and duplexes, as well as the carport or garage for the resident's use. Departmental seniors' unit developments are designed to cater for a lower level of car usage than other developments, as it has been the Department's experience that fewer car spaces are required for tenants in seniors' units.

(2) The Department of Housing provides one carport or garage per duplex dwelling unit, and aims to provide an additional space on the site to allow for a visitor's car.

#### 40. Moreton Institute of TAFE, Mount Gravatt Campus

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Education (1/3/00)—

With reference to the Moreton Institute of TAFE, Mount Gravatt campus—

- (1) Is he aware of downsizing in various departments at this campus?
- (2) Is he aware that final year fashion students have been combined into one class?
- (3) Is he aware that as a result of this, 25 students are forced to share only 14 computers in the fashion design classes?
- (4) As a result of this downsizing, how many teachers have been retrenched/relocated?
- (5) What action will his department undertake with these colleges to rectify these deficiencies that are impacting on student learning?

**Mr WELLS** (31/3/00): Matters relating to TAFE fall within the portfolio of the Minister of Employment, Training & Industrial Relations. The Honourable Member should therefore direct his question to the relevant Minister.

#### 41. Withcott-Rosewood, Rail/Bus Student Concessions

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/3/00)—

With reference to the Withcott to Rosewood "rail bus" student concessions, "rail bus" being now operated by McCafferty's of Toowoomba between Withcott and Rosewood schools since the downgrading of passenger rail services—

- (1) Are students travelling by bus between these centres denied student concessions?
- (2) What criterion is in place for student concessions in this area of travel?
- (3) Why are students travelling on this bus expected to pay full fare from Grandchester to Rosewood State High School?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (31/3/00):

(1) Students travelling on the bus from Withcott to connect with the rail service at Rosewood are not denied travel on a student concession fare.

(2) Tickets are able to be purchased at 50% of the adult fare. Further discounts apply if tickets are purchased for a longer period e.g. monthly, semester or yearly.

(3) Students travelling from Grandchester to Rosewood are able to travel at the student concession fare and are not expected to pay the full adult fare.

#### 42. Eimeo Road State School

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/3/00)—

With reference to my Question on Notice No. 2087 of 19 December 1999, which did not answer my query in relation to the minimum warrant for a school crossing—

- (1) Does or does not a usage by 25 children satisfy the criteria?
- (2) In the case of the Eimeo Road State School, which has demonstrated a significantly higher usage than that, how can he claim that the minimum warrant is not met?
- (3) Will he review this situation before a tragedy occurs?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (31/3/00):

(1) There are a number of criteria used to assess the creation of a supervised school crossing including the need for a minimum of 25 unaccompanied primary school students using the crossing during the proposed period of supervision each school day. Traffic volumes, vehicle speeds, number of heavy vehicles and road design are also factors to consider when assessing the safety of pedestrians.

(2) Queensland Transport counts have indicated less than 25 unaccompanied primary school children are using the crossing.

(3) 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. A safety committee involving Queensland Transport, the Department of Main Roads, Mackay City Council, the Eimeo Road State School Parents and Citizens Association and other local stakeholders will develop a safety plan for the school and evaluate a number of possible solutions to improve the safety of the children travelling to and from Eimeo Road State School.

#### 43. Fraser Island, Ranger Facilities

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (1/3/00)—

With reference to the ranger facilities at Central Station on Fraser Island which have come under television and media scrutiny in recent days and where appalling staff and volunteer accommodation living quarters have been shown to be white ant infested and where asbestos roofing is shown as flaking and draining onto the pristine sand area—

- (1) Is he aware that the public toilet and shower facilities are rotting, and tiling inside these

facilities is broken and that when the tiles are walked upon, drain water pumps up through the tiles?

- (2) Is he aware that an asbestos roof on the western barracks is crumbling and flaking and that the flaked particles drain into the gutters and flow onwards onto the pristine sand at the base of the building?
- (3) Is he aware that a hole, which has been in existence for many years, is above the kitchen food preparation area of that western barracks where the underneath of the asbestos roof is visible and the potential risk to the safety of occupants is a reality?
- (4) Is it correct that in those same barracks, the shower cubicle has an open drain in the floor with no hygiene disposal system installed and would this be considered appropriate and in compliance with minimum standards on the mainland, let alone in this world heritage environment?
- (5) Is he aware that in the same barracks, a fluorescent light fitting in one bedroom has crashed from the ceiling due to white ant infestation and, after many months, remains suspended from the ceiling by the electrical wiring?
- (6) Is it correct that the regional manager stated in the local press that the barracks were no longer used?
- (7) Is it correct that officers from Telstra were accommodated in these barracks for two nights as recently as the week ending 26 February?
- (8) Will these third world conditions continue to prevail during the expected massive increase in visitor numbers both during and after the Olympic Games?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (31/3/00):

(1) The ranger facilities at Central Station on Fraser Island are controlled and managed by the Environmental Protection Agency. Consequently, this question should be referred to the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources.

(2) Under the Asbestos Management Program, which is administered by the Department of Public Works, asbestos audits were carried out on all buildings at Central Station in February 1999. This program was implemented to identify and manage asbestos related issues. There are currently no immediate or high priority items identified for the western barracks at Central Station. The ranger facilities at Central Station were inspected by Q-Build staff on 10 March 2000, following representations being made to me by the Honourable Member. I am advised that the asbestos cement roof sheeting shows no signs of flaking or delamination.

(3), (4), (5), (6), (7) & (8) As per response to Question 1.

#### 44. Burdekin, Respite Centre

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (1/3/00)—

With reference to her recent announcement that a full respite centre will be built in the Burdekin—

- (1) When will this project commence?
- (2) In the event that the Labor Party does not win the seat of Burdekin in the next election, will this promise hold true?

**Ms BLIGH** (31/3/00):

(1) I am pleased to advise that the first stage in establishing a respite facility in Ayr is well under way. The Burdekin Flexible Respite Service has negotiated a parcel of land with the Burdekin Shire Council with a 99 year lease for a peppercorn rent. Concept plans have been prepared and the Burdekin Flexible Respite Service has indicated to the Department that they expect to commence construction by the end of May 2000. It is anticipated that the building will be finished by the end of August, with service provision commencing in September.

(2) See (1).

#### 45. Barambah Electorate, School Dental Service

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Health (1/3/00)—

- (1) How many of the schools in the Barambah electorate were visited by the school dental service in 1999?
- (2) What is the funding for oral health services for 1999-2000?
- (3) How many students needed a checkup only?
- (4) How many adults in the Barambah electorate are eligible for public sector oral health service?
- (5) How many adults received 'completed oral health care' within a reasonable time, say after waiting up to three months?
- (6) How many patients receiving 'completed oral health care' have a functional natural dentition?

**Mrs EDMOND** (31/3/00):

(1) A total of 33 schools within the Barambah electorate were visited by the school dental service in 1999.

(2) The funding for oral health services in South Burnett Health Service District increased by more than 6% in 1999/2000.

(3) Information on the number of students requiring a checkup only is not readily available due to the nature of the data routinely recorded.

(4) There are approximately 11,500 adults eligible for public sector oral health care in the Barambah electorate.

(5) 2,407 adults received completed courses of care within three months of requesting urgent treatment. The majority of these clients received emergency treatment within one working day.

(6) Approximately 6,900 patients receiving a course of care in 1998/1999 in the Barambah electorate had natural teeth.



**46. Irvinebank Road, Connell Wagner Report**

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/3/00)—

Will he provide me with the Connell Wagner Report regarding the Irvinebank Road, a report undertaken by his department in 1999?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (31/3/00): The Herberton-Petford Road report that the Member for Tablelands refers to is currently going through its final check. I understand that the report will be released when it is finalised.

**47. Beaudesert Shire, High School**

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Education (1/3/00)—

With reference to the life threatening overcrowding on school buses travelling between Jimboomba and Beaudesert as well as the enrolment of more than 1520 students at Beaudesert State High School—

Will he review his decision to delay the construction of a new high school in the northern area of Beaudesert Shire?

**Mr WELLS** (31/3/00): I refer the Honourable Member to the reply to Question on Notice 1911 of 1999.

**48. Mount Isa, Mental Health**

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Health (1/3/00)—

What positions remain unfilled at Mount Isa in mental health and what has happened to the unexpended money?

**Mrs EDMOND** (31/3/00): Since July 1998, four extra positions have been created in the mental health service at Mount Isa as part of the statewide boost in mental health staff.

There are currently eight vacancies in the Mount Isa District Mental Health Service despite nationwide advertising. The Mount Isa Health Service District historically has difficulty in attracting clinical staff, especially in the field of mental health. The district has negotiated with Wolston Park Hospital for provision of some services on a rotational basis.

The unexpended funds for the vacant positions are held in the Mount Isa Health Service District mental health budget for the provision of mental health services in the district.

**49. Nambour General Hospital**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (1/3/00)—

With reference to her answer to Question on Notice No 2006 of 3 December 1999 regarding the cost of laundry services at Nambour General Hospital and noting she mentions the 1998-99 cost of laundry is \$978,619 which "includes additional specialised services not previously provided by the contractor"—

Will she outline what these additional specialised services are and what the additional cost is for providing these services?

**Mrs EDMOND** (31/3/00): The additional specialised services not previously provided by the contractor include: inspecting, folding, bundling, sterilising and replacement of linen in preparation for use in the operating theatres. The projected cost for preparation of theatre linen for the 1999/2000 financial year is \$169,000. It is to be noted that there has been a significant improvement in the quality of the linen laundering service since the contract was taken over by the Wide Bay Group Linen Service.

**50. Vegetation Management Legislation**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (1/3/00)—

With reference to the Vegetation Management Act—

- (1) How much has his department budgeted to administer this legislation?
- (2) How many officers will be employed to administer this legislation?
- (3) How many of those officers have been seconded from other departments or other units within his department and from where?
- (4) Which of those officers have been replaced, temporarily or permanently in their original roles?

**Mr WELFORD** (3/4/00):

1. My Department of Natural Resources has budgeted for an additional \$22.9 million over the next 3.5 years for administration of the Vegetation Management Act 1999. This includes resourcing for vegetation mapping, extension activities and regional consultation.

2. Sixty-nine staff will be required in my Department of Natural Resources to administer the legislation. A further nine officers will be required by my Environmental Protection Agency to undertake vegetation mapping and to provide specialist technical advice.

3. Selection of staff is not completed. At this stage it is not possible to state how many officers may be seconded or appointed from elsewhere in the public service.

4. Replacement of officers seconded or appointed from elsewhere in the public service will occur as required to achieve stated government outputs and levels of service delivery.

**51. Rockhampton Correctional Centre**

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (1/3/00)—

With reference to the new Rockhampton Correctional Centre—

- (1) What was the estimated cost of the project at 6 May 1999?
- (2) Will he list the companies that were invited to tender for the project and list the companies that subsequently submitted tenders?
- (3) What were the prices submitted by each tender?

- (4) Were any changes made to the submitted bids after the close of tender?
- (5) What was the rank of each tender prior to any changes and after any changes?
- (6) Who was the tenderer that was selected?
- (7) What was the final price of the accepted tender?
- (8) What was the final cost of the facility at completion of the project?

**Mr BARTON** (30/3/00):

(1) The estimated cost of the centre was \$70,913,000 at 6 May 1999. This estimate, which originated in October 1998, was reviewed and updated by 18 May 1999 to \$86,620,610. The original estimate was based on figures from the construction of the Woodford Correctional Centre and therefore where out of date, and were subsequently revised.

(2) The companies invited to tender were:

Thiess Contractors Pty Ltd;  
 Concrete Construction Pty Ltd (now Walter Constructions);  
 Baulderstone Hornibrook Pty Ltd;  
 John Holland Construction and Engineering Pty Ltd; and  
 Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd.

All companies invited to tender submitted tenders.

(3) The prices submitted by each tender were:

Thiess Contractors Pty Ltd—\$6,456,000  
 Concrete Construction Pty Ltd—\$8,619,000  
 Baulderstone Hornibrook Pty Ltd—\$8,458,363  
 John Holland Construction and Engineering Pty Ltd—\$8,759,308  
 Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd—\$8,698,536

Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd also submitted an alternative bid amounting to \$8,446,736. This bid was nonconforming. A tenderer can submit a nonconforming tender, however, to have it considered it must accompany a conforming tender. The tender process for the Capricornia Correctional Centre is a two stage design and construct contract. The prices submitted by each tenderer (above) represent only their management fees for design of the centre, consultant fees for design, and tenderer's overheads and profit. This represents stage one of the tender process. The successful tenderer at stage one is then appointed as the managing contractor for the project. The project then proceeds to stage two, which is the design of the centre and the submission of a guaranteed construction sum (GCS) for consideration. If the Department of Public Works deem the GCS to be value for money, the managing contractor is awarded stage two of the project. The GCS, when added to the tenderer's stage one price and departmental costs, represents the scope of works included in the original Department of Public Works' estimate provided in the answer to question 1.

(4) No changes were made to the submitted bids after the close of tender. However, in order to be able to compare bids, included in the tendering conditions was a clause that advised tenders that the

Principal may adjust the tender amounts for any relevant non-conformities.

The bids were assessed by a quantity surveyor within the Department of Public Works who made recommendations to the tender evaluation committee on adjustments necessary to compare bid prices.

(5) The rank of tenderers before adjustments were:

1. Thiess Contractors Pty Ltd.
2. Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd (alternative bid).
3. Baulderstone Hornibrook Pty Ltd.
4. Concrete Construction Pty Ltd.
5. Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd.
6. John Holland Construction and Engineering Pty Ltd.

The rank of tenderers after adjustments were:

1. Thiess Contractors Pty Ltd.
2. Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd (alternative bid).
3. Baulderstone Hornibrook Pty Ltd.
4. Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd.
5. Concrete Construction Pty Ltd.
6. John Holland Construction and Engineering Pty Ltd.

(6) The selected tenderer was Thiess Contractors Pty Ltd.

(7) The final price of the accepted tender was \$6,456,000.

(8) The project is not yet completed.

## 52. Aspley Electorate, Public Housing

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (1/3/00)—

With reference to the HITT Scheme, the HITT Plus and other group training schemes—

What was/is the number of new public housing dwellings constructed/to be constructed by these separate schemes in the Aspley Electorate and the State of Queensland as a whole during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (31/3/00): As part of the core Housing Industry Trade Training (HITT) scheme, the Department of Housing allocates 150 State-funded dwellings for construction, or equivalent upgrade work, from the public rental housing and community housing programs to participating group training companies across the State who employ construction apprentices. In addition, the Queensland Government has committed to expanding the HITT Scheme through the 'Breaking the Unemployment Cycle' initiative. This initiative, referred to as HITT Plus, will operate over four years, and commenced in 1998/1999. HITT Plus will equate to approximately 450 dwellings, or equivalent upgrade work, over four years. In 1998/1999, 125 public rental dwellings were constructed and 29 public rental dwellings upgraded under the core HITT scheme. A further 29 public rental dwellings and 26 community housing dwellings were constructed and 41 public rental dwellings and 12 community housing dwellings upgraded under HITT Plus across the State. There were no works in

1998/1999 undertaken in the Aspley Electorate through core HITT or HITT Plus. In 1999/2000, 130 public rental dwellings are planned for construction and 65 public rental dwellings are planned for upgrade under the core HITT scheme. An additional 140 public rental dwellings and 7 community housing dwellings are planned for construction and 20 public rental dwellings are planned for upgrade as part of HITT Plus. Within the Aspley Electorate, one public rental dwelling will be constructed under the core HITT program and a further 11 public rental dwellings will be upgraded under HITT Plus. In 2000/2001, the Department is planning to allocate 150 dwellings for construction, or equivalent upgrade work, under the core HITT scheme and 150 dwellings for construction, or equivalent upgrade work, under HITT Plus. The exact number of projects to be constructed or upgraded in the Aspley Electorate through core HITT and HITT Plus is yet to be determined.

### 53. Commercial Fishing Licence Buyback Scheme, Gulf of Carpentaria Fishery

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/3/00)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 214 of 1999—

Does his department no longer maintain computer databases to keep track of the expenses specified, particularly given that all of these expenses are subject to official audit; if not, why not; if so, why would obtaining a routine print-out of the requested information constitute an onerous or unreasonable divergence of resources?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00): Databases are maintained to keep track of the expenses and detailed aggregate expenditure on domestic air fares, accommodation etc. is readily available. Information is not recorded or available by officers' salary level in respect of specific categories of expenditure. This situation is no different to the systems in place when the opposition was in Government.

### 54. Brisbane TAFE Institute

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/3/00)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 2102 of 1999—

- (1) Will he provide the requested costings as soon as they are available?
- (2) Why wasn't a costing calculated before management acceptance of this major and undoubtedly expensive strategic realignment and associated transfer of physical infrastructure between campuses?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00): (1 & 2) The Brisbane Institute of TAFE strategic realignment is aimed at developing a strong profile in the marketplace with three clearly defined products being delivered from each of the three campuses through the alignment of similar trade areas.

The realignment has been endorsed in principle by the Institute Council as a conceptual framework for the future operations of the Institute. It is not a

detailed action plan for a scheduled sequence of events, but rather the broad direction in which the Institute will seek to realign itself as and when cost-effective opportunities are presented.

Budgets have not yet been considered nor approved for any major capital works activity at either campus as a result of the proposals.

\$120,000 has been made available from Infrastructure Management planning funds for the initial planning of potential capital works projects identified in the Realignment Plan.

\$539,000 is being spent on necessary refurbishment and/or upgrade of facilities at the Ithaca and Gateway campuses. This expenditure for the refurbishment and/or upgrade at both campuses was planned and costed independently of strategic realignment expenditure, however it is consistent with the intent of the strategic realignment.

### 55. Apprentices and Trainees

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/3/00)—

With reference to the four age cohorts he has listed in his response to Question on Notice No. 2117 of 1999—

Will he now indicate, up until the current date (a) the number of applicants for public sector traineeships who fell within each cohort and (b) the number of trainees within each cohort who have been employed in the public sector?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00):

(a) The Apprenticeships and Traineeships Internet Registration Facility indicates the following applications:

Less than 21—2057  
21 to 24—1107  
25 to 40—2059  
More than 40—990

(b) Trainees employed in the public sector to date:

Less than 21—1764  
21 to 24—496  
25 to 40—523  
More than 40—153.

### 56. Training Contracts

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/3/00)—

- (1) In 1997-98, how many non-TAFE registered training organisations were awarded contracts to provide training and what was the total cost of such training?
- (2) What are the comparable figures for 1998-99?
- (3) What are the figures for the first half of 1999-2000?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00): As contracts were awarded in line with the academic year the responses to the above questions will be provided per calendar year as opposed to the financial year. The cost indicated in the table below for User Choice contracts, reflects the value of the contract.

(1) The number of non-TAFE registered training organisations awarded contracts in 1997 and the cost of this training are detailed in the table below.

1997: User Choice (no. of RTOs)—11  
 Cost—\$1,312,019  
 Competitive Purchasing Program (no. of RTOs)—98  
 Cost—\$13,365,375  
 Total Cost—\$14,677,394

(2) The comparable figures for 1998 are detailed in the table below.

1998: User Choice (no. of RTOs)—237  
 Cost—\$26,991,599  
 Competitive Purchasing Program (no. of RTOs)—89  
 Cost—\$16,378,601  
 Total Cost—\$43,370,200

(3) The comparable figures for 1999 are detailed in the table below.

1999: User Choice (no. of RTOs)—207  
 Cost—\$38,726,425  
 Competitive Purchasing Program (no. of RTOs)—96  
 Cost—\$14,850,004  
 Total Cost—\$53,576,429.

### 57. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/3/00)—

With reference to the five apprentices and 218 trainees listed in Part 1 of his answer to Question on Notice No. 2115 of 1999—

Will he indicate the number of these apprentices and trainees at each of the State's TAFE institutes?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00): The number of trainees and apprentices employed by TAFE Institutes and funded under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle's Public Sector Employment Initiative as at 6<sup>th</sup> March 2000 is 280 trainees and 7 apprentices. The number at each Institute is:

TAFE Institute	No. of Trainees	No. of Apprentices
Brisbane Institute of TAFE	29	2
Bremer Institute of TAFE	23	-
Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE	13	1
Central Queensland Institute of TAFE	32	-
Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE	11	1
Gold Coast Institute of TAFE	4	-
Logan Institute of TAFE	10	-
Mount Isa Institute of TAFE	10	-
Moreton Institute of TAFE	20	-
Northpoint Institute of TAFE	6	-
Open Learning Institute of TAFE	4	-
Southbank Institute of TAFE	20	-
Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE	22	-
Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE	13	-
Wide Bay Institute of TAFE	55	-
Yeronga Institute of TAFE	8	3

### 58. TAFE Training Centre

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/3/00)—

With reference to his media release of 8 February concerning a second-hand relocated building which is to become a new TAFE training centre—

How many of the local students who have undertaken the TAFE construction-related training mentioned in paragraph 6 of his media release are employed on this \$249,000 departmental project?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00): Q-Build is to relocate and refurbish the building on Palm Island. Q-Build intends to utilise ten apprentices employed by the Commonwealth Development Education Program on this project. All of these apprentices are inhabitants of Palm Island and six of them have previously completed training provided by the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE.

### 59. TAFE

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/3/00)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 2143 of 1999 and as for purposes of audit by the Auditor-General, TAFE institutes would have to maintain accurate records of most items of expenditure requested in this question—

- (1) Will he provide answers in response to those segments of the question which relate to such auditable expenditure?
- (2) Will he also indicate why the provision of an efficient and accessible audit trail is not maintained in relation to those items of expenditure for which he desires to remain unaccountable?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00): Institutes have full and complete records of most items of expenditure as requested in this question and as required by the Auditor-General. The SAP financial system used within the Department is fully accountable and all expenditure is recorded within the system.

There is no report that can be readily run to extract the information required, in the format requested. Obtaining the information would necessitate identifying all necessary cost elements (accounts) and Internal Orders and then running a number of SAP transaction or variance reports once the correct cost elements have been identified.

There is no central database kept which would allow DETIR to extract information on IT related expenditure for each separate TAFE Institute in Queensland.

### 60. Mr F. Bradley; Fisheries Tribunal

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (1/3/00)—

With reference to the Government's appointment of Cr Frank Bradley, the subject of a highly controversial anti-discrimination claim in 1999 involving another female councillor, to the Fisheries Tribunal—

- (1) What was the selection process for this position, if any?
- (2) How many other applications for the position were received?
- (3) On what basis was Mr Bradley deemed to be more qualified than other applicants?
- (4) Will he assure the Parliament and the fishing industry that Mr Bradley does not retain any involvement in his son's commercial fishing business?
- (5) Will he confirm Mr Bradley is a member of the same ALP branch as his current Fisheries Adviser and former Member for Redlands, John Budd?
- (6) Did the Minister for Women's Policy raise any concerns with his recommendation to appoint Mr Bradley to this position; if so, what were they and how did he address them?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (30/3/00):**

- (1) There were two calls for expression of interest, with advertisements placed in the metropolitan and regional newspapers. The calling of a second expression was required because of the limited number of applications received from the first advertisement (5).
- (2) There were 36 applications received.
- (3) All applicants were evaluated against the selection criteria outlined in the advertisement and against the qualifications provided in the applicants C.V's. In the case of Mr Bradley, who has had 35 years experience in Queensland fisheries, eminently qualified for a position as a member as he possessed the required skills against the selection criteria of "a person having wide knowledge and experience of the fishing industry and other fishery issues".
- (4) Yes.
- (5) I am advised that the Honourable Member's assertion is incorrect.
- (6) I am advised that the Office of Women's Policy did not raise any concerns.

#### **61. Rural Loan Refinancing, Stamp Duty**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Treasurer (1/3/00)—

With reference to the application of stamp duty on loan re-financing—

- (1) What was the revenue collected from stamp duty on rural loan re-financing in 1998-99?
- (2) What is the projected revenue from stamp duty on rural loan re-financing in 1999-2000?

**Mr HAMILL (27/3/00):**

- (1) Data is not collected by the Office of State Revenue to enable identification of the proportion of refinanced loans that relate to the rural sector. The stamp duty revenue in relation to all refinancing loans for the 1998-1999 financial year has previously been estimated at approximately \$16.5 million.
- (2) Data is not collected by the Office of State Revenue to enable projection of the stamp duty revenue attributable to rural loan refinancing.

#### **62. Community Service Orders; Juvenile Offenders**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (1/3/00)—

- (1) What criteria are used to determine whether or not a juvenile offender has successfully completed a community based court order?
- (2) How many such successful completions occurred from 1 July 1999 to 29 February?
- (3) How many such orders were not successfully completed during the same period?
- (4) What action was taken in each instance of failure to fully comply with the order of the court?

**Ms BLIGH (31/3/00):**

- (1) The criteria used for statistical purposes to determine the rate of successful completion of orders are that the order was completed without breach action being initiated by the Department, and there was no breach action initiated by a court for reoffending.
- (2) Data is currently only available for the period 1 July 1999 to 31 December 1999 due to the recent implementation of a new juvenile justice information system. From 1 July 1999 to 31 December 1999 there were 1,414 successful completions.
- (3) During the same period there were 368 that were not successfully completed.
- (4) It is not practical to detail the responses to individual cases. However, departmental procedures require that, in instances where a child is not complying with the lawful instructions of a departmental officer in enforcing the requirements of an order, a review meeting is held to discuss the non-compliance. At the review meeting, a formal warning is issued in writing and a copy is given to the parents.

If the child continues to fail to comply with the order requirements, an application will be made to a court in relation to breach of the order due to non-compliance. The options available to the court include increasing or extending the period of the order, resentencing the child, or allowing the child a further opportunity to comply with the order. If a child on a probation order or an immediate release order commits an indictable offence and is found guilty by a court, that court has the option of initiating breach action in relation to the order.

#### **63. Virgin Airlines**

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Premier (1/3/00)—

As the former Labor Government of this State squandered \$13m of taxpayers' money on unsuccessfully propping up the failed airline venture, Compass 2, will he reveal as to what extent the taxpayers have been financially exposed this time around in relation to this Government's bid to attract Virgin Airlines to Queensland and will he also tell us why he has been so reluctant to make that figure public?

**Mr BEATTIE** (31/3/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware I made a Ministerial Statement on Wednesday 15 March 2000, which answers this question. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### **64. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/3/00)—

What resources would have been required in order to provide the information requested in Question on Notice No. 2072 of 1999 and thus maintain accountability for departmental expenditures ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 of Queensland taxpayers' funds?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00): The Department has detailed control procedures in place for all purchasing activities which are carried out across the State within 16 TAFE Institutes, 6 Regional Offices and District Offices and various head office units. Purchasing activities are also subject to audit at the individual item level and at unit level.

These Institutes and Offices of the Department are not aligned with the Brisbane Statistical Division and for accountability purposes this breakup is not required. This is no different to the situation when the Member for Clayfield was Minister for Training and Industrial Relations.

#### **65. Project Australia, Boot Camp Trial**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Premier (1/3/00)—

With reference to his acceptance of the scheme Project Australia (Boot Camp trial) and a commitment of \$1m for the trial and as I have advocated the same for many years for youth offenders and other minor offenders—

When does he envisage his Government developing the scheme into policy and legislation to have this option available to the courts for the sentencing process for these minor offenders, in lieu of the failed community service hours scheme?

**Mr BEATTIE** (31/3/00): Project Australia is a pilot residential vocational training program for homeless and disadvantaged young people. The young people who participate in the program do so on a voluntary basis.

The Queensland Government, through the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, has agreed to contribute \$250,000 per year for four years to this pilot program. The pilot program will be subject to an independent evaluation at the end of the second year.

#### **66. Driver Testing, Burleigh Heads; Queensland Transport**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/3/00)—

With reference to Hansard of 27 October 1999 (p. 4426), when he advised that \$3m had been set aside

in the Budget for Customer Service Centres and Call Centres to address problems of unacceptable waiting times for new drivers to obtain their first licences and to improve waiting times for simple counter transactions at Customer Service Centres such as Burleigh Heads—

- (1) As learner drivers are still having to wait seven and eight weeks for a test at Burleigh Heads and are missing out on jobs that require a driving licence, what steps will now be taken to bring the driver-testing service at Burleigh Heads up to a level it was before the introduction of Q-Safe (when waiting time was approximately 2 weeks)?
- (2) As Queensland Transport's estimate is that it would have to deal with an extra 99,000 registrations and 26,000 licence transactions in 2000, is the extra funding he spoke about last year anywhere near adequate to deal with this extra workload?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (31/3/00): (1 & 2) The \$3m has been allocated to Customer Service Centres and Call Centres for use in addressing the issue of waiting times. The waiting times on the Gold Coast in relation to driving tests was as a result of three of the six driving examiners being on extended sick leave. Driving Examiners have been redeployed from Brisbane to assist with the work load and have arrested the increasing waiting times. A further five Driving Examiners will be temporarily employed in the Gold Coast area to reduce waiting times back to the Departmental objective of three weeks. This in effect will increase the number of examiners in the area from six to eleven until the problem is corrected.

#### **67. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, Survey**

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (1/3/00)—

With reference to the community survey being conducted by the Queensland Government's Office of Economic and Statistical Research and coordinated by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority and to the fact that it was "designed to assist firefighters in developing new public safety programs and improve emergency service delivery"—

- (1) Have the results of the survey been made public given that they were expected to be available in January?
- (2) How many similar surveys, including those on a regional or local basis, have been conducted since the last major survey in 1997?
- (3) What was the total cost of the recent major survey conducted by the Queensland Government's Office of Economic and Statistical Research, including the costs encountered by the QRFA's Strategic Planning and Policy Unit?
- (4) What was the total cost of each of the other surveys conducted since 1997?
- (5) Have all surveys been conducted using the same methodology?

- (6) What are the results of the comparative research conducted following the completion of the numerous surveys and who conducted that research?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (31/3/00): The final results of the Community Awareness survey were received in mid February and a media launch was conducted at Kemp Place Fire Station on March 3, 2000. The Community Awareness Survey is the first survey of this size conducted since the last major survey in 1997. QFRA regions conduct local surveys on an ongoing basis to cover a variety of local community safety issues such as smoke alarm penetration and evacuation plans. These include surveys conducted at the Royal Queensland Show, Cairns, Gladstone, Wynnum and Mount Gravatt to name a few. These local surveys are conducted by the various regions as required. The total cost of the Community Awareness Survey, including costs incurred by central office in collation and aggregation of data amounts to \$89,000.

All other surveys conducted since 1997 have been local or regional surveys conducted by QFRA operational staff during working hours. Accordingly, the cost is covered within the normal staff wage.

The latest survey by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research was conducted by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). This is a random digit dialling system that contacts all households with a telephone number, including unlisted numbers, not just those numbers listed in the White Pages. The inclusion of all telephone numbers in the sample would be expected to provide more accurate survey results. The 1997 survey sample only covered households with a telephone number in the White Pages. Local surveys are questionnaire based, "face-to-face" surveys.

QFRA regions conduct local surveys as required, compare and analyse the data, identify target groups and develop appropriate local strategies. In comparative terms, there has been a net increase in households with smoke alarms of approximately 13% since the last survey.

#### 68. Wallaville Bridge

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/3/00)—

With reference to the concerns of the Wallaville district community over the maintenance of the old Wallaville Bridge as a second bridge—

- (1) Are there any major impediments to their request to maintain the old Wallaville Bridge until it is submerged and/or impractical to maintain?
- (2) Will he give any assurance to local farmers and employees that the original bridge will remain in service for as long as practical; if so, for how long?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (31/3/00): (1 & 2) The future of the old Wallaville Bridge is largely dependent on the proposed placement of an inflatable bag on top of the new Walla Weir and the current structural condition of the bridge.

The Department of Main Roads is undertaking further consultation with the Wallaville community, the Local Governments of Isis and Kolan, and emergency services for their input. A decision on the future of the old bridge will be made once the consultation process and the assessment of the bridge's condition have been completed.

#### 69. East Coast Trawl Management Plan

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (1/3/00)—

With reference to the East Coast Trawl Management Plan and specifically to the allocation of effort within the fishery—

- (1) At what level will the Government be capping effort in the fishery?
- (2) How will that capped effort be allocated?
- (3) On what basis will effort be resumed from fishermen?
- (4) What is the value of this effort to fishermen in terms of licences, income and capital investment?
- (5) Will the Government be undertaking a licence buy-back to resume effort over and above the cap?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (30/3/00):

- (1) The Premier's Working Group on East Coast Trawl representing all stakeholders in the fishery has proposed that effort be capped at the 1996 level by January 2001.
- (2) A number of models for allocating the capped effort in the fishery have been considered by the Premier's Working Group.
- (3) An effort reduction proposal is still under consideration.
- (4) The capitalised value of this effort to fishermen (as reflected in the value of the licences) has been estimated at around \$27.5 million.
- (5) Industry has suggested a structural adjustment package. The quantum and implementation of such a package would depend upon negotiations between industry, the Commonwealth Government and the State Government.

#### 70. Central Queensland University

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Education (1/3/00)—

- (1) As there have been a number of premature terminations of senior positions at Central Queensland University and as this undermines staff confidence and significantly impacts on university budgets, what reasons were given for these early terminations?
- (2) How much of university funds have been spent or committed on payments to staff whose appointments have been prematurely terminated?

**Mr WELLS** (31/3/00): In 1997 and 1998, new legislation authorising the operations of Queensland Universities was enacted by the Parliament, which removed government involvement and placed on the

governing body of each university, sole responsibility for this matter. Therefore I have no authority to investigate a University decision on staff payments. Under their Enabling Acts, University Governing Bodies are empowered to determine such matters, and to manage the affairs of the University.

#### 71. Private Training Providers, Audit

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/3/00)—

Following sustained auditing of private training providers up until 4 October 1999, what makes him believe that the commencement of audit training for departmental staff on that date will be regarded by such providers as a cynical attempt to regain some credibility by his administration, yet again doing too little, too late?

**Mr BRADY** (31/3/00): The audit training that commenced after 4 October 1999 was undertaken to increase the numbers of trained staff. At all times staff conducting contractual audits have been appropriately skilled.

#### 72. Ipswich Rugby League

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (1/3/00)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 1643 of 1999 and to the answer from the former Minister on 9 December 1999—

- (1) Will he confirm that the \$800,000 grant to the Ipswich Rugby League was provided by Treasury through the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program (CSRFP)?
- (2) What was the total amount made available under the CSRFP in 1998-99 and what projects were funded?
- (3) What were the funding guidelines for projects under the CSRFP at that time?
- (4) When was the Ipswich Rugby League's application for funding received?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (30/3/00):

(1) The approved grant for Ipswich Rugby League was not provided under my Department's Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program (CSRFP). The grant was provided by Treasury under the capital works framework for projects.

(2) The total amount made available under the CSRFP in 1998-99 was \$4,035,000. The approved projects are as follows—

Organisation: Project—Grant Amount

Rockhampton Bowls Club: Upgrade of bowling green and shade structure—\$212,500

Belyando Shire Council: Indoor swimming pool (25m), wading pool and amenities—\$350,000

Carpentaria Shire Council: Multi-purpose covered sport and recreation facility at Normanton—\$500,000

Emerald Shire Council: Multi-purpose outdoor sports field—\$300,000

Mackay PCYWA: Extension of multi-purpose indoor sports facility—\$500,000

Mount Isa City Council: Aquatic sport and recreation facility—\$500,000

Johnstone Shire Council: Aquatic facility and amenities upgrade at Innisfail—\$135,000

Zillmere Community Centre: Multi-purpose indoor facility with one court—\$1,000,000

Rosalie Shire Council: Community hall including indoor multipurpose court at Gowrie Junction—\$262,500

Tambo Shire Council: Aquatic centre (25m pool) and amenities—\$250,000

Collingwood Park: Feasibility study—\$25,000

TOTAL—\$4,035,000.

(3) The program had a focus on regional Queensland. The funding guidelines were as follows—

Eligible applicants must be properly incorporated with a sport and recreation objective.

Projects must demonstrate a capacity to increase or enhance participation in physical activity.

Venues for community active recreation and sport attract up to 50% of total eligible costs up to a maximum of \$500,000.

Applicants will need a lease over their property.

A comprehensive cost for the project must be provided.

Designs must be provided for the project.

(4) The then Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing received advice in August 1998 that an application from the Ipswich Rugby League had been lodged.

#### 73. Q-Build

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (1/3/00)—

With reference to Q-Build within the Public Works portfolio and specifically his previous inability (due to the implementation of Q-Build's new business systems) to fully answer Question on Notice No. 1405 of 1999—

(1) What was the total revenue derived (accrual based) for the months of July and August 1999?

(2) What is the breakdown and total expenditure (accrual based) for the months of July and August 1999 by (a) operational expenses and (b) administration expenses?

(3) What was the value of the inventory for the months of July and August 1999?

(4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by Q-Build for the months of July and August 1999?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (31/3/00):

(1) Due to the workload priorities associated with the introduction of the new Q-Build business systems across the State, the financial balances for July and August 1999 were not determined individually. Results for July and August were reflected in the first



quarter (September 1999) figures which were provided in the answer to Question on Notice No. 1422. Reporting on a month by month basis is not required for Q-Build to meet its statutory obligations to report the year end financial accounts for 1999/2000.

(2), (3) & (4) As per response to Question 1.

#### 74. Queensland Transport, Call Centre Waiting Times

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/3/00)—

With reference to the answer given by him to Question on Notice No. 1435 of 1999 concerning significant delays being experienced by customers trying to telephone Queensland Transport—

- (1) Despite his advice that the average waiting times were under two minutes and that improved arrangements and increased resources had contributed to significant improvements in customer services is he aware of complaints from customers still experiencing unacceptable delays?
- (2) What are the details of the monthly call monitoring system regarding the waiting time for callers and drop out rates for the period October 1999 to February 2000?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (31/3/00):

- (1) Further improvements are being made to reduce call waiting times. These include additional staff for both the Emerald and Brisbane sites, continued improvements to the recorded information services using customer feedback as the primary mechanism for change and a commitment to training and development to improve the skill level of the Client Relations Consultants within the Call Centre. However, it should be noted that the percentage growth in call volumes from December to February was 3%, or 4,244 calls, and the volume per month keeps increasing.
- (2) The call monitoring system allows for the calculation of daily average waiting times and monthly average waiting times. Call Centre average waiting times were:

Month—Monthly Average Wait Times

October 1999—5 minutes 31 seconds  
 November 1999—3 minutes  
 December 1999—2 minutes 48 seconds  
 January 2000—4 minutes 58 seconds  
 February 2000—3 minutes 12 seconds  
 March 2000 (up to 28/3)—3 minutes 28 seconds

Month—Lowest Average Daily Wait Time for month

October 1999—2 minute 3 seconds  
 November 1999—1 minute 28 seconds  
 December 1999—14 seconds  
 January 2000—2 minutes 11 seconds  
 February 2000—1 minute 2 seconds  
 March 2000 (up to 28/3)—37 seconds

Call drop out rates were:

October 1999—38%  
 November 1999—19%  
 December 1999—20%

January 2000—32%  
 February 2000—24%  
 March 2000 (up to 28/3)—17%

At the time of answer to question 1435, Queensland Transport's Call Centre had achieved average daily response times of under two minutes.

#### 75. Environment, Heritage and Natural Resources Portfolio, Staffing

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (1/3/00)—

With reference to the funding of positions within his department—

- (1) How many positions are funded under the Federal Government's Natural Heritage Trust program?
- (2) When does the funding for these positions cease?
- (3) What is the position description for each of those positions and what work are those officers currently undertaking?
- (4) Have any of those officers been seconded to other units within his department or to other roles; if so, which ones and why?

**Mr WELFORD** (3/4/00): In my Department of Natural Resources:

(1) There are currently 130.5 FTE positions either fully or partially funded by the Commonwealth National Heritage Trust (NHT) funding program.

(2) NHT funded positions have varying completion dates depending on the individual project time frame. Whilst the Natural Heritage Trust officially finishes in June 2002, funding delivered for projects by the NHT will discontinue in September 2002, due to NHT funds being able to be carried over into the first quarter of the succeeding financial year.

(3) Position descriptions (PDs) for 108 positions are attached. Duties vary from project to project. The remaining PDs for the positions generally duplicate one of the PDs provided.

(4) I am unaware of any specific instance where Commonwealth NHT funded officers of my Department, have been directed to undertake other projects or activities which are not related to fulfilling the relevant NHT project outcomes. This is in accordance with the Partnership Agreement between the Queensland and the Commonwealth Governments. However, from time to time, NHT project officers take up other positions within State agencies thereby leaving a vacancy, temporary or permanent, in the Commonwealth NHT funded position. These vacancies are invariably filled so as to achieve project outcomes.

In my Environmental Protection Agency:

- (1) 35 positions
- (2) 1 position—end date 30 April 2000  
 1 position—end date 30 November 2000  
 5 positions—end date 30 April 2001  
 10 positions—end date 30 June 2001  
 12 positions—end date 31 December 2001  
 6 positions—end date 30 June 2002

(3) The Position Descriptions are attached. All officers are currently undertaking their duties as specified in the Position Descriptions. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(4) No officers have been seconded to other units.

#### 76. Police Regional Commands and Police Headquarters, Funding

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (1/3/00)—

- (1) Will he detail the 1999-2000 budget allocation and percentage increase for (a) each of the eight Police Regional Commands and (b) each of the three commands, four corporate services divisions and the other administrative support units attached to Police Headquarters?
- (2) Will he provide the details of the amount of the remaining portion of the budget and the percentage increase or decrease of that amount?

Mr BARTON (30/3/00):

(1) The 1999-2000 budget allocation and percentage increase for each of the eight police regional commands and each of the three commands, four corporate services divisions and the other administrative support units attached to Police Headquarters, are as follows:

Far Northern, \$35.822M—10.5%  
 Northern, \$35.21M—6.1%  
 Central, \$38.744M—6.7%  
 North Coast, \$55.494M—16.2%  
 Metropolitan North, \$57.482M—8.8%  
 Metropolitan South, \$48.249M—10.8%  
 South Eastern, \$58.124M—13.1%  
 Southern, \$46.583M—10.6%  
 Operations Support, \$48.295M—5.7%  
 State Crime Operations, \$37.732M—6.5%  
 Ethical Standards, \$4.905M—12.9%  
 Human Resources, \$35.209M—6.8%  
 Finance, \$2.628M—7.2%  
 State Wide Services, \$21.354M—7.6% (a)  
 Administration, \$22.732M—5.0%  
 Information Management, \$22.856M—2.6%  
 Office of the Commissioner, \$2.416M—  
 14.6% (b)  
 Media & Public Relations, \$1.821M—4.6%  
 Commissioner's Office, \$0.534M—2.7%  
 Executive Directors' Offices, \$0.684M—3.3%  
 Initial Operating Allocations, \$576.874M—9.0%

Notes:

(a) State Wide Services, represents those expenditure items that are centrally managed. Items included within this allocation are: witness payments; fringe benefit tax; work cover; legal expenses.

(b) Due to staffing changes to meet additional responsibilities.

(2) The amount of the remaining portion of the budget and the percentage increase of that amount is as follows:

Funding for Specific Items, \$177.972M—5.5%.

#### 77. Danbulla-Lake Tinaroo Draft Management Plan

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (2/3/00)—

Will he provide me with the Danbulla-Lake Tinaroo Draft Management Plan?

Mr WELFORD (3/4/00): Yes, when it is finalised for consultation.

#### 78. Goods and Services Tax

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Premier (2/3/00)—

With reference to his very strong anti-GST comments during the past by-elections and also his continual reference to his anti-GST stand in the House—

Will he explain what he is doing about it rather than just talking about it?

Mr BEATTIE (3/4/00): My Government's concerns about the GST have been on the public record from the moment the Federal Government announced its intention to force a GST on the people of Australia. I have opposed the GST because it is an unfair Commonwealth tax, which is complex, unwieldy and costly to administer and comply with.

The GST is a particularly unfair tax for Queenslanders. Queensland taxpayers are being forced by the Commonwealth Government to pay significantly higher taxes to subsidise the elimination of taxes in other States of Australia.

I have opposed the GST at every opportunity. For example, this Government was one of only two State Governments to argue against the GST, or for that matter to make a submission, before the Senate Select Committee on a New Tax System. Our submission stated that the Queensland Government opposed the GST because it was not convinced that it would result in any improvement in welfare or that if there were benefits, that they would be shared fairly. There has been no information since that time that would change my view.

I will argue against any policy that is not in the best interests of Queensland. My Government has opposed and will continue to oppose the GST because it unfairly affects the less well off in our society.

#### 79. Urannah Dam

Mr BLACK asked the Premier (2/3/00)—

With reference to the decreased viability of coal mining in Collinsville and the desperate need for a boost to the local economy—

Will he give a firm commitment that he will discuss the issue with his relevant Ministers and give serious consideration to the construction of the Urannah Dam?

Mr BEATTIE (31/3/00): Last year the Government was approached by a private sector proponent to investigate the development of a dam at Urannah. A Working Group comprising representatives from the Department of State

Development, Treasury Department and the Department of Natural Resources is seeking further relevant information before consideration can be given to the proposal.

### 80. Collinsville, Employment

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (2/3/00)—

With reference to the difficult economic climate being experienced by the community of Collinsville—

Does the Government have a plan to instigate any projects to boost employment opportunities in this rural community?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (30/3/00): Yes. To assist industries with short term detriments to their viability, the State Government has established an Immediate Response Team. The purpose of the team is to provide a whole-of-Government response to situations where enterprises which employ a significant proportion of the population downsize or close, creating high local unemployment and social problems. An immediate response plan has been activated for the Collinsville mine downsizing and steps are being taken to ensure the most positive result for employees and the local community.

In response to the recent retrenchment of a further 49 mine workers from the Collinsville mine, the Honourable the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations visited Collinsville on Friday, 3 March 2000 where I understand he undertook to send officers from his department to ascertain the training needs of the retrenched workers. The intention would be to upgrade the skills of these workers to qualify them for mining jobs in other parts of the Bowen Basin to the south of Collinsville.

### 81. Native Plants, Licences

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (2/3/00)—

- (1) Are proprietors of nurseries who have propagated native plant species such as orchids for the last thirty years now being forced to pay for a wildlife licence?
- (2) As his department's own leaflets to plant propagators state that an authorised propagator cannot deal in wild collected plants, why should a proprietor of a nursery be forced to pay for a wildlife licence?
- (3) If in fact a nursery acquires a wildlife licence, will this not result in more native plant species being taken from the bush, rather than being propagated?
- (4) Is this set of standards only applicable to Queensland native orchids and the propagators of these orchids; if so, why?

**Mr WELFORD** (3/4/00):

(1) Under the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 a licence is required to trade in orchids as they are listed as restricted plants. This has been the case for the four years since the regulation commenced.

However, an authorised propagator may trade propagated orchids seedlings that are 100mm or less without a licence.

(2) The purpose of the restriction mentioned in the brochure is to prevent unlawfully taken wild plants from being sold as propagated plants. As previously stated a licence is not required if the propagator trades in propagated orchids measuring 100mm or less.

(3) No. Plants must be harvested from the wild by a commercial wildlife harvesting licence holder who must attach official tags to the plants. The harvester must either sell the plants to a wholesaler who has a commercial wildlife licence, or hold their own commercial wildlife licence if they intend to sell direct.

(4) Yes. Prior to the introduction of the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 and the Nature Conservation (Protected Plants in Trade) Conservation Plan 1995 many plants were being taken unsustainably from the wild. In particular the State's floral emblem, the Cooktown orchid, was being taken illegally in large numbers from Cape York Peninsula and sold in southern States. Shipments of five or ten thousand mature plants were not uncommon. Now this has virtually ceased and the Cooktown orchid is being raised from seed instead of being taken from the wild in such large quantities. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has recently reviewed the plant legislation and has submitted proposals for new legislation to me for consideration.

### 82. Parliamentary Criminal Justice Commissioner, Report

**Mr PAFF** asked the Chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee (2/3/00)—

- (1) On what date was the report by Julie Dick SC received?
- (2) Why was the report withheld until 13 December 1999, given that the Chairman would have been aware of the significance and relevance of that report in relation to deliberations of the Parliament in the intervening period?

**Mr LUCAS** (3/4/00):

(1) Whilst the Honourable Member's question is far from clear, I assume he is referring to the report of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Commissioner entitled A Report into the Alleged Disclosure of Confidential Information Concerning an Investigation of Allegations Made by Jack Kelvin Paff MLA, which was tabled by me in the Parliament on 13 December 1999.

As is obvious from the face of the document itself, the Parliamentary Commissioner's report tabled by me on 13 December 1999 is dated 30 August 1999. It was received by the Committee on 1 September 1999. The Committee received an earlier version of the report from the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Commissioner on 19 July 1999, which differed in minor respects only from the report as tabled, but made no changes in her findings.

The report was tabled pursuant to a unanimous resolution of a bipartisan Committee (i.e. all 6

government and non-government Members appointed) on 13 December 1999. As a former Member of the Committee himself, Mr Paff would be aware that decisions as to when to table a report are taken by the Committee as a whole and not by the Chairman acting alone.

(2) The steps taken by the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee following receipt of a report from the Parliamentary Commissioner are in accordance with its established procedures. Upon receipt of a report from the Parliamentary Commissioner, the Committee forwards a copy to the Criminal Justice Commission and invites submissions from the Commission regarding the contents of the report. Any submission which is furnished to the Committee by the CJC is forwarded to the Parliamentary Commissioner for her response.

In this case the CJC made a detailed submission to the Committee, and that submission was forwarded to the Parliamentary Commissioner by the Committee for her response. She in turn provided the Committee with a response to the CJC's submission.

As part of its normal procedures, the Committee then takes internal legal advice regarding the issues. In this instance, the Committee took both internal and external legal advice, and considered the matter further. The Committee then resolved to table the report.

I am unaware of any deliberations of the Parliament, between the time the Committee received the report from the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Commissioner and the date of tabling of the report, in respect of which the report had any significance or relevance.

If one assumes that the Member, by this oblique reference, is in fact referring to his admonishment by the House on 17 September 1999 as a result of the finding of the Members Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee (MEPPC), and subsequent suspension from the House for 21 days, it is abundantly clear that the report of the Parliamentary Commissioner had no relevance whatsoever to those proceedings.

I have made this clear on a number of occasions, and will do so again for the benefit of the Member. The report of the Parliamentary Commissioner related to a matter quite distinct both from the conduct of the Member for Ipswich West at Government House on 28 September 1998, and from his conduct which resulted in his admonishment and suspension for 21 days.

Firstly, the Parliamentary Commissioner's report had no relevance to Mr Paff's suspension from Parliament for 21 days. Mr Paff's suspension, as the Member well knows, was related solely to the finding of the Members Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee (MEPPC) that he misled the Parliament in a statement he made, in a document he tabled on 11 March 1999, concerning the role of Mr Geoff Moss as a One Nation adviser/speech writer.

Secondly, the Parliamentary Commissioner's report had no relevance to the earlier condemnation of Mr Paff by the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee in a report tabled in Parliament on 4 March 1999. The Committee found that Mr Paff made serious

allegations of criminal conduct against serving and retired police officers at an official function at Government House on 28 September 1998. Those allegations were subsequently investigated by the CJC and found to be without foundation. During the investigation Mr Paff admitted in a tape-recorded interview that his claims were "a total lie". The Committee found that by making the allegations, Mr Paff seriously defamed the character of those current and former police officers who were the subject of his allegations. The Committee further found that Mr Paff gave differing and inconsistent explanations for his conduct. The Committee found that even if any one of Mr Paff's explanations could be accepted as true, his conduct was completely unacceptable and inappropriate. Mr Paff resigned from the PCJC on 3 March 1999, the day before the Committee tabled its report.

Following the publication of an article in The Courier-Mail newspaper on 30 October 1998, Mr Paff made allegations that the CJC had leaked details of its investigation of his allegations. The Parliamentary Commissioner's report, which is the subject of the Honourable Member's question, is a report on her investigation of those leak allegations.

The report of the Parliamentary Commissioner does not in any way amount to a vindication of the disgraceful conduct of Mr Paff, as found by the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee and the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee. The findings of the Parliamentary Commissioner in her report were as follows:

"The possible sources of the information contained in the article that Mr Paff had been interviewed by the Criminal Justice Commission in the week ending 30 October 1998 are:

The Criminal Justice Commission  
The Assistant Commissioner  
Mr Jack Paff MLA

I am satisfied that the information was not released by the Assistant Commissioner to anyone prior to the article.

I am satisfied that Mr Paff did not tell The Courier-Mail that he had been interviewed.

Accordingly, I am satisfied to the appropriate standard that the source of the information was the Criminal Justice Commission.

However, there is no evidence that the information was disclosed directly to The Courier-Mail by any of the officers involved in the investigation or mentioned in this report."

As can be seen there is no mention whatsoever of any vindication of Mr Paff's conduct as dealt with by the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee in its report tabled 4 March 2000.

I reiterate that the Parliamentary Commissioner's report did not examine Mr Paff's conduct at Government House on 28 September 1998. Nor did it examine his conduct in deliberately misleading the Parliament in a document he tabled on 11 March 1999. The Parliamentary Commissioner's report had no significance or relevance to any deliberations of the Parliament in the period referred to by Mr Paff.

Mr Paff's statement to the House on 29 February 2000 that "the report of the Parliamentary Commissioner completely exonerated him" is untrue, inaccurate and false and does him no credit.

### 83. Computers in Schools, Maintenance Agreements

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Education (2/3/00)—

With reference to maintenance agreements between his department and computer technicians to service computers in schools with less than 1,000 students—

- (1) What technical education level and experience do these contractors require before an agreement will be entered into by his department eg is a Degree in Information Technology (computer based) acceptable?
- (2) Does the contractor have to have a Government information technology certificate; if so, how does that person acquire one?
- (3) Does his department, as a matter of policy, try to employ such contractors from the local community?

**Mr WELLS** (5/4/00):

(1) The department informs me that for desktop support staff a TAFE certificate may be adequate. For network support either a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE), or a Certified Network Engineer (CNE) would provide the support needed.

(2) The department informs me that Education Queensland does not have a department wide contract for the supply of computer based maintenance or support services.

(3) Under Schools Based Management, schools can decide who provides the school with computer maintenance and support services. However the department has at least one System Technician in each of the 36 District Offices.

### 84. Rabbits, South Burnett

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (2/3/00)—

With reference to the reported outbreak of rabbits in the Tarong/South Nanango/Kingaroy and other areas of the South Burnett—

- (1) Has he been made aware of complaints lodged with the Maryborough office of the Department of Natural Resources by concerned residents?
- (2) What measures have been undertaken to eradicate this pest in the past; if none, when will measures be undertaken to eradicate this pest?
- (3) What measures will be utilised in eradicating this pest?
- (4) Who is authorised to spread the calicivirus or myxomatosis?
- (5) Will these viruses be used to eradicate these pests in the above areas?

**Mr WELFORD** (3/4/00):

(1) No complaint in relation to this matter has been lodged in the Maryborough office of my Department

of Natural Resources since a Lands Protection Officer was appointed to the Murgon office in January 1999. This Officer covers Nanango and Kingaroy Shires and advises that approximately 50 client contacts have been made in relation to this matter.

(2) Rabbit populations can only be managed as eradication is not considered feasible. Management control activities over the past 12 months have included the release of myxomatosis and the calicivirus, poisoning using 1080 baiting and Pindone, and fumigation using phostoxin. The most recent releases of myxomatosis were in November 1999 and further releases are planned for late March. Previously, Spanish rabbit fleas have been released throughout the South Burnett. Spanish fleas are the vectors carrying the viruses which affect the rabbit.

(3) Calicivirus has spread to all major rabbit areas throughout the state. Rabbits have resistance to the calicivirus from birth to six weeks of age. As rabbit populations age and become susceptible the virus will spread without further release. The calicivirus is only being released for the control of susceptible rabbits in isolated pockets. Landholders are the key to controlling rabbit populations. Landholders within the region are encouraged to begin follow-up control work using ripping, fumigation and poisoning, and cleaning up and destroying rabbit habitats which include burrows and logs.

(4) My Department of Natural Resources Land Protection Officers and staff from the Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board are authorised and trained to release calicivirus and myxomatosis.

(5) Myxomatosis virus is no longer being produced by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories and may be unavailable in the future for rabbit control. The calicivirus is being released for the control of rabbits in areas where rabbits are susceptible. The Spanish rabbit flea is unavailable at present as my Department is re-establishing its breeding colony which had itself suffered from attack by a parasitic mite.

### 85. Mary River and Tinana Creek Barrages, Fish Ladders

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (2/3/00)—

With reference to the construction of improved fish ladders on the Mary River and Tinana Creek barrages and to unprecedented numbers of barramundi and bass which are currently congregated downstream from both existing barrages, trying unsuccessfully to go upstream to complete the next stage in their life cycle and as Sunfish, ANSA, the MRCCC and QCFO members are worried about the survival of the mullet fishery, and are embarrassed by the bass which they are inadvertently netting and as 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 the Government inertia can continue before the mullet fishery is irreparably damaged and the restocking rewards are dissipated?
- (6) Will his department fund renewed restocking efforts to compensate for voluntary effort wasted by the delay in building the two fishways?

**Mr WELFORD** (3/4/00):

(1) The Government is committed to the improvement of fish passage throughout the State's river systems. This commitment extends to the allocation of funds from my Department of Natural Resources capital works budget to allow for the installation of fishways on existing weirs and barrages. In this financial year, several million dollars will be spent on fishway upgrade projects and in the 2000/2001 financial year my Department intends to spend a further \$3.5 million including completion of 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.

The Tinana Creek Barrage Fishway Agreement has been finalised with DPI Fisheries for the pre and post construction monitoring. Preliminary design including hydrology modelling is nearing completion and will be forwarded to Fisheries for approval.

For the Mary River Barrage a number of management issues with regard to a possible raising of the barrage are still to be resolved prior to finalising fishway design.

(3) Tinana Creek Barrage fishway modifications are planned to commence in June this year after final approvals are obtained.

The Mary River Barrage fishway would follow at a time determined by decisions relating to the proposed raising of the Barrage.

(4) It is expected that the construction period for each fishway would be approximately four to six months subject to weather conditions, with Tinana Creek planned for completion in November 2000.

(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) The Government 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.

## 86. Mr S. Plant

**Mr COOPER** asked the Premier (2/3/00)—

With reference to the controversial dismissal of Mr Sid Plant from the Department of Primary Industries in December 1999—

- (1) Will he assure the House that no ministerial staff in either his, or any ministerial office, played any role whatsoever in the dismissal/resignation of Mr Plant?
- (2) Will he assure the House that no direction, instruction or advice was given to any members of the public service seeking either the dismissal or resignation of Mr Plant?

**Mr BEATTIE** (31/3/00): This matter is before the CJC and it is therefore inappropriate to respond other than to say that Mr Sid Plant resigned, he was not dismissed.

## 87. Gladstone State High School

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Education (2/3/00)—

With reference to the redevelopment of the Gladstone State High School announced during campaigning prior to the last election—

When will building commence and what area of the school does Stage 1 include?

**Mr WELLS** (5/4/00): The redevelopment of the Gladstone State High School was not announced during the 1998 election campaign. The Education Plan of the then Labor candidate said in part "prioritise capital works within Gladstone schools on an as needs basis ... Special emphasis will be directed towards the Gladstone State High School ..."

Perhaps the Honourable Member is actually thinking of my announcement at the Gladstone Community Cabinet, of a Master Planning exercise for Gladstone State High School. The department informs me that when the Secondary Schools Renewal Program was announced, the Master Planning of Gladstone State High School was ceased and subsumed into the Secondary Schools Renewal Program.

Schools to be included in the next phase of the Secondary Schools Renewal Program are to be announced shortly.

## 88. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (2/3/00)—

With reference to the four-month study into contamination in Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) officers' turnout coats conducted in association with the Queensland University of Technology and Queensland Health Scientific Services—

- (1) What benefit did the QFRA obtain from the study?
- (2) What recommendations were made by the study?
- (3) What action has been taken by the QFRA as a result of those recommendations?

- (4) What further research is planned as a result of this study and who will undertake that research?
- (5) Have the results of the study been published and have they been released publicly?

**Mr ROBERTSON (3/4/00):** The study was an initiative of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) in partnership with the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). From the preliminary results of the QUT study, QFRA has obtained baseline data about the contamination levels on firefighters' protective clothing. Given the small sample size however, the results cannot be used to indicate the prevalence of contamination across the State. Preliminary recommendations include:

To conduct further research to evaluate a range of factors that may influence the contamination of turnout clothing, eg cleaning procedures and types and range of contaminants;

To examine current cleaning practices/methods and garment life;

To identify analytical techniques (other than those used in the study) appropriate for a wider range of possible contaminants; and

To determine non-destructive techniques to regularly identify contamination.

As a result of the preliminary recommendations, the QFRA has begun a number of initiatives, which include the development of a draft Uniform Code which also addresses cleaning, inspection and maintenance issues of turnout clothing. Discussions have been held with the manufacturers of turnout clothing to determine viable methods for analysing contamination, eg destructive and non-destructive testing.

A subcommittee of the QFRA Clothing Committee has been nominated to identify future research areas related to this study. Advice will also be obtained from QUT and collaborative research areas may be pursued with external research institutions.

In October 1999 QUT presented the preliminary results of the study to the QFRA Clothing Committee. A summary of the preliminary results was published in the official journal of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, FireLife (Summer Edition 1999, Volume 7).

#### **89. Needle Exchange Program; Diabetics**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (2/3/00)—

With some 4.3 million free needles handed out yearly through the Needle Exchange Program to assist those with a life threatening habit, will Queensland Health consider a similar free program for diabetics to assist those with a life threatening illness?

**Mrs EDMOND (3/4/00):** The distribution of sterile needles and syringes to injecting drug users is demonstrated to be the single most effective strategy in reducing the transmission of infectious diseases to the community, including the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis B and C. As the sharing of injecting equipment by injecting

drug users is the one of the main ways in which these diseases are transmitted, the effectiveness of this program relies heavily on the ready access and availability of sterile needles to injecting drug users.

The distribution of syringes (and disposal containers) free of charge to injecting drug users greatly enhances the likelihood that injecting drug users will utilise sterile syringes and disposal equipment, and thus prevent the transmission of blood borne diseases to the wider community. Any barriers which make it more difficult for drug users to obtain syringes will increase the likelihood of sharing injecting equipment, and hence transmission of infectious diseases. Although injecting drug use occurs across a range of age, social and cultural groups, it is recognised that a significant proportion of people who inject, particularly young people and the homeless, are economically disadvantaged. The provision of sterile injecting and disposal equipment that is free of charge facilitates the use of sterile equipment and disposal units by these individuals, and hence reduces the spread of blood-borne viruses to the wider community. It is not standard practice for people accessing the Needle Availability Support Program to be asked the reason for seeking injecting equipment.

Under the National Diabetic Services Scheme, supplies such as syringes and diagnostic agents are heavily subsidised, with Government bearing most of the cost. Diabetes Australia (Queensland) currently supplies syringes to persons registered with the scheme at substantially reduced prices (\$8.00 per 100 syringes and \$5.00 per 100 syringes for concessional patients). The Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Benefits Branch advises that in the 1998-1999 financial year, the contribution to the National Diabetic Services Scheme cost the Commonwealth \$41.9 million, with an additional \$117.9 million for insulin, oral medication for diabetes and glucose testing products. In addition, a significant amount is expended on these items through the Public Hospitals in Queensland.

#### **90. Rockhampton Correctional Centre**

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (2/3/00)—

With reference to the new Rockhampton Correctional Centre—

- (1) What was the estimated cost of the project at 6 May 1999?
- (2) Will he list the companies that were invited to tender for the project and list the companies that subsequently submitted tenders?
- (3) What were the prices submitted by each tender?
- (4) Were any changes made to the submitted bids after the close of tender?
- (5) What was the rank of each tender prior to any changes and after any changes?
- (6) Who was the tenderer that was selected?
- (7) What was the final price of the accepted tender?
- (8) What was the final cost of the facility at completion of the project?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/4/00): Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice No. 51 by the Honourable the Minister for Police and Corrective Services.

#### 91. Queensland House, London

**Mr SLACK** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (2/3/00)—

- (1) Has the Government any plans to sell Queensland House in London?
- (2) If it is under consideration, will he outline the process being undertaken to determine its future and what the nature of Queensland's future presence in London will be?

**Mr ELDER** (3/4/00):

1. The Government does not currently have any plans to sell Queensland House in London.
2. Given my answer to Question 1, it is proposed that Queensland's future presence in London remain in Queensland House.

#### 92. Moreton Bay Marine Park

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (2/3/00)—

With reference to the Moreton Bay Marine Park and, in particular, the various protection zones—

Will he advise whether, since the proclamation of the marine park, there have been any instances where the management arrangements have been relaxed or modified to allow particular activities which would otherwise be banned?

**Mr WELFORD** (3/4/00): Pumicestone Passage Marine Park was proclaimed in 1986. Moreton Bay Marine Park was proclaimed in 1993 as an unzoned marine park. In November 1997 both Moreton Bay and Pumicestone Passage Marine Parks were revoked and a consolidated Marine Park was gazetted through the Marine Parks Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1997. The Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 1997 [Zoning Plan] was declared in 1997.

In May 1998, the Zoning Plan was amended, making a number of changes including reducing the extent of Protection Zones at Peel Island and Tripcony Bight and permitting commercial fishing to occur within the Peel Island Protection Zone as a non-conforming use.

The original Peel Island Protection Zone boundary was at the 3m depth contour but this was changed to allow for fishing in most of Lazaret Gutter. The change was also designed to remove a popular recreational fishing spot from within the Protection Zone.

The extent of the Tripcony Bight Protection Zone was reduced after submissions from recreational fishing groups and discussions with a leading conservation group, the Australian Marine Conservation Society.

Following gazettal of the Zoning Plan in 1997, and subsequent approaches from the Queensland

Commercial Fishing Organisation, it was determined that a small number of commercial tunnel net fishers were financially disadvantaged by the ban on fishing within Peel Island Protection Zone. A substantial portion of their income was generated from black trevally caught within the zone. As a result, the Zoning Plan was amended to permit commercial fishing in the Peel Island Protection Zone as a non-conforming use. In January 2000, four permits were subsequently issued for the purposes of tunnel net fishing for black trevally to those commercial tunnel net fishers who had demonstrated substantial levels of use and financial reliance on the zone.

#### 93. Sports Facility Developments

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (2/3/00)—

With reference to Question on Notice No 1637 and the answer provided by the then Minister on 9 December 1999—

Apart from the Suncorp Metway Stadium Redevelopment, what other similar sport facility development projects were reported on in the 1999-2000 Budget Papers on a life-to-date costs basis and where in the budget papers were these reports?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (30/3/00): Apart from the Suncorp Metway Stadium Redevelopment, the other similar projects reported on in the 1999-2000 Budget Papers on a life-to-date costs basis were:

- (1) the Ballymore redevelopment;
- (2) the Malanda stadium; and
- (3) the Brisbane Cricket Ground Trust.

Reports of these sport facility developments can be found on page 79 of the Capital Statement Report, Budget Paper No. 5.

#### 94. Goprint

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (2/3/00)—

With reference to the Community Service Obligation (CSO) payments made to GoPrint—

What is the (a) total budgeted CSO payment for 1999-2000, (b) quantum of CSO payment made to GoPrint year-to-date (29 February), (c) source of the funding for the CSO payments and (d) identified items for which the CSO payments are based?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/4/00): (a) The total budgeted CSO payment for 1999-2000 is \$3.95M, (b) The quantum of CSO payment made to GOPRINT year-to-date (29 February) is \$1.018M, (c) The source of the funding for the CSO payments is through the Treasurers Advance with funding subject to a CSO agreement, (d) The identified items for which the CSO payments are based is the excess costs which cannot be recovered through providing Reserved Services after being subsidised by the profit generated from commercial government work.

#### 95. Motorsport Queensland Limited

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Premier (2/3/00)—



With reference to the Beattie Government's premature decision to put Motorsport Queensland Limited into receivership which will impact significantly on future funds available to taxpayers and/or creditors from the anticipated fire-sale of this facility—

- (1) At what rate are the receivers and managers being paid?
- (2) What has been the cost of receivers and managers to date?
- (3) What is the anticipated total bill for receivers and managers acting in this matter?

**Mr BEATTIE** (31/3/00): As a consequence of Motorsport Queensland Limited being unable to meet its debts, it appointed a voluntary administrator to manage its affairs and seek the views of the creditors. The Queensland Government, as a secured creditor, sought to protect its interests and those of the other secured and unsecured creditors by the appointment of a Receiver on 5 October 1999.

The role of the receiver is to work with the administrator to assess the capacity of Motorsport Queensland Limited to trade its way out of its difficulties or make alternative recommendations for the "wind up" of the company.

- (1) Receivers and managers fees are charged on a time basis at a rate per hour within the scale published by the Insolvency Practitioners Association of Australia.
- (2) The cost, as at 25 February 2000, amounted to \$144,461 (including disbursements).
- (3) The estimated total cost of the completion of the receivership is \$180,000 plus disbursements. This estimate is dependent on the final date of receivership completion.

#### 96. Motorsport Queensland Limited

**Dr WATSON** asked the Treasurer (2/3/00)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's premature decision to put Motorsport Queensland Limited into receivership which will impact significantly on future funds available to taxpayers and/or creditors from the anticipated fire-sale of this facility—

- (1) At what rate are the receivers and managers being paid?
- (2) What has been the cost of receivers and managers to date?
- (3) What is the anticipated total bill for receivers and managers acting in this matter?

**Mr HAMILL** (31/3/00): I refer the Honourable Member to the Premier's response to Question on Notice Number 95.

#### 97. Police Budget

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (2/3/00)—

What estimated percentage of the Police Budget is spent on salaries and wages (including overtime and other associated wage and salary costs) and what is the estimated total cost of salaries and wages for 1999-2000?

**Mr BARTON** (6/4/00): Employee expenses represent 72% of the Service's total budget. The estimated employee expenses for 1999/2000 are \$585,919,000. These employee expenses include salaries, wages, penalties and other associated wage and salary costs.

#### 98. Moreton Bay Marine Park, Access by Amateur Anglers

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (2/3/00)—

With reference to the issuance of several permits for commercial fishing within the habitat protection zone of the Moreton Bay Marine Park adjacent to Peel Island—

If he regards the impact of these commercial operations as sustainable, will he now also allow amateur anglers similar access at least on periodic occasions such as the Redlands Fishing Classic?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (30/3/00): The area closures to fishing in the vicinity of Peel Island were instigated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the management arrangements for the zonal plan under the Moreton Bay Marine Park Plan. In granting exemptions in the form of permits to some commercial fishers the EPA recognised the commercial fishing history of the fishers involved and its importance to their viability as a fishing entity. I understand that the permits are not transferable and as such will cease to have effect either upon sale of the commercial fishing licence or the retirement of the fisher.

The question of access by other users to this area of the Moreton Bay Marine Park is a matter for the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources.

#### 99. Client Purchase Arrangement Program

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (2/3/00)—

Further to his response to Question on Notice No. 2106 of 1999, why has no new funding been allocated to the Client Purchase Arrangement Program for 1999-2000?

**Mr BRADY** (3/4/00): The funding previously allocated to the Client Purchase Arrangement Program has been redirected to special initiatives funding during 1999-2000.

One example of this is where funds are used by the Employment Taskforce so that assistance in the form of training can be offered to retrenched workers in regional and rural Queensland where job losses have occurred as a result of the closure of significant businesses or industries. This works in conjunction with the Workers Assistance Program the Taskforce administers.

#### 100. Security Providers Act, Green Paper

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (2/3/00)—

Will she advise why the green paper dealing with the Security Providers Act (promised September 1999) has not eventuated and when it will be produced?

**Ms SPENCE** (3/4/00): Whilst I am committed to a review of the Security Providers Act 1993, I am not aware of any Green Paper being promised. Due to the complexity of the issues involved and desire to ensure a thorough review process, the review of the Act will be staged. Under the first stage, a National Competition Policy review of restrictive provisions of the Act, is currently being undertaken and will be completed by the end of this year. It is anticipated that this process will identify a number of important issues and will be followed by a second stage broader review of the legislation.

#### **101. Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development, Staffing**

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (2/3/00)—

- (1) How many indigenous staff are employed by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development, in total and in each regional office, as at 2 March (both in real and percentage terms) compared with the same date for 1999?
- (2) How many indigenous people have left the employ of the department since 2 March 1999, what position did they hold, for what reason have they left (ie transferred, resigned etc) and on what date did each leave?

**Ms SPENCE** (3/4/00): As at 2 March 2000, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy had a total of 178 employees. The number of employees who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander was 56. In the corresponding period in 1999, DATSIPD had a total of 170 employees, with 42 employees identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Identification can only be sourced from EEO Census Data. With reference to EEO Census data, in March 2000, there were 56 employees who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander employed in the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development. This represents 40.3% of respondents. This represents an increase from March 1999, where 42 employees identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This represents 34.1% of respondents.

Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employees in Total and by Region, and Percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employees (as per EEO Census) for DATSIPD in total and for each Region—

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

#### Limitations of Data

Information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification is sourced from EEO Census Data. The guidelines for the collection of EEO data requires

that EEO Census data is confidential and reports must not allow the potential for identification of individuals. The EEO Census response rate for DATSIPD is 72% in March 2000 and 72.4% in March 1999. The EEO Census is voluntary and it is each employee's choice whether to identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Nineteen (19) staff who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the EEO Census have left the employ of the department since 2nd March 1999.

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

#### Limitations of Data

As per above for EEO Census Data.

Confidentiality requires that data and reports must not allow the potential identification of individual's EEO status, therefore data is provided for each month, rather than providing the actual date of each separation.

Detailed data is not available on the reason for ceasing employment with the department. Terms such as "resigned" or "ceased" are assigned to categorise the reason for termination.

#### **102. Yeppoon-Rockhampton Highway**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/3/00)—

What has been done to further extend the Yeppoon-Rockhampton Highway to four lane status to meet increasing traffic demands as a result of the Capricorn Coast being now the eighth fastest growing area in Australia and the third fastest growing area in Queensland?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (3/4/00): The Rockhampton to Yeppoon Road is one of the main transport links between Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast. There has been a steady increase in traffic over recent years but the road is adequate to cope with current traffic volumes. The Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road currently carries less than 7000 vehicles per day while many two-lane roads throughout Queensland are carrying significantly in excess of this traffic level.

Main Roads will continue to closely monitor traffic growth on the road and address traffic needs identified as part of this monitoring.

#### **103. Royal Brisbane Hospital, Outpatient Specialist and Operating Sessions**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (2/3/00)—

As 47 outpatient sessions per week and about 80 operating sessions per month have been slashed from Royal Brisbane Hospital despite climbing waiting times—

Will she prove her media claims that these services are now being supplied at outlying hospitals by documenting what additional outpatient specialist sessions and operating sessions are being supplied at these hospitals since the cutbacks at Brisbane hospitals?

**Mrs EDMOND (3/4/00):** It is estimated that approximately 28 percent of secondary level services provided by the RBH are to people who do not live in the RBH catchment. In line with the aim of the relocation of services from the centrally located city hospitals to locations closer to where people live, changes are being gradually made to outpatient and operating theatre sessions.

The redevelopment of RBH into a contemporary health service has been planned in conjunction with the establishment of modern and greatly expanded services in communities such as Caboolture, Redcliffe, Redlands, Logan and the Sunshine Coast. For example, Redcliffe Hospital now offers specialist services such as diabetes, gynaecology, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, general surgery, paediatric general surgery and paediatric general medicine.

At the redeveloped Caboolture Hospital, which I opened recently, the range of services now includes: gastroenterology, general medicine, general surgery, a high dependency unit, neonatal services, obstetrics and gynaecology, operating theatres, paediatrics, pathology, pharmacy, physiotherapy and specialist outpatients services. Consequently some of the 900 specialist outpatient clinics that were held per month are no longer needed at the RBH.

I was heartened to have the support of specialists based at the RBH who have recently communicated their understanding and support for the relocation of services closer to the places in which patients live. They are keen to be fully involved in working with Queensland Health in determining the clinical service plans for the central zone based on RBH as the tertiary referral centre. An extra 30 public sessions are currently being advertised, including 8 ENT sessions at Redcliffe. The RBH specialists will be given first option on these sessions.

#### 104. Motorsport Queensland Limited

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (2/3/00)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's premature decision to put Motorsport Queensland Limited into receivership which will impact significantly on future funds available to taxpayers and/or creditors from the anticipated fire-sale of this facility—

- (1) At what rate are the receivers and managers being paid?
- (2) What has been the cost of receivers and managers to date?
- (3) What is the anticipated total bill for receivers and managers acting in this matter?

**Mr MACKENROTH (30/3/00):** As a consequence of Queensland Motorsport Ltd being unable to meet its debts, it appointed a voluntary administrator to manage its affairs and seek the views of the creditors.

The Queensland Government, as a secured creditor, sought to protect its interests and those of the other secured and unsecured creditors by the appointment of a Receiver on 5 October 1999.

The role of the receiver is to work with the administrator to assess the capacity of Motorsport Queensland Ltd to trade its way out of its difficulties or make alternative recommendations for the "wind up" of the company.

(1) Receivers and managers fees are charged on a time basis at a rate per hour within the scale published by the Insolvency Practitioners Association of Australia.

(2) The cost, as at 25 February 2000, amounted to \$144,461 (including disbursements).

(3) The estimated total cost of the completion of the receivership is \$180,000 plus disbursements. This estimate is dependent on the final date of receivership completion.

#### 105. Motorsport Queensland Limited

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (2/3/00)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's premature decision to put Motorsport Queensland Limited into receivership which will impact significantly on future funds available to taxpayers and/or creditors from the anticipated fire-sale of this facility—

- (1) At what rate are the receivers and managers being paid?
- (2) What has been the cost of receivers and managers to date?
- (3) What is the anticipated total bill for receivers and managers acting in this matter?

**Mrs ROSE (3/4/00):** I refer the Honourable the Member for Broadwater to the Answer to Question on Notice No. 95 tabled by the Honourable the Premier.

#### 106. Foster Care

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (2/3/00)—

With reference to foster care in Queensland—

- (1) What are the policies followed by her department in relation to the appointment of foster carers?
- (2) What guidelines are issued to foster parents following their appointment?
- (3) What suitability checks are carried out on potential foster parents?
- (4) When a child with a history of behavioural problems complains about foster carers, what procedures are followed to assess the validity of the complaint?
- (5) Over the past 12 months, how many foster carers have ceased to have children placed with them, following allegations by children of improper conduct?

**Ms BLIGH (4/4/00):**

(1) The policies and procedures in relation to foster carer approval are detailed in my Department's Child Protection Procedures Manual. The manual includes guidelines for responding to initial inquiries from

prospective carers, training, recruitment and selection. The minimum conditions for approval as a carer are:

- assessed as able to care for children or young people with protective needs and to provide a level of care consistent with the Statement of Standards (outlined in the Procedures Manual and now also in the Child Protection Act 1999);
- assessed as physically and emotionally able to provide care for children;
- the conduct of criminal and traffic record checks for themselves and for any other person in the household aged 17 years and over;
- not be recorded as a maltreater on a substantiated child protection record;
- permanent residency of Australia;
- provision of full birth certificate, marriage certificate/s, or equivalent proof of identity.

Documentation needs to ensure all previous surnames and alias are recorded. These basic requirements apply to all categories of carers, including relatives and specialist approvals. In addition, general approval foster carers must:

- have completed training;
- nominate two referees who can provide satisfactory character references.

The Child Protection Act 1999 sets out specific provisions relating to the approval of foster carers.

(2) Foster carers who are approved are issued with the Careprovider Handbook. The Handbook offers comprehensive coverage of the major policy and procedural issues affecting foster carers. It outlines policies and guidelines in relation to case management; behaviour management and care standards; financial matters; allegations of abuse or neglect against foster carers; and grievances.

(3) As stated above, foster care applicants are subject to extensive criminal history, domestic violence history and traffic violation history checks. The requirement applies to all adult members of the household and cover all previous convictions including offences as juveniles. Checks are also made of the Department's files and records. Applicants are asked to nominate two non-relative referees who are consulted in writing about the personal character and conduct of the prospective foster carers.

A comprehensive personalised assessment is undertaken with all applicants. Personal history, attitudes and values, the nature and strength of a couple's relationship (where relevant), lifestyle, and the ability to constructively engage with departmental staff and natural families are all covered in the assessment.

(4) Complaints about the provision of care by foster carers are considered by departmental officers. If the information concerns a potential breach of standards or failure to observe relevant procedures and directives ("standard of care incidents"), discussion occurs with the foster carer, and where warranted, followed up by a carer review.

Notifications of harm involving a foster carer are assessed with attention to the immediate safety

needs of the child, the rights of natural parents to information about the wellbeing of their children, and the needs of foster carers for support and a right of reply. Following the outcome of such an assessment, the Child Protection Procedures Manual directs that a carer review be convened.

A carer review aims to consider all of the issues relevant to the incident and to reach a decision about the foster carer's ongoing support and training needs, approval status, and the possible need for limitations on placement types. Consideration of all contextual factors is an important feature of any child protection assessment, and this includes the circumstances in which the placement was made, the level of support offered to the carer family, and the particular challenges of caring for the child. The behaviours and allegations of disturbed children need to be considered as an important factor in any review.

It must be stressed that, ultimately, the goal of any such process needs to be a guarantee of safety for children and young people who are in the State's care. The importance of this has been reinforced by the Forde Commission of Inquiry.

(5) During the period October 1998 to September 1999, nine (9) general approval foster carers ceased to have further placements made with them following a child protection assessment with an outcome of substantiated harm or risk of harm to a child in their care. It must be stressed that the source of allegations (whether children in care or others) in these cases is immaterial.

The reason that further placements have not been made varies from case to case, and may represent a decision made by the foster parent or may be based on a decision made by departmental officers.

#### **107. Coal Transport, Blackwater; FreightCorp and Queensland Rail**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/3/00)—

With reference to the agreement between three coal companies operating coal mines in Queensland and the New South Wales Government's FreightCorp for the transport of coal from Blackwater to the coast—

- (1) Did Queensland Rail not tender for this work?
- (2) What are the implications of this agreement to the revenue of Queensland Rail?
- (3) Is this agreement likely to jeopardise jobs of Queensland Rail employees?
- (4) What action is the Government taking to ensure that Queensland Rail is able to compete commercially with FreightCorp?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (3/4/00): The agreement referred to in the question does not exist.

#### **108. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, Advertising and Promotion Campaigns**

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (2/3/00)—

Will he provide a complete list and full details of all advertising and promotion campaigns (a) approved by, (b) planned by, (c) developed in conjunction with or (d) involving his portfolio agencies during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (including cost of each campaign, purpose of each campaign, names and financial contribution of all other Government entities involved in campaign, names of all non-Government entities involved in the production, management and commissioning of each campaign and the position of the officer responsible for authorising each campaign)?

**Mr BRADY** (3/4/00): See attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### **109. Department of Primary Industries, Workshops on New Tax System**

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (2/3/00)—

With reference to a series of publicly advertised workshops conducted by his department regarding the implementation of the new tax system and specifically the GST—

- (1) Will he confirm that the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) staff conducting the workshops have been instructed not to be involved in providing advice regarding the new tax system and the GST, contrary to the advertisements sent out which indicated DPI were running the workshops; if so, why?
- (2) Is this another instance, such as that when he suppressed the DPI study on the impact of the GST on rural industry, where he has hindered the DPI's ability to fulfil its role of providing information to primary producers to further the Government's political agenda?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (30/3/00):

(1) The series of workshops you refer to have not been cancelled and they are not GST workshops. They are clearly stated to be "Business Record Keeping and Cash Management Workshops". They are part of the ongoing work of the DPI's Future Profit Team to assist primary producers in this State to better manage their finances and to deal with many of the financial elements which impact on running their farms. Although the GST was used to attract participation, the workshop content did not specifically deal with GST. Accountants were present, not in a paid capacity, and participants were obviously free to ask them about GST if that was of concern to them.

I have instructed DPI staff not to provide information or advice regarding the new tax system and GST. DPI staff do not have the detailed taxation background necessary to interpret the complexity of the GST. In addition I do not think that it is appropriate to allocate Departmental resources into GST. As well as this, the provision of advice on GST could inadvertently expose the DPI to professional risk if the advice given is wrong or misconstrued. Therefore, it is inappropriate for the DPI to hold GST information seminars for producers. The whole area

is fraught with difficulties. In fact, the Federal Agriculture Minister Warren Truss, is quoted in a February (10 February) issue of the Cairns Post as warning people not to rely on his Government's own resource material, saying the books and tapes were not meant to be a substitute for detailed professional advice farmers would normally obtain from accountants and legal advisers.

(2) The Honourable member's assertion is incorrect. The workshops the Honourable member referred to have proceeded and the DPI clearly continues to meet clients needs. There is an ongoing need to assist primary producers deal with their cash management issues in the current changing financial management environment.

The Department has been organising seminars for some years to improve the record keeping skills of primary producers by introducing them to computer cashbook recording systems. Improved record keeping is important as a basis for improved financial analysis and informed decision making. The exacting recording requirements of the GST is putting producers under extreme pressure to improve their record keeping skills, and this is reflected in demand for these seminars.

The very series of workshops you chose to highlight which are being run in north Queensland are part of meeting this need and these workshops will continue to be delivered.

#### **110. Department of Primary Industries, Tree Clearing Report**

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (2/3/00)—

With reference to the secret Department of Primary Industries (DPI) report that costed the impact of the Government's new tree clearing legislation at over \$500m and his subsequent actions in taking this report to Cabinet to preclude it from public scrutiny—

- (1) If this report was 'rubbish' as described by him, what did he have to fear from releasing it to the public?
- (2) Does he agree with the Premier that the unit within his department that developed this report was/is politically motivated?
- (3) Given the ABARE report commissioned by the Federal Government has costed the impact of the Government's tree clearing laws in the vicinity of \$380m does this provide some credible verification of his department's assessment?
- (4) Now that ABARE has made this finding, will he be commissioning his department to again assess the social and economic impact of the Vegetation Management Bill?
- (5) Is it the case that, just like the DPI report on the impact of the GST on rural industry, if the independent and professional assessments of his department do not suit the Beattie Government policy, the Minister suppresses that work?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (30/3/00):**

- (1) My Director General advised that the report was seriously flawed, and should be ignored.
- (2) I agree that the timing of the release of the report could have political motives.
- (3) No—see (1) above.
- (4) No.
- (5) The Honourable member's assertion is incorrect.

#### **111. Dairy Industry; Milk Prices**

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (2/3/00)—

With reference to his announcement of the 'deal' struck with the Australian Democrats to lobby for the broadening of the \$1.63 billion national dairy industry restructure package to extend the eight-year duration of the 11 cent/litre levy by two months—

- (1) Will this increase the price consumers pay for their milk; if not, what will be the impact of extending the package for an additional two months?
- (2) Given the implication of his 'deal' is that he supports the national dairy industry restructure package, why, with only four months until deregulation of the Victorian industry, has he failed to alert Queensland farmers that the Government intended to proceed with full deregulation so they could plan their futures?
- (3) What level of support, if any, will the Queensland Government be providing to dairy farmers, workers and rural and regional communities that depend on the dairy industry?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (30/3/00):**

(1) The Federal government has recognised the flow-on effects of dairy deregulation on rural communities and dairy industry workers of its national dairy deregulation plan. Until the meeting of Agriculture ministers in Melbourne on 3 March the Federal government had maintained that the Dairy Industry Adjustment Package was sufficient and that no further funds were required. I consistently campaigned for further measures and at that meeting got the agreement of all other states, except South Australia. Senator John Woodley of the Australian Democrats had already agreed with my proposal for an extension of the term of the levy to fund these measures.

At that meeting I obtained a personal commitment from Minister Warren Truss for an extension of the package to provide further assistance to dairy communities and dairy industry workers affected by deregulation. It was only after this commitment that I announced Queensland's in principle agreement to deregulation.

After receiving Federal Cabinet approval, Minister Truss then announced a further \$45m would be raised by extending the package. This will be paid for by extending the term of the consumer levy by 2-3 months. The levy is imposed for an 8 year period.

(2) The Honourable member will by now be aware that it was not until the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand

meeting of 3 March 2000 that all State Agriculture Ministers resolved, on a best endeavours basis, to remove market milk controls to make the Adjustment Program available to their farmers. The program required all States to deregulate. Only Victoria had announced its intention to deregulate and accept the restriction prior to the ARMCANZ meeting. I understand Western Australia is still negotiating with its industry to enable its final position to be determined.

(3) As a result of my efforts in having the package extended, Queensland dairy communities will receive an additional \$12m in support through the Rural Assistance Plan. This is money that would not have been received but for my consistent pressure on the Federal government and the support I garnered from Senator Woodley, and the majority of the states.

The State Government is working to establish a dairy information service which dairyfarmers can ring and be advised of government programs that are available to them, including the assistance of DPI farm finance counsellors and support mechanisms provided by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority.

#### **112. Mr S. Plant**

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (2/3/00)—

With reference to advice given to Mr Sid Plant by Ms Rosemary Clarkson, an Executive Director in his department, on 14 December 1999 that he had breached the Public Service Code of Conduct with his reported comments at an industry meeting regarding the Vegetation Management Bill—

- (1) Will he advise which sections of the Code of Conduct Mr Plant is alleged to have breached?
- (2) If there was no breach, did Ms Clarkson misinform Mr Plant?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (30/3/00):** I am advised that this matter is before the Criminal Justice Commission and it is therefore inappropriate for me to comment.

#### **113. Queensland Building Services Authority, Insurance Scheme**

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (2/3/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Building Services Authority's Insurance Scheme—

- (1) What are the insurance premium schedules for 1999-2000?
- (2) Does the authority currently have any plans to increase the insurance premiums in this or future financial years; if so, what is the proposed schedule?

**Ms SPENCE (3/4/00):**

(1) The current insurance premiums are set out in Schedule 1 to the Queensland Building Services Authority Regulation 1992. They are:

For a single detached dwelling—the current insurance premium inclusive of the Goods and

Services Tax is \$5.50 for each \$1,000 or part thereof of the contract price for the work. If the work is not carried out under a contract, the premium is \$5.50 for each \$1,000 or part of \$1,000 of the value of the work.

For one or more multiple dwellings—if the work is carried out under a contract and a notional price for the proposed residential construction work applies, the current insurance premium inclusive of the Goods and Services Tax is \$5.50 for each \$1,000 or part thereof of the notional price of the work for each residential unit.

If the work is carried out under a contract and a notional price for the proposed residential construction work does not apply, the current premium is \$5.50 for each \$1,000 or part thereof of the contract price for the work.

Minimum and maximum premiums of \$110.00 and \$1,100.00 respectively apply.

(2) The Authority does not intend to increase premiums in the current financial year and at this time does not envisage an increase in 2000/2001. However, beyond this, premium level increases will depend on the movement in claims costs and the cost of reinsurance.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### 114. Laundry Services, Atherton Tableland

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Health (14/3/00)—

- (1) What is the location of the facility that provided laundry services to the Tablelands during the recent disaster of Cyclone Steve, especially during the period that Mareeba was without water?
- (2) What measures are in place should this situation arise again?

**Mrs EDMOND** (13/4/00):

(1) Atherton Hospital laundry processed laundry from Mareeba Hospital on Monday, 28 February, 2000. However, the laundry could also have been processed at other centres, for example, Innisfail.

(2) The Mareeba Hospital has 'on site' emergency water supply storage of approximately 115,000 litres. This would provide coverage for the laundry and hospital of 2 days and longer if rationing was to occur. It is proposed to have a linen imprest of 5-7 days supply when the Mareeba Central Laundry facility is up and running. This will ensure continuity of supply to the Districts facilities.

### 115. Unregistered Boat Ramps

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/3/00)—

Will all unregistered boat ramps throughout the State of Queensland be closed to the public for recreational and commercial use?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (14/4/00): There is no registration system as such for boat ramps in Queensland. However, constructors of boat ramps are required to obtain approvals to construct ramps under legislation administered by the Honourable the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources. Queensland Transport provides comments on the navigational aspects of ramp proposals.

### 116. Goldilands Pty Ltd; Taiwanese Companies, Assistance

**Mr BLACK** asked the Premier (14/3/00)—

With reference to Question on Notice No 1043 of 1999, and to his answer—

- (1) Has he or any Queensland Government department, statutory authority, Queensland Trade and Investment Office or any organisation funded by the Government provided any financial assistance, loans, grants, concessions or other incentives to Goldilands Pty Ltd?
- (2) Will he detail what financial assistance, loans, grants, concessions or other financial incentives have been provided to which Taiwanese companies, corporations or business interests by the Department of State Development and the Queensland Trade and Investment Office in Taiwan in the last two years?

- (3) Will he detail this information by name and amounts/incentives provided as well as the terms and conditions, if any?

**Mr BEATTIE** (13/4/00):

(1) No financial assistance has been given to Goldilands Pty Ltd.

(2 & 3) An assistance package was offered to DanPork Australia Pty Ltd by my Government in November 1999 towards the construction and commissioning of a high grade pork meat processing plant near Pratten on the Darling Downs. Taiwanese interests own 55% of this project.

Information on the level of the assistance package provided to DanPork Australia Pty Ltd is commercial-in-confidence.

Within the past two years, the Queensland Government Trade and Investment Office, Taipei, and the Trade Division of the Department of State Development have jointly sponsored three education agent delegation visits to Queensland.

Taiwan is currently one of Queensland's top three international education markets. Education agents are a key component of the international education marketing infrastructure. The Department of State Development has covered the costs of return international air fares, accommodation costs and ground transportation for reputable agents covering the three regions of Taiwan who are committed to directing students to Queensland's quality education institutions.

A first hand knowledge of a cross section of Queensland's education and training facilities and living environment adds greatly to the credibility of Taiwanese agents in effectively marketing Queensland education institutions in their home country.

### 117. Q-Link

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/3/00)—

With reference to parcel and general freight carried by the railways on its road transport system, Q-Link—

- (1) How many vehicles has the railway on the roads throughout Queensland and how many employees are in this system?
- (2) In the last three financial years, how much profit did the parcel and general freight transport system make?
- (3) In relation to freight charges, will he explain why the railway road transport can carry freight at about half the price of private carrying companies?
- (4) Is this transport system deliberately undercutting local carriers for market share?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (14/4/00):

(1) Q-Link currently has 105 trucks on the roads throughout Queensland. Q-Link directly employs 500 staff.

(2) Separate financial information is not yet publicly available for Q-Link. This Government is striving to achieve greater transparency through explicit price contracts.



(3) There may be instances where Q-Link freight charges are historically lower for particular commodities, Q-Link changes are being reviewed.

(4) No. It is Government policy not to subsidise the road based operations of Q-Link, although there will be continued Government support where necessary for rail services to regional and remote areas of Queensland.

#### 118. Rosewood Ambulance Station

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (14/3/00)—

With reference to the Rosewood Ambulance Station—

- (1) When are the townspeople of Rosewood and, in particular, staff of this centre, to expect to have this ambulance station completed without the dreadful conditions of a tin shed from which to operate?
- (2) What date is the station due for completion?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (13/4/00):

(1) The "tin shed" is the plant room of the previous Rosewood Ambulance Station having the capacity to house four (4) ambulance vehicles. A fully lined and air-conditioned room has been constructed within this structure, to provide comfortable accommodation for staff during the construction of the new premises.

(2) It is anticipated that the new Joint Emergency Services complex, the total projected cost of which is in the order of \$676 000, will be completed by 30 June 2000.

#### 119. Gas Pipeline, Hervey Bay

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (14/3/00)—

With reference to the gas pipeline currently being laid in the Hervey Bay area—

- (1) In accordance with what Australian Standard is the pipeline being laid?
- (2) At what standard does the bedding sand have to be set?
- (3) What grade of the material dug out of the trench as raw material is permitted to be classified as fines?
- (4) Is the pipe welding permitted to be carried out under wet conditions?
- (5) Is it a requirement in all pipe laying to bed the pipe in sand to assist with removal if required?
- (6) Have compacting tests been carried out after filling?
- (7) How many leaks would he anticipate in the initial charging of the line?
- (8) What would be the likelihood of gas leaking into a Telecom pit and running through the Telecom conduits charging Telecom lines with gas?
- (9) What specifications was the contractor given to lay this pipeline?

**Mr McGRADY** (14/4/00):

(1) The following Australian Standards apply to the construction of the pipeline—

AS1697 Gas transmission and distribution systems (to the extent it applies to gas distribution pipelines);

AS3723 Installation and Maintenance of plastics pipe systems for gas;

AS/NZS4130 Polyethylene (PE) pipes, pressure applications;

AS/NZS4131 Polyethylene (PE) compounds for pressure pipes and fittings.

(2) Bedding sand to a minimum of 100 mm all around the pipe must be free of excavated rock, stones and vegetation.

(3) Fines is considered to be material less than 12 mm in diameter free of sharp stones, vegetation or any other matter than may damage the pipe if it is to be in contact with the pipe.

(4) Welding is not to be undertaken in open wet conditions unless a shelter is provided over the welding location to keep moisture from the joint being welded.

(5) Bedding the pipe in sand is a normal requirement providing an even support for the pipe and keeps sharp stones from damaging the pipe. It can also provide a warning of the presence of a pipe when excavating. It is not for the purpose of assisting removal of the pipe if required.

(6) Compaction tests have been carried out on all open cut excavations of roadways and driveways whilst other excavations have been inspected for subsidence.

(7) No leaks would be anticipated as the pipeline is hydrostatically tested for strength and leakage to a pressure much higher than the normal operating pressure before gas enters the pipeline.

(8) The pipe when commissioned has met the test criteria and is considered to be leak free and there should be no reason why gas would leak into Telstra pits. In the past, joints in aged cast iron pipes have leaked causing some problems but unless damaged by third parties, the pipeline should not cause similar problems and particularly so if the Telstra pits are sound and not broken or holed below ground level.

(9) Specifications supplied to the contractor by Origin Energy Limited (previously Boral Energy Limited) on behalf of Envestra Limited required compliance with AG601-1998 Gas Installation Code, AG603-1978 Gas Distribution Code, the Work Place Health and Safety Act 1995, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, relevant minimum rural and reinstatement guides, the Origin Energy Limited operations manual as appropriate, the Gas Act of 1965 applies as do the Australian Standards previously mentioned in Answer (1).

#### 120. Kogan Creek Power Station

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (14/3/00)—

With reference to a generating licence for the Kogan Creek powerhouse and as on 17 February, the Premier announced that the IAS of the Kogan Creek powerhouse had been approved and that a new energy policy (which could have a bearing on the issuance of a generating licence) would be released within a fortnight—

- (1) As almost a month has elapsed since the Premier announced that a new energy policy would be ready in two weeks, why hasn't his promise been kept and when will it be released?
- (2) Is there any reason why the generating licence for Kogan Creek can't be issued, bearing in mind this company has met all the environmental demands expected of it?
- (3) If Kogan Creek can meet all emission levels set by the Government, yet existing powerhouses can't, why should it be denied a generating licence?

**Mr McGRADY** (14/4/00):

(1) The Government's energy policy has significant implications for job creation, regional investment and the environment, and therefore requires detailed consideration of many complex issues. The policy will be released when all matters have been finalised.

(2) A Generation Authority for the proposed Kogan Creek Power Station was issued by the Director-General of the Department of Mines and Energy, as Regulator under the Electricity Act 1994, on 14 March 2000 after completion of the statutory process set out in that Act.

(3) See answer to number 2.

#### **121. Termite Task Force**

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (14/3/00)—

With reference to the Termite Taskforce she announced had been established during her response to a Question without Notice in the House on 16 September 1999—

- (1) When was the taskforce established?
- (2) What are the terms of reference of the taskforce?
- (3) What is the composition of taskforce (size, name, position and organisational representation)?
- (4) What is the date for the final report of the taskforce?
- (5) Will the findings of the taskforce be made public; if so, when?
- (6) What is the departmental reporting relationship of the taskforce?
- (7) What is the budget as well as the funding source for the taskforce?

**Ms SPENCE** (13/4/00):

1. The inaugural meeting of the Termite Working Party was held on 26 August 1999 and there have been three meetings since then over the period December 1999 to March 2000.

2. The Working Party is to advise on the development of strategies to minimise the risk of termite infestation including:

Strengthening the occupational and contractor licensing requirements for pest control operators engaged in termite treatment;

Heightening community awareness of the termite issue and the means available of reducing the risk of infestation;

Ensuring compliance with standards and regulation; and

Promoting to Standards Australia, the expedited development of the new standard on termite control.

3. The Working Party is made up of 15 persons who represent a range of Government and industry stakeholders.

The Chairperson is Mr Ian White, Executive Manager of the Dispute Management Division of the Queensland Building Services Authority.

Members are:- Mr Trevor Rieck and Mr Kelvin Cuskelly of the Housing Industry Association, Mr Peter Osterhage and Mr John Duncalfe of the Queensland Master Builders Association, Mr Brenton Peters of the Department of Primary Industries, Mr Geoff Mitchell of the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors, Mr Graham Hellier of the Insurance Council of Australia, Mr Paul Florian of the Queensland Department of Health, Mr Richard Kingsley and Mr Tony DiBetta of the Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association, Mr Peter Rourke of the Department of Local Government, Information and Planning, Mr Russell Brandon of Building Designers Association of Queensland, Mr Chris Boyle of the Queensland Building Services Authority and Mr Col MacKenzie of the Timber Research and Development Advisory Council.

4. There will be no 'final report' as such. The Working party reports to the Queensland Building Services Board (the Board) via its Policy Committee. The Working Party will continue to advise the Board until its advisory role is considered complete.

5. The outcomes from the advice provided by the Working Party will be promulgated through media releases, Local Government channels, the Queensland Building Services Authority website and the magazine "BuildingLinks" as well as industry and consumer journals and media. Other outcomes will require the amendment of legislation.

6. The Working Party reports to the Queensland Building Services Board and on to me as Minister of Fair Trading and the Minister responsible for the Queensland Building Services Authority. Government representatives may also be keeping their respective Ministers informed of Working Party deliberations.

7. There is no budget allocation for the Working Party. Members are paid by the organisations they represent for the time they spend at Working Party meetings and associated activities.

### 122. South Burnett Meatworks; Vocational Training, Murgon

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (14/3/00)—

With reference to South Burnett meatworks and the DSD which now have a team of vocational trainers in Murgon, retraining the displaced meatworkers so that they can qualify for other employment—

- (1) What is the planned total cost of this retraining?
- (2) What is the estimated impact on the Murgon district?
- (3) How does the benefit/cost ratio from this retraining compare with the benefit/cost ratio of dedicating the same amount of funding to sustaining the South Burnett meatworks and its marketing wing, QSun?
- (4) As the Government has indirectly supported the AMH works at Dinmore and the works at Cannon Hill, what benefit/cost ratios did these two actions achieve?

**Mr ELDER** (13/4/00):

(1) After QSun withdrew its offer for the purchase of the meatworks on 31 January 2000, Department of Employment and Industrial Relations (DETIR) officers commenced in Murgon on 8 February 2000 through the Worker Assistance Program. Approximately 355 full-time employees and long term casuals are eligible for the program. To date, 260 former workers have been interviewed. The remaining workers are not interested in the program (44 workers), cannot be contacted (39 workers) or have already relocated (12 workers).

Up to \$4,000 per worker is available under this program, for training, relocation and a wage subsidy for a new employer. Therefore, preliminary estimates would indicate that the overall level of funding could be in the order of \$1m for all aspects of the program.

This program is tailored to the individual needs of each worker for training, relocation and the wage subsidy to a new employer. Up to \$3,000 of the \$4,000 per worker can be made available for training, though most workers do not usually apportion this level of funding for training. Consequently, preliminary estimates of the upper level of funding for the training component of this program would be in the order of \$800,000.

(2) The retraining seeks to help the former workers enhance their skills so that they can increase their abilities to obtain employment in the Murgon District.

(3) Comparison between these benefit/cost ratios cannot be drawn as QSun withdrew its offer to purchase the meatworks, as it could not obtain sufficient funds to reopen.

It needs to be noted that QSun's funding requirements for the purchase and more importantly for the working capital required to run the meatworks was in the order of many millions of dollars. Therefore, QSun's funding requirements were at a magnitude that was many times greater than the funds that will be expended by the Government on retraining.

(4) The Government's industry programs, including the Queensland Meat Processing Development Initiative help financially viable abattoirs achieve improvements to their productivity, provide more value-adding processes and create additional employment for the long-term sustainability of the industry.

### 123. Tarong Energy, Stanwell Corporation Limited and CS Energy, Annual Reports

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (14/3/00)—

With reference to the annual reports of Tarong Energy, Stanwell Corp Limited and CS Energy—

- (1) Will the full salary and bonus packages for the individual management, board members and chief executive officers be published in this years annual report?
- (2) When will the promised legislation be introduced to reinstate award coverage to previous award coverage personnel who have over the last couple of years been given common law contracts?
- (3) Will only the senior executives mentioned in the annual reports remain on common law contracts; if not, who else?
- (4) How long will these contracts run and will the renewals be as lucrative as the previous contracts that have been the centre of much controversy?

**Mr McGRADY** (14/4/00):

(1) All electricity Government Owned Corporations have been advised of the new "Remuneration Guidelines for Senior Executive Staff in Government Owned Corporations". The new guidelines detail the reporting requirements for remuneration packages for senior executives (including the Chief Executive Officer) and Board Directors. All Government Owned Corporations are required to detail the nature and amount of senior executive remuneration within their Annual Report and Statement of Corporate Intent. This is to be completed on a similar basis to that required by the Corporations Law by listed public companies. Director remuneration is to be similarly reported.

(2) The Electricity Regulation Amendment (No. 1) 2000 was effective from 10 March 2000. The regulation will ensure that all State electricity entities and their employees, whose employment relates to the electricity industry and who are under a classification or salary level in the relevant award, are covered by the Electricity Generation, Transmission and Supply Award (State) or the Electricity Supply Industry Employees Award (State), as applicable.

(3) No. For all employees currently on common law contracts, the electricity Government Owned Corporations are required to honour those contracts. It is Government policy that the preferred method for negotiating wages and working conditions of employees is by collective arrangements. These collective arrangements are to be negotiated in such a way that provides the necessary levels of flexibility required to meet the business needs. Accordingly,

when each position covered by a common law contract is vacated or the contract expires and these positions are eligible to be employed under the terms of the relevant industry award, the Government's expectation is that these employees should be included in the provisions of a collective agreement.

(4) Selected contracts are due to expire in 2002, while other contracts have no specified term, however, they do contain termination provisions. The Government expects that future remuneration packages for all senior executives in electricity Government Owned Corporations will be negotiated in accordance with the requirements of the "Remuneration Guidelines for Senior Executive Staff in Government Owned Corporations". The overriding priority of the Government is to ensure that remuneration arrangements are consistent with required levels of public sector accountability and broadly aligned with comparable industry benchmarks.

#### 124. Mater Hospitals

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Health (14/3/00)—

- (1) Will she explain why she has failed to act responsibly and urgently on behalf of health consumers in Queensland, as Ministers in other States have done regarding Catholic Church run public hospitals, to ensure that the Mater public hospitals fall into line with every other public hospital and provide patients with access to their medical records as required under Queensland's public charter of patient hospital rights?
- (2) Will she tell the tax payers of Queensland whether or not identical legislative checks and balances exist for the Mater as exists for every other public hospital to ensure probity, transparency and accountability for the more than \$151m of public money the Mater receives; if not, why not and what does she intend to do about it?
- (3) Are the people of Queensland entitled to expect that the publicly funded hospitals of the Mater Misericordia are subject (as every other public hospital is) to CJC investigation for alleged acts of official misconduct or maladministration by officials of the Mater public hospitals?
- (4) What advice would I provide to a constituent who I believed had substantive grounds upon which that person could lodge a complaint of official misconduct and/or maladministration directed at a senior official of the Mater Misericordia Public Children's Hospital?

**Mrs EDMOND** (13/4/00):

(1) The Mater receives a grant from Queensland Health to provide healthcare services to the community it services. As a Private Corporation the Mater is not bound to conform to Queensland Health policy, although where appropriate, the Mater's own policies and practices are reflective of Government's policies in spirit and intent. The care and respect for each individual person seeking care at the Mater is

reflected in practices and policies at all levels. The Mater Hospitals provide access to patient information whilst ensuring confidentiality.

(2) The Mater public hospitals are independently owned and operated in Queensland by the Corporation of the Trustees of the Order of the Sisters of Mercy. Based on a longstanding arrangement, the hospitals receive funding to assist them to undertake public health functions. As the Mater is a private organisation, the checks and balances are provided through a formal Service Agreement which specifies the services to be delivered for the funds provided by Queensland Health. Within this contractual framework, financial and activity reporting by the Mater is identical to other public hospitals.

(3) The Criminal Justice Commission has yet to decide whether or not the Mater Misericordiae Public Hospitals fall within the definition of 'public entity' for the purposes of the Criminal Justice Act 1989.

(4) I can advise the Member that he recommend to his constituent that a written complaint, including full particulars, be formally lodged with the Criminal Justice Commission so that a determination can be made as to whether the Mater Hospitals fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Subject to the nature of the complaint, your constituent may also wish to complain to the Health Rights Commission.

#### 125. Charters Towers, Street Patrols

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (14/3/00)—

With reference to the ever increasing break and enters, home invasions and vandalism being experienced in Charters Towers and as I have been approached by members of the Aboriginal community to offer members to police the streets on a 24 hour basis—

- (1) Will he consider the increase in PLO's numbers in Charters Towers to patrol the streets on a 24 hour basis?
- (2) Will he consider a scheme of community policing on the streets partly funded by the local community; if so, will he consider extending PLO or community police powers to enable them to rid the streets of these vandals and thieves?

**Mr BARTON** (20/4/00):

(1) The appointment of additional Police Liaison Officers to Charters Towers is not a high priority at this time due to more pressing needs within the Northern Region. Generally, the Townsville District and in particular Charters Towers has experienced a decrease in criminal activity. There has not been an increase in break and enter and vandalism offences in Charters Towers for the first three months of 2000 and the number of offences committed this year is much lower than for the same period last year.

These results can be attributed in part, to this Government's commitment to increase the number of police officers in rural areas. The approved operational police strength for Charters Towers is 18. The actual number of operational police in Charters Towers has consistently been maintained

above the approved strength for the past 6 months, with 21 officers currently allocated to the Division. Operational police are supported by two Police Liaison Officer positions. It is considered that the present staffing allocation is sufficient to meet the needs of the community of Charters Towers.

Staffing of police establishments is reviewed annually as a matter of course and more frequently as situations dictate. The need for additional Police Liaison positions will be reviewed as further positions become available.

(2) There are various ways in which the community can support police. Measures such as establishing Neighbourhood Watch Groups and Community Consultative Committees are supported. There is no room however for activities that might loosely be referred to as "vigilante" type activity. Providing police powers to the Police Liaison Officers has been given consideration in the past. However, having regard to their identified liaison role and function of Police Liaison Officers, the Police Service does not consider that the change proposed is desirable.

#### 126. Computers in Schools

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Education (14/3/00)—

- (1) What is the recommended number of student-to-computer ratio for Queensland schools?
- (2) What is the actual number?
- (3) What are the breakdown figures (a) by region, (b) by high school and (c) by primary school?
- (4) What will be the cost to bring the actual figures up to recommended levels?
- (5) When does he expect to reach the recommended levels?

**Mr WELLS** (13/4/00):

(1) The department informs me that Education Queensland's Policy Statement (1995) on Computers in Learning does not specify a ratio of students to computers. The '2010 The Next Decade' strategy that was announced in April 1999 is just part of this government's commitment in education. The last budget saw an additional \$40 million being committed for the Networked Learning Community. This initiative will provide technical support, professional development and training for teachers as well as moving the department in the direction of achieving the Beattie Government's objective of one computer for each five students.

(2) The department informs me that the current ratio of students to computers across all schools is 7.56 to 1. They also inform me that this calculation is based upon a census of workstations in schools (as at November 1999) and the July 1999 student enrolment census. It does not include any computer used in schools purely for administrative purposes.

(3) Statewide: High Schools, 5.42; Primary Schools, 9.36; All Schools, 7.56. Note that "primary schools" include State schools with a secondary department.

(4) Education Queensland's Policy Statement (1995) on Computers in Learning does not specify a ratio of students to computers.

(5) High Schools are close to the ratio of 5:1. This government has recently restated its commitment to this target and will continue to work towards a ratio of 5:1 for all schools. Any decision on the time within which the Department will seek to move to the 5:1 ratio (or any other target) will be taken with regard to other significant priorities within the portfolio.

#### 127. Queensland Health, IT Contract

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Health (14/3/00)—

With reference to the importance of Queenslanders that, wherever possible, the Queensland Government support and enhance jobs for Queenslanders, support the Queensland industries and the "smart State" programs—

- (1) Is a Canadian company the preferred tenderer for the Queensland Health's IT contract?
- (2) When may this contract be finalised?
- (3) Did this Canadian company's proposed program surpass those offered by Queensland companies; if so, in what areas?
- (4) When were the trials carried out to confirm the appropriateness and superiority of this overseas company's IT tender?

**Mrs EDMOND** (13/4/00):

(1) Total Care Technologies Australia P/L, a wholly owned Australian subsidiary of a Canadian company has been selected as preferred tenderer for a rostering system for Queensland Health. The company has established its Asia Pacific headquarters in Milton, Brisbane; employs nine staff and plans to expand to 25 by November.

(2) The Contract was signed on 2 February 2000.

(3) The tender evaluation was conducted by a team of technical, management and clinical experts in two stages:

- (a) a document review of the tender against the criteria set in the tender specification, and;
- (b) a test of the software to ensure that the findings of document review were substantiated.

(4) The software was tested in August/September 1999 and the trials proved that the preferred product had best fit to the tender specification requirements.

#### 128. School Buses

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/3/00)—

With reference to school buses—

- (1) Is he prepared to introduce legislation to ensure that retread tyres are not used on front steering wheels of school buses?
- (2) Will he introduce legislation to prevent students standing in school buses travelling in 100 kph speed zones?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (14/4/00):

(1) Retreaded tyres fitted to school buses, and all other vehicles, are required to be remanufactured in accordance with Australian Standard AS 1973 under

the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 1999. This Standard requires rigorous inspection and testing of the tyre before and after retreading and details how the process is to be carried out.

There is no evidence that suggests retreaded tyres, which comply with the standard, are more prone to failure than new tyres. There is also no evidence to suggest that front tyres are more prone to failure than rear tyres.

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

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

School buses undergo safety inspections conducted by Queensland Transport every six months. In addition to these inspections, Queensland Transport operates a number of random roadside vehicle inspections as part of its on road enforcement activities. The objective of these checks is to ensure that school buses, including their tyres, are not defective or overloaded.

(2) In 1994 Queensland Transport introduced a bus safety standards policy which addressed a number of bus safety concerns. The previous practice of allowing one standing passenger for every two seated passengers was replaced with a system of evaluating the capacity of a bus to safely carry standees based on the allowable weight of the bus, the area available to safely carry standees, and the number of suitable hand holds. The maximum distance that a standee can travel is 20 kilometres.

Passengers on buses (including standing passengers) are at less risk of injury than other road users. Children who travel to school by bus have an injury risk per trip which is several times lower than injury risk for trips to school by car, bicycle or on foot.

There are particular circumstances where the risks for standing passengers are increased, such as on certain steep and winding routes, or narrow routes with very high numbers of heavy vehicles. This issue is addressed as part of the SafeST Safe School Bus Routes program, where the safety of school bus routes is reviewed. Factors considered in the review deal primarily with traffic and physical environment.

The Government considers that this combined approach is the most effective means of addressing the range of safety concerns across the State.

### 129. Eumundi-Noosa Road

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/3/00)—

What is the proposed funding to be spent on upgrading and maintenance on the Eumundi/Noosa Road from Huon Mundy Bridge to Beckmans Road roundabout in the next 12 months?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (14/04/00): No construction works are proposed over the next 12 months to upgrade the Eumundi-Noosa Road between Huon Mundy Bridge and Beckmans Road roundabout. However, major pavement maintenance works are programmed in April and May 2000 to reconstruct a 500 metre section between Justin Road and Grays Road at a cost of \$40,000.

Maintenance expenditure for State-controlled roads is allocated according to needs identified through inspections by Main Roads' staff and their contractors, in this case, Maroochy Shire Council.

### 130. State Health Department Building; Water Backflow

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (14/3/00)—

(1) When was the State Health Department corporate office building fixed for potential backflow problems?

(2) How much was spent and who funded it?

**Mrs EDMOND** (13/4/00):

(1) Rectification work for potential backflow problems in the Queensland Health Corporate Office Building was completed on 28 February 1998.

(2) Total budget for evaluating and rectifying potential backflow problems in the building was \$10,684. This was funded by the Maintenance Management Branch, Portfolio Division, Department of Public Works and Housing.

### 131. Queensland Ambulance Service and State Emergency Service, Budgets

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (14/3/00)—

With reference to claims by volunteers in the Rural Fire Service (RFS) that a proposal has been made to slash the RFS 2000-2001 budget by \$2.77m, with \$1m coming off the base allocation and \$1.77m off the veteran vehicle replacement allocation and in view of the huge build up of fuel due to favourable weather conditions which will put pressure on volunteer RFS members—

(1) Is it proposed to use \$1.5m of the projected savings to help the ailing Queensland Ambulance Service budget and the balance of more than \$1m to go to the State Emergency Service?

(2) Will he support these proposals?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (13/4/00):

(1) No.

(2) Not applicable.

### 132. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/3/00)—

With reference to the Freedom of Information (FOI) provided document headed "Public Sector Apprentices And Traineeships Apprentice/Trainee Report (Form A)—Organisation name: DETIR Core

Department—For period: July 1999 to December 1999" and to the section which indicates "EEO Targets"—

- (1) Were all departments/agencies given EEO targets; if so, what were the targets given to each department/agency?
- (2) Were these targets to guide those responsible for the selection of apprentices/trainees ; if not, why were these targets indicated as "required numbers"?

**Mr BRADY** (13/4/00):

(1) Yes. 50% Women; 5% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; 5% People with a Disability; 5% people from a Non-English Speaking Background.

(2) Yes.

### 133. Wide Bay Institute of TAFE

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/3/00)—

With reference to those documents provided to me under Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation in relation to what he believes was an 'independent' investigation of some managerial decisions made at Wide Bay Institute of TAFE and to one document in which one of the department's 'independent' investigators indicates that she considers it important to ensure that my FOI request relating to this investigation, not proceed—

- (1) What reasons did that public service officer put forward for seeking to avoid the operation of FOI processes in relation to this investigation as the Minister 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** (13/4/00):

(1) There has been no attempt on my part to avoid the operation of Freedom of Information processes. In my letter of 18 August 1999 I indicated that, while I preferred not to release the report publicly because of the sensitivity of the allegations, I was more than happy for you to read the report and gave you the opportunity to do so.

(2) The identity of the applicant may be a factor to be taken into account when determining the level of access to be granted. This has been acknowledged by the Information Commissioner in 2QAR Re Pemberton and The University of Queensland.

### 134. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/3/00)—

With reference to the 12 pages of documentation from Education Queensland titled "Public Sector Apprenticeships And Traineeships—Apprentice/Trainee Report (Form A)" which his

department has provided to me through Freedom of Information (FOI) (14/3/00)—

- (1) Why do these Form As differ from Form As from other departments in that they give no indication of the period they cover?
- (2) Why do they list all Apprentices/Trainees as being "retained in Agency"?

**Mr BRADY** (13/4/00): I am advised that:

(1) Given that Education Queensland has a quota of 500 trainees, it has a supplementary database that monitors the trainees and this database is forwarded on a monthly basis to the Employment Taskforce. Education Queensland indicates the period the report covers when the report is forwarded.

(2) Until December 1999 Education Queensland utilised the "Retained in Agency" column on the reporting document to provide supplementary advice regarding the education region/city in which the relevant school was situated. This information did not relate to whether the apprentice/trainee was actually retained in the agency. From 1 January 2000 the form has been redesigned to provide both geographic regional information and "retained in agency" outcomes.

### 135. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/3/00)—

- (1) How many of the public sector apprentices and trainees employed in (a) DETIR core department and (b) TAFE Queensland, had completed their training by 1 March?
- (2) How many of these were retained in a full-time, permanent capacity by the agency in which they were employed?

**Mr BRADY** (13/4/00):

(1)(a) DETIR Core—62 trainees; (b) TAFE Queensland—113 trainees

(2) DETIR Core—37; TAFE Queensland—67

While departments and agencies have no obligation to retain apprentices and trainees at the completion of their training, they do have an obligation to assist them to find continuing employment whether they are retained in the department or agency or assisted to find work with another organisation.

The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and TAFE Queensland have developed a strategy to implement this policy. The reason for this policy is to ensure that the public sector can provide the maximum number of opportunities for the training of young people in areas where skills are in short supply, on an ongoing basis.

### 136. Wide Bay Institute of TAFE

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/3/00)—

With reference to the form titled "State Government Department: DETIR—WIDE BAY INSTITUTE OF TAFE" which has been provided to me through Freedom of Information (FOI) (14/3/00)—

What labour market figures were used by recruitment staff at the Wide Bay Institute when they determined that the primary aim for their institute should be to recruit and train apprentices/trainees in the "Office Administration" area?

**Mr BRADY** (13/4/00): I am advised by my department that there is no record of your being provided with documents through the Freedom of Information process.

### 137. Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/3/00)—

Will he detail the investigatory and corrective actions he implemented after considering the following passage in the report of one of his department's many consultants?

"Investigations

In discussing these investigations some commented that intimidatory tactics were being used by DETIR field staff. These include threatening employers with fraud charges in circumstances where this was clearly inappropriate and no real case had been established. Further, much of the blame for the incorrect completion of the TA is due to the design of the TA and the lack of clear marketing material setting out rights and obligations of the parties. A deal of pettiness is being adopted by some DETIR staff in their relations with NACS and employers."

**Mr BRADY** (13/4/00): Under the Deed of Agreement dated 1 December 1999 between the Department and New Apprenticeship Centres, which were established and funded by the Commonwealth, there are provisions for staff training and improved communication between the Department and New Apprenticeship Centres.

I am advised that these have contributed to closer working relationships between the Department and New Apprenticeship Centres.

### 138. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/3/00)—

- (1) Will he indicate, in relation to apprentices employed by each department/agency under the public sector apprenticeship/traineeship initiative, the gender balance of apprentices employed up until 1 March?
- (2) Will he also provide the same information in relation to trainees employed up until the same date?

**Mr BRADY** (13/4/00):

- (1) Apprentices—529 males and 22 females.
- (2) Trainees—1086 males and 2183 females.

### 139. Cape York Partnership Project; Mr N. Pearson

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Premier (14/3/00)—

With reference to the Cape York Partnership Project—

- (1) What funding has been provided to Noel Pearson or any of his companies, including Noel Pearson Holdings and Noel Pearson and Associates, in relation to this project?
- (2) Over what period of time has the funding been earmarked and for what purpose?
- (3) What expenses has Mr Pearson incurred to date?
- (4) What additional costs have been outlaid to facilitate Mr Pearson including office space, furniture and equipment?

**Mr BEATTIE** (13/4/00):

- (1) My Government has not provided any funding to Mr Noel Pearson or any of his companies in relation to the Cape York Partnership Project.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Mr Pearson is an appointed member of the Cape York Partnership Plan Steering Group. The Group has met on two occasions in Brisbane. Mr Pearson has incurred the cost of two return airfares from Cairns to Brisbane for the purpose of attending both of these meetings. He has not yet been reimbursed for these expenses.
- (4) No additional costs, including office space, furniture and equipment has been outlaid by my Government to facilitate Mr Pearson.

### 140. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/3/00)—

With reference to the FOI provided document titled "Public Sector Apprenticeships and Traineeships—Apprentice/Trainee Report (Form A) State Government Department: DETIR Core Department July 1998 to January 2000" and to the section concerning "EEO Targets—Required Number"—

Are the officers in his department who recruit trainees/apprentices provided with these statistics so that they can aim to achieve the required numbers?

**Mr BRADY** (13/4/00): Yes.

### 141. Bundaberg Base Hospital; Optometrical Services

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Health (14/3/00)—

With reference to difficulties being experienced by my constituents in accessing optometry services through the public health system—

- (1) Will she explain why Bundaberg patients seeking a new set of glasses under Bundaberg Hospital Optometrical Services, would be asked in early March to wait until May for an appointment to see an administrative officer at



the hospital to obtain the necessary authority form?

- (2) Given that it takes a further month or longer to actually process the request for the glasses, does she consider this situation satisfactory for someone urgently requiring new glasses?
- (3) Has this situation resulted from a reduction in the numbers of hours allocated for staff in this role at the Bundaberg Base Hospital, or is this a way to artificially control or ration funds allocated through this scheme?
- (4) As only one local optometrist (and one visiting optometrist) is currently providing eye testing and prescription orders for glasses through the public hospital optometrical services, will she advise what action is being taken to enlist further optometrists?
- (5) How much is paid to private optometrists for the supply of glasses through the public hospital optometrical service, per patient?
- (6) Will she consider increasing this remuneration to make it worthwhile for other optometrists to rejoin the scheme?
- (7) Is the situation at Bundaberg, whereby waiting times are making access to prescription glasses extremely difficult, indicative of other regional and metropolitan centres in Queensland?

**Mrs EDMOND** (13/4/00):

- (1) There is high demand in Bundaberg for patients seeking new spectacles. The current waiting time for authorisation for the supply of glasses is eight weeks. However, patients with urgent needs can be seen immediately.
- (2) Patients who urgently require new glasses can gain access to an immediate appointment at the Bundaberg Base Hospital. A process has been established whereby the optometrist contacts the hospital to advise of any urgent requirements.
- (3) The Bundaberg Health Service District has prioritised access to the spectacle supply scheme to best meet the needs of patients, within available resources. The District is expected to manage the scheme within available funds.
- (4) Patients accessing the optometrical supply scheme are able to have eye testing and prescription orders undertaken by any optometrist of their choice. There are two optometrists in Bundaberg who participate in the dispensing of glasses once an initial consultation has been completed.
- (5) Eligible patients are able to access a private optometrist of their choice for eye testing and a prescription. Those optometrists participating in the dispensing of glasses through the spectacle supply scheme receive \$7.50 per patient.
- (6) Increasing remuneration to optometrists who dispense glasses is not currently being considered.
- (7) District health services are required to manage access to the spectacle supply scheme in an appropriate manner. Prioritisation of patient access is commonly utilised by services to manage demand.

#### **142. Teachers, Education Queensland Central Office**

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (14/3/00)—

At 17 July 1998 (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 19 June 1998 (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** (13/4/00): The department informs me that the information has not been aggregated for that date. Question On Notice 1885 provides data close to the dates requested. See attachment. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### **143. Project Australia; Hellhole Gorge Wilderness Camp**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (14/3/00)—

With reference to Project Australia and Hellhole Gorge Wilderness Camp as outlined in The Courier Mail on 4 March—

- (1) What support is she providing for this project?
- (2) How many children have been recruited to the program?
- (3) Have any children been referred to the program by her department; if so, how many?
- (4) What criteria were used to determine who would be so referred; if none, what are her preferred alternatives for the care of those children in the care of her department who have needs similar to those of the young people who have been privately referred to Project Australia?
- (5) Has she or her department received any funding requests for this project; if so, for how much and with what results?
- (6) In view of the ages of the young people to be involved, what evaluation has she undertaken of the program and what advice does she offer to parents and young people thinking of using this program?

**Ms BLIGH** (13/4/00):

- (1) State Government funds are provided through the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and the question should be referred to the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.
- (2) The response to this part of the question is

referred to the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

(3) Children have not been referred to the program by my Department to date. Departmental referrals will not occur until the necessary assessments of the capacity of this service to meet relevant standards of care have been completed. This is currently being progressed with the organisation.

(4) The response to the first part of the question in relation to criteria used to determine who would be so referred is referred to the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

In relation to preferred alternatives for the care of children in the care of the department, my Department currently funds a wide variety of facilities to provide care and support to children and young people in care. In 1998-99, funds of over \$17m were provided under the Alternative Care and Intervention Services Program to community-based organisations across the State for the operation of services to cater to the diverse needs of these children and young people. In addition, this Government has injected \$2m this financial year into the range of support services available for children and families, and this figure will rise to \$4.4m next year.

(5) While no requests for funding have been received from Project Australia by myself or my Department, I have had discussions with the Treasurer regarding possible Government support for the project.

(6) The development of an evaluation mechanism will be a matter for the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

I would, however, like to take this opportunity to place on the record my pleasure at the Member for Indooroopilly's new found appreciation of the need for these type of programs to be evaluated and monitored in a systematic and rigorous way to ensure the Government's duty of care of young people is met.

#### 144. Police Secondments

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (14/3/00)—

With reference to staff seconded from police regions—

- (1) How many staff are currently seconded from regions and what is the breakdown of sworn police and civilians in this statistic?
- (2) How many of these staff are seconded to the three commands, four corporate services divisions and other administrative units attached to Police Headquarters?
- (3) How many of these secondments would be directly involved in operational activities and what are these operational activities?
- (4) How many staff are seconded to the Criminal Justice Commission and the Queensland Crime Commission?

**Mr BARTON** (12/4/00):

(1) There are 3 staff seconded from regions to functions in Police Headquarters, comprising 2 police officers and 1 staff member. These do not include

officers appointed to external agencies such as the National Crime Authority and Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence.

(2) One police officer and one staff member have been seconded to the Human Resources Division and one police officer has been seconded to the Ethical Standards Command.

(3) None of these officers are involved in operational duties.

(4) There are 9 police officers and 2 staff members attached to the Queensland Crime Commission and 81 police officers attached to the Criminal Justice Commission.

#### 145. Public, Community and ATSI Housing Construction Programs

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/3/00)—

With reference to the public, community and ATSI housing construction programs for 1999-2000—

At 1 March (a) how much (in dollar terms) of each of their respective capital budgets for new constructions had been expended for each program, (b) how much in percentage terms for each of their respective capital budgets for new constructions had been expended for each program and (v) what is the total number of commencements for each program?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (14/4/00):

(a) At 1 March 2000, the year-to-date expenditure figures for new construction were \$49.2M for Public Housing, \$2.9M for Community Housing, and \$10.1M for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing (see Attachment A).

(b) See Attachment A for a percentage of expenditure against original budget (MPS figures), as well as against approved revised budget for each program.

(c) At 1 March 2000, the total number of commencements for each program were: 183 for Public Housing, 73 for Community Housing, and 44 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 146. Pilchards; Purse Seine Netting

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (14/3/00)—

With reference to the banning of purse seine netting in Queensland waters, which will make recreational fishermen and commercial line fishermen reliant on using imported pilchards from other States and overseas—

- (1) What measures has he introduced to ensure pilchards imported from other States do not carry the herpes-like virus that decimated tuna farms in South Australia and infected the Western Australia pilchard fishery?
- (2) Given he sacked the previous board for not acting sooner on purse seine netting, why did the current board and himself take 10 months to act on purse seine netting?

- (3) How many responses were received by the QFMA to the Regulatory Impact Statement for the proposed ban on purse seine netting and how many of these were not in favour of the ban?
- (4) What scientific evidence or other advice supported his decision to ignore the advice of the expert independent committee led by University of Queensland dolphin expert, Dr Peter Hale, that modifying the use of purse seine nets would avoid dolphin mortalities?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (13/4/00):

(1) There are a number of provisions relating to diseased fisheries resources in the current Fisheries Act 1994. The herpes-like virus to which you refer has not been identified as being present in this State despite the many years of importing pilchards from other states.

(2) The Government did not take 10 months to act on purse seine netting. I directed the QFMA to declare an emergency fisheries declaration prohibiting the use of purse seine nets on 5 February 1999 as soon as I became aware that this type of netting had caused the death of nine dolphins. I also directed the QFMA to declare a second emergency fisheries declaration on 25 May 1999 when I became aware of the potential for this type of netting to continue. In addition, I can advise that the only permit authorising the use of a purse seine net in Queensland waters expired on 19 July 1999. This permit was issued during the life of the previous Coalition Government. Since that time no netting of this nature has been able to be carried out. The Labor Government's recent decision to introduce legislation to prevent purse seine netting in Queensland waters was subject to a Regulatory Impact Statement. This document provided the opportunity for all interested persons to express their views on purse seine netting.

(3) With respect to the Regulatory Impact Statement I am advised that only 14 submissions were received before the closing date for responses, with all but one rejecting the proposed legislation to permanently prohibit the use of purse seine nets in all Queensland waters. Another five submissions were received after the closing date with all but one rejecting the proposed legislation. Given the small number of responses to the RIS and the huge public concern over the death of nine and capture of some 70 dolphins, it would have been inappropriate for me to refer only to responses to the RIS in reaching my decision to ban purse seine netting. It was quite clear from the numerous letters sent to my office and to the QFMA office from individuals and organisations that this type of netting should be stopped in order to remove the risk of further dolphin deaths.

(4) The decision to prohibit the use of purse seine nets in all Queensland waters was formed after careful consideration of all information available to me. The Board of the QFMA recommended that purse seine nets be prohibited, as did many of the letters that I referred to earlier. The advice to which you refer was considered very carefully.

#### **147. Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing, Division of Sport and Recreation**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (14/3/00)—

With reference to the application by the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation to the Cabinet Budget Review Committee for an additional \$15m in 1999-2000, more than \$4m of which was required for output enhancements—

- (1) Which of the output enhancements pertained to the Division of Sport and Recreation?
- (2) What amount of money had been proposed for each of these output enhancements?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (12/4/00):

- (1) None
- (2) See response to Question 1.

#### **148. Transport and Main Roads Minister, Press Releases on Internet**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/3/00)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's supposed commitment to open and accountable Government and to the use of technology as part of its Smart State concept—

How many of his ministerial press releases have been posted on the State Government Internet site between the start of the year and 13 March?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (14/4/00): Between 1/1/00 and 13/4/00, 78 of my media releases were posted on the State Government internet site.

#### **149. Youth Recreation Camp, Yeppoon**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (14/3/00)—

With reference to the youth recreation camp at Cooe Bay, Yeppoon, a centre that provides excellent recreation activities for a wide variety of groups—

Will he guarantee that this centre will not have its services cut or even worse, closed?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (12/4/00): I understand the important role the State Government's Outdoor Recreation Centres have played within regional Queensland and appreciate the strong community interest they attract. I am also aware the needs of the groups who use these Centres have changed over the years.

The former Minister for Sport initiated Audits of these centres to obtain a better understanding of their current usage and the needs of their users. I will be in a position to respond to questions on the Centres once the outcomes from the audit have been finalised.

### 150. Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning Study Report

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (14/3/00)—

With reference to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning Study Report which was forwarded to his department in 1998 and following his department's evaluation of its recommendations—

- (1) Has his department's steering committee submitted its report and recommendations to him for consideration; if so, on what date was that final report submitted to him?
- (2) Has any further outside consultation been undertaken regarding the study's recommendations?
- (3) If his departmental steering committee's evaluation of the report has not yet been finalised, when does he anticipate this will occur; if it is not imminent, will any recommendations that might include State Government funding assistance be received too late for consideration for inclusion in this year's State Government Budget?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (12/4/00):

- (1) The Study's steering committee submitted the draft Strategy to my Department in February 1999. Since that time, the draft Strategy and options for implementation have been under active consideration.
- (2) I have undertaken further consultation with a range of stakeholders who have identified an interest in the recommendations.
- (3) I expect to be in a position to advise on the Government's approach for progressing the draft Strategy in the near future.

### 151. Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning Study Report

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (14/3/00)—

With reference to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning Study Report—

- (1) Have there been any changes made to the Draft Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning Study which was submitted by the steering committee on or about January/February 1999?
- (2) Has the document been further revised since this time?
- (3) What are the contact names of departmental officers who are evaluating the study and what aspects are they focusing on?
- (4) Will he advise whether the Government is considering a funding package for roads and sewerage infrastructure on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands for this year's budget and will this be likely to receive priority attention?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (12/4/00):

- (1) No. The Study is still under consideration and I expect to be in a position to advise on the

Government's approach for progressing the draft Strategy in the near future.

(2) No.

(3) The Planning Services area of my Department is reviewing the draft Strategy to assist the Government in formulating its response to the draft Strategy and an appropriate implementation process.

(4) As indicated in (1) above, I expect to be in a position to advise on the Government's approach to progressing the draft Strategy in the near future.

### 152. Trawl Fishery Closure, Hervey Bay

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (15/3/00)—

Is it true that the Board of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority approved a 1 April start to Hervey Bay Trawl Closure to protect winter whiting and was the plan changed prior to being submitted to Cabinet; if so, does he believe that these ongoing examples of anti-establishmentarianism are disruptive to good governance and make for poor legislative procedure?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (14/4/00): The proposal to have the closure to trawling in certain waters of Hervey Bay extended to cover the period from 1 April to 30 June was omitted in the Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999. Its inclusion under the management arrangements will be addressed in the further management provisions proposed to be introduced into the Management Plan as a result of the Premier's Stakeholder Working Group report on the Trawl Fishery. A Regulatory Impact Statement is proposed to be released on the matter in future. The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority Board has reconfirmed its recommendation for this closure while noting it will impact on commercial trawling activities in these waters.

### 153. Apprentices, Bowen Basin Coalfields

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/3/00)—

- (1) How many apprentices are currently employed in coal mines on the Bowen Basin coalfields?
- (2) How many trainees are currently employed in coal mines on the Bowen Basin coalfields?
- (3) Are any losses to these numbers likely?

**Mr BRADDY** (14/4/00):

- (i) As at 22 March 2000 there were 100 apprentices.
- (ii) As at 22 March 2000 there were 121 trainees.
- (iii) It is impossible to predict any movement in these figures but it should be noted that a new traineeship arising from the national training package for the coal sector of the mining industry has recently been approved and may have an impact on recruitment in this industry.

### 154. Mr W. Blyth; Honeycombes Constructions

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for

Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (15/3/00)—

- (1) Why has the family of Warren Blyth of Lot 6 Bentley Drive, Nome, after 11 years not received council approval for a house built by a building company, namely Honeycombes Constructions because of faulty workmanship?
- (2) Why had the Building Services Authority failed to promptly act of behalf of the owners during the initial problem stage?
- (3) Will she investigate the disgraceful circumstances that this family have had to endure both financially and morally to still have no satisfaction and compensation to this date?

**Ms SPENCE** (13/4/00):

1. BSA understands Council approvals have been withheld for two reasons—

- (a) drainage problems associated with the concrete floor slab being too low; and
- (b) the roof support beam being too low.

2. The building of Mr Blyth's home was completed on 24 February 1988. Mr Blyth lodged a complaint about defects with the then Builders Registration Board (BRB) on 23 February 1989. The BRB issued orders for the builder, Honeycombe, to fix the items on 25 May 1989.

On 12 March 1990 after some extensions of time to allow the builder to acquire materials and suitable tradespersons, the BRB closed its file when those matters had been satisfactorily completed.

Following a further request from Mr Blyth's solicitor, the BRB issued another order to Honeycombe on 7 September 1991 to fix more defects. The major issues referred to concerns over the floor and verandah slabs being too low and the verandah support beams constructed at an unusually low height.

Honeycombe exercised its rights under the legislation and appealed the BRB's orders. After complex and prolonged litigation, the Queensland Building Tribunal (the Tribunal) brought down its decision on 15 December 1993.

The Tribunal dismissed the BRB's orders for rectification of the floor and verandah slabs as well as the low verandah roof support beam. The Tribunal upheld the BRB's orders to rectify rusting verandah columns, corroded aluminium joinery, a plasterboard cornice and to move ceiling panels.

On 1 March 1995, the BSA advised the parties and the Tribunal that the work ordered rectified by the QBT had been satisfactorily completed.

Further notification from Mr Blyth resulted in BSA issuing another direction to Honeycombe on 24 March 1995 requiring rectification of corroded aluminium joinery. At about the same time Mr Blyth instituted his own civil proceedings against Honeycombe for damages. Mr Blyth's solicitor requested BSA to take no further action pending advice from retained Counsel.

In response to Mr Blyth's request, BSA inspected the home on 1 February 2000. Corrosion of the aluminium doors and windows and of steel support columns was evident.

Jurisdiction of the Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991 applies for 6 years and 3 months from the date of the completion of the work. However, while BSA acknowledges Mr Blyth's concerns over the concrete slabs and his roof support beam, his only course of remedy is action against Honeycombe in the Courts. In respect of those issues, the BSA is bound by the ruling of the Tribunal.

3. I acknowledge the Blyths' plight in seeking damages against Honeycombe and understand that civil actions against Honeycombe are pending. However, I am not able, and nor is the BSA, to circumvent or influence proceedings before the courts.

### **155. Black Snake Creek Bridge, Marburg**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/3/00)—

With reference to the Marburg to Rosewood Road and the small bridge across Black Snake Creek at Marburg and the very dangerous approaches with ever increasing traffic on this road—

When is the bridge to be replaced and the dangerous curves to the approaches addressed?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (17/4/00): The Department of Main Roads is now in the final stages of detailed design for a significant project that will improve transport for people in the Rosewood and Marburg areas.

The project is on the Rosewood-Marburg Road and involves replacement of a timber bridge over Black Snake Creek with a concrete structure. This is part of an ongoing program to replace ageing, narrow timber bridges on the rural roads in Ipswich City. It is associated with the widening of 3.5 kilometres of narrow road either side of the bridge.

The work is estimated to cost \$1,100,000. Tenders for the construction are planned to be called in April, with construction expected to commence in June of this year.

### **156. Department of State Development, Trade Commissioners**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Premier (15/3/00)—

With reference to Queensland Trade Commissioner postings—

- (1) How many Trade Commissioners are employed by the Queensland Government?
- (2) Where are they employed?
- (3) What areas of expertise are covered by each of these commissioners?
- (4) How much trade have they directed to Queensland in the past five years?
- (5) What criteria is used to measure the efficiency of each commissioner?
- (6) Under what wages and conditions are these commissioners employed?

**Mr BEATTIE** (13/4/00):

- (1) There are seven Queensland Government Commissioner positions.

(2) Commissioners are located in Queensland Government Trade and Investment Offices (QGTIOs) in London, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Taipei, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Jakarta.

(3) These positions are not solely responsible for trade promotion and facilitation, but play a vital role in the attraction of investment into Queensland, high level Government to Government relationship building, and a range of strategic intelligence gathering on a whole of government basis.

The recently published booklet Linking Queensland Business to the World sets out the current trade and investment priorities for each Commissioner located in the QGTIO network. Copies will be made available to all Members of Parliament.

(4) Outcomes from trade and investment programs have been the result of the combined efforts of both overseas offices and Brisbane based trade and investment units.

On the basis of recorded trade and investment data from annual reports over the past five years, average annual trade and investment outcomes generated within these portfolios are \$406m and \$343m respectively. Clearly overseas offices, with their direct market interface, play an important role in identifying and developing trade and investment opportunities for Queensland.

(5) Each year (commencing in the 1999/2000 financial year), annual trade and investment priorities for overseas offices are established as a basis for operational planning.

Consistent with the Managing for Outcomes budget process that has been adopted by my Government, these priorities underpin the framework for reporting budget outcomes by Commissioners at the end of each financial year.

In addition, individual performance plans for Commissioners are being developed with their designated supervisor. In conjunction with the recruitment of new trade Commissioners for Los Angeles and Jakarta, the Department will shortly commence the negotiation process for performance planning for the next financial year.

(6) Contracts for Queensland Government Commissioners are generally based on the standard Commonwealth Government's Overseas Conditions of Service. Commissioners salaries are based on SES2 equivalents.

#### 157. Justices of the Peace (Qualified)

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (15/3/00)—

With reference to Justices of the Peace (Qualified) (15/3/00)—

Does his department have plans to (a) provide seal of office, stamp pad, certificate together with log book free of charge and (b) allow Justices of the Peace (Qualified) to charge a nominal charge for their services (as other States do); if not, will he be prepared to liaise with the Law Reform Commission on these issues?

**Mr FOLEY** (4/4/00):

(a) Seals of Office, stamp pads and Certificates of Registration are supplied to all Justices of the Peace (Qualified) upon appointment. The cost of providing these items is included in the Application Fee which is prescribed under the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Regulation 1991. The Department does not supply log books for Justices of the Peace as the use of log books is not mandatory.

(b) There are no plans to allow Justices of the Peace (Qualified) to charge a fee for their services as the role of the Justice of the Peace is a voluntary one. Any recommendations made by the Law Reform Commission will be given consideration.

#### 158. Public Health Assessors Panel; Mrs K. Kendall

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

(1) What is the make-up of and who are the panel members of the current Public Health Assessors Panel?

(2) As she was reluctant to provide details in her personal response in relation to the selection and appointment of members to the Public Health Assessors Panel and the need of the applicants to address the only stated selection criteria, that being "Understanding of contemporary standards issues, experience in making complex decisions and formulating reasons for those decisions, and/or experience in adjudication of professional standards issues", which criteria weighted most heavily in the selection of panel members and where in the application and curriculum vitae of Mrs K. Kendall, had Mrs Kendall fallen short?

(3) Is there a current pre-existing mind set against Mrs K. Kendall due to her strong public advocacy work when serving on the Dental Board of Queensland which resulted in a CJC investigation that subsequently exonerated her stance?

(4) Could this mind set exist as Mrs Kendall was also vindicated in mediation with the Dental Board of Queensland that itself stipulated requirements for silence in the terms of her settlement with the Dental Board of Queensland?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00):

(1) A total of 20 people were appointed to the Public Panel of Assessors appointed under the Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999. The names of those people appointed were published in the Government Gazette of 11 February 2000.

(2) Although specific selection criteria were established for candidates, the application package also invited applicants to contribute any additional information that might support their application.

More than 60 expressions of interest were received for consideration for appointment to the Public Panel of Assessors. Although Mrs Kendall's application was meritorious, against a strong field of candidates I was

unable to recommend her appointment on this occasion. However, as I have advised Mrs Kendall, I have retained her application for consideration should a vacancy arise in the future.

(3) No.

(4) See answer to (3).

### 159. Q-Rail, Travel Concessions

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/3/00)—

Will he explain why Queensland pensioners travelling to New South Wales cannot book their return journeys using their Q-Rail concession cards until they arrive back in Queensland?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (17/4/00): Pensioner Concession Cards (PCC) are issued by the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs and by Centrelink on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services. Holders of a PCC are entitled to a discount of one-half the normal adult fare on rail journeys between Australian mainland capital cities. In 1999, Countrylink extended its concessions for PCC holders to all Countrylink services in New South Wales. Holders of Queensland Seniors Card are not entitled to these concessions.

The Queensland Government also provides four Pensioner Travel Vouchers annually to permit holders of a PCC to access long-distance rail services within Queensland.

All Countrylink sales outlets are able to issue tickets at the one-half concession rate for Queensland pensioners who produce their PCC, but, until recently, they have not accepted Queensland Travel Vouchers as payment for travel on QR Traveltrain services. However, following the introduction of a new reservations system in August 1999, QR and Countrylink have jointly developed an arrangement whereby all Countrylink sales outlets will accept Queensland Travel Vouchers when ticketing travel on QR services.

### 160. Mother of Millions

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (15/3/00)—

With reference to the control of mother of millions—

Will he report on the selection of a natural predator of mother of millions currently based on the island of Madagascar?

**Mr WELFORD** (14/4/00): Research towards the biological control of mother of millions commenced soon after the opening of the South African Field Station (SAFS) in 1999. The Senior Researcher at the SAFS has already made two trips to Madagascar, which is the home of the weed. His first objective was to obtain permission to collect and to take biological material out of that country. As well as successfully getting this authority, he was also provided with a Government Entomologist to accompany him on his field trips. Mother of millions grows mainly in the south of Madagascar and most of

its natural range has now been visited. Four promising insect species have already been found and more should be forthcoming on future trips.

Populations of these four species have been collected and taken to the field station in South Africa where efforts are being made to culture them in the laboratory and to have them named correctly by expert taxonomists. Once cultures are established, host specificity testing can be undertaken.

To date the most promising of the four agents is a small (0.5 cm long) weevil called *Ospthilia*. The larvae of this weevil tunnel out the plant's stem while the adults feed on the leaves and particularly on the reproductive plantlets around the leaf's edge. In the laboratory it is very damaging and kills plants. The insect has been through at least three generations in the laboratory and host testing has commenced. We hope to have the insect in quarantine in Brisbane by June this year for the final phase of host testing. It will take a further 12 months before field releases might be possible.

### 161. Tarong North Power Station

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/3/00)—

With reference to Tarong North and the well recognised 3:1 multiplying effect on jobs when contracts are awarded to local (Australian) industry—

- (1) Was the fabricated steel contract awarded to local steel fabricators?
- (2) What other areas of supply were allocated to foreign owned companies?
- (3) What percentage of contracts were awarded to solely Australian owned companies?
- (4) Has the Beattie "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs" philosophy now become the "Foreign Jobs, Jobs, Jobs" philosophy?

**Mr McGRADY** (14/4/00):

(1) The multiple subcontracts for fabricated steel are yet to be awarded by the various consortium members.

(2) In the case of the Tarong North Project, a consortium comprising a mix of Australian and international firms won the Engineering Procurement and Construction Contract. The consortium members are Mitsui and Co. Ltd, Toshiba International Corporation Pty Ltd, IHI Engineering Australia Pty Ltd, and Pacific Power (International) Pty Ltd.

The consortium members will supply major equipment which they manufacture such as the turbine and sections of the boiler plant. The consortium has also listed other potential suppliers of various plant and equipment in Australia and many other countries.

(3) At this stage, no major subcontracts have been awarded for the Tarong North Project. I am advised that the consortium expects that the value of the subcontracts available to Australian companies could be more than half the value of the entire Engineering Procurement and Construction Contract.

(4) The Government is committed to doing everything it can to see that Queensland industry gets a fair go and Queenslanders do not miss out on job opportunities. To that end, the Government has recently released its Local Industry Policy, which backs up the Government's priorities of more jobs for Queenslanders, building Queensland's regions and skilling Queensland.

The key elements of the Local Industry Policy include:

A requirement for proponents to prepare Industry Participation Plans for Government-funded projects in excess of \$5 million and major projects where the State Government has provided a significant contribution;

The establishment of a Local Industry Taskforce which will be chaired by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and include key industry groups and unions. The Taskforce will drive the implementation of the policy;

All Government Owned Corporations will prepare industry participation plans for projects in excess of \$5 million.

#### 162. Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (15/3/00)—

With reference to Treasury's identification of one-off savings of \$21.7m in the budget of the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing in 1999-2000—

- (1) What percentage of the \$21.7m was identified as a saving in the Tourism, Racing and Liquor Licensing Divisions of the department?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the savings identified by Treasury and made in the individual divisions' budgets?

**Mrs ROSE** (14/4/00):

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Nil.

#### 163. Fishing Industry

**Mr TURNER** asked the Premier (15/3/00)—

With reference to Senator Hill who has introduced legislation into the Federal Parliament which effectively transfers management for Queensland's trawling industry to Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) by giving GBRMPA the power to veto the existing management plan and require trawlers to obtain GBRMPA permits on top of all the other licenses they require—

What action is his Government taking to keep Queensland fisheries under State control?

**Mr BEATTIE** (13/4/00): The Draft Plan introduced by Senator Hill would require commercial fishers to obtain a permit from the GBRMPA if Queensland does not have an accredited management plan in place.

Queensland formally objected to the proposed Draft Plan when it was raised at the Board of the

GBRMPA. However, despite Queensland's formal opposition, Senator Hill tabled the Draft Plan in the Senate.

On 10 November 1999, I established a Stakeholder Working Group to resolve outstanding issues on the future management of the East Coast Trawl Fishery. The GBRMPA was represented on the Working Group.

My Government endorsed the outcomes of the Working Group on 20 March 2000. The outcomes of the Stakeholder Working Group, when combined with the management measures already implemented by my Government, will implement all of the management measures that Senator Hill has requested to secure the sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef and East Coast Trawl Fishery.

Because my Government is delivering the outcomes requested by Senator Hill, he does not have any legitimate reason not to accredit Queensland's Management Plan. There is no legitimate reason for his permit scheme to be introduced. I have written to Senator Hill seeking a commitment from him to delay any commencement date for the Draft Plan to ensure sufficient time for the Queensland East Coast Trawl Management Plan to be legislated and accredited by the GBRMPA.

#### 164. Drug Courts Trial; Methadone Program

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

How many placements in the methadone program will be funded under the drug courts trial and at what approximate cost per placement and in what localities?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): A total of up to 300 offenders per year will be diverted into treatment programs during the trial of drug courts. It is estimated that approximately 40 per cent of drug court clients will be suitable for methadone maintenance therapy. It is not known how many of these clients would have sought methadone maintenance therapy even if they had not presented to the drug court. Drug court participants will be able to access existing methadone treatment programs in West Moreton, Logan-Beaudesert and the Gold Coast Health Service Districts.

#### 165. Drug Courts Trial; Drug Detoxification Unit

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

Where is the new drug detoxification unit to be established by Queensland Health to assist with the drug courts trial, how many beds will be funded, what is the cost of the unit and when will it be up and running?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): Drug court offenders who are remanded in custody prior to receiving an Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Order (IDRO) will be detoxified in custody if required. Those drug court offenders remanded on bail requiring detoxification will be referred to existing Queensland Health and non-Government residential and non-residential detoxification services.



The cost of a detoxification episode varies considerably depending on setting and the intensity of the episode.

The number of offenders in the trial who will be remanded on bail and require detoxification has not yet been determined.

#### **166. Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, Rockhampton Base Hospital**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

- (1) Is the ENT specialist at Rockhampton hospital leaving; if so, will this position be filled and when will it be advertised?
- (2) Have the majority of ENT specialist appointments been cancelled?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00):

(1) The visiting ENT specialist at Rockhampton Hospital has resigned, due to pressure of his private practice. An advertisement seeking to replace him has been submitted and should appear in the press before the end of March.

(2) Because the ENT specialist wishes to concentrate on patients already on the surgical waiting list prior to his resignation date, clinic time has been reassigned to operating theatre time. This has necessitated the cancellation of all new outpatient appointments. However, these patients will now be eligible for assistance for referral elsewhere under the Patient Transfer Subsidy Scheme.

#### **167. Drug Courts Trial; Drug Rehabilitation and Detoxification Services**

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

How much does the Health Department have to spend for drug rehabilitation and detoxification services for the drug courts trial over the length of the trial?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): Queensland Health has received funding for the provision of assessment, detoxification, treatment and rehabilitation services to fulfil its obligations under the drug courts diversion trial.

#### **168. Drug and Alcohol Strategy**

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

What measurable and accountable targets has she set for the Government's drug and alcohol strategy?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): As a reflection of its commitment to an integrated national approach to reducing the harms associated with the inappropriate use of drugs, the Queensland Government is presently developing a Queensland Drug Strategic Framework. This Framework builds upon the National Drug Strategic Framework 1998/99-2002/03 which is the nationally agreed policy framework which sets the broad parameters of drug policy in Australia. The National Framework articulates an agreed method of cooperation and the principles and objectives that

the jurisdictional partners agree to implement throughout their individual and collective efforts.

The draft Queensland Framework will define the principles, priorities and structures by which the Queensland Government will achieve its aim of implementing a cooperative and comprehensive approach to support community groups and the Government tackle the complex issues surrounding harmful drug use and associated problems.

Sitting beneath the Queensland Drug Strategic Framework will be a set of specific Action Plans. These individual Queensland Action Plans will be at a much more program implementation level and will detail clearly defined objectives, actions, targets, time frames and responsibilities. Each Plan will have defined performance measures which will ensure the accountability of the Government's intent.

Development of the Action Plans will commence once the national Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Action Plans are completed later this year.

#### **169. Clermont Hospital, Director of Nursing**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

With reference to the dismissal from duty of the Director of Nursing, Clermont Hospital—

- (1) Were all guidelines adhered to in respect of the Queensland Health Code of Conduct, natural justice and procedural fairness?
- (2) Were all guidelines adhered to in respect of the investigation of the report handed down?
- (3) Why were staff working at the time of the dismissal not called to give a statement during the hearings and investigations?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): The Director of Nursing continues to be suspended from duty on full pay following allegations of a serious patient related incident.

The investigation was conducted in accordance with the Queensland Health Code of Conduct, natural justice and procedural fairness.

#### **170. Gold Coast Hospital, Budget for Prostheses**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

Is the prosthetic budget at the Gold Coast Hospital being rationalised and reviewed and is there no money to pay for prosthesis until 2000-2001?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): The prosthetic budget at Gold Coast Hospital is reviewed regularly in accordance with elective surgery targets and budgets.

Currently, there are 29 patients booked to have orthopaedic prosthesis implants at the Gold Coast Hospital between March and July 2000.

#### **171. Gympie Hospital, Water Backflow**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

With reference to the airing of the current affairs program in 1999 which outlined the Government's failure to act on recommendations to audit State hospitals for potentially lethal backflow hazards and recommendations to rectify these hazards in a timeframe recommended within the Government commissioned report "Protecting Your Drinking Water"—

Will she outline how much money since May 1999 was spent to rectify backflow hazards at Gympie hospital and was this funded out of the existing district budget?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): Development of a 'risk based approach' was the only recommendation for Queensland Health arising from the Public Works Committee report No. 61, 30 November 1999, Public Sector Backflow Prevention Programs.

Despite the irresponsible scaremongering by the Opposition, the Committee found overall, backflow presents a minimal risk to public health, it is easily prevented and current public sector programs are an appropriate and proper management response.

For Queensland Health, the Committee noted:

the lack of evidence that serious health problems have occurred as a result of backflow incidents

evidence that there has been no reported incident of backflow in a Queensland Health facility. (This continues to be the case.)

a staged risk management approach is an appropriate strategy to address backflow prevention

Queensland Health's asset management program is an effective means of managing backflow risks within its facilities.

Queensland Health subsequently, in association with Project Services, Department of Public Works, developed a customised risk management strategy to be an integral part of its maintenance management framework.

This strategy has been successfully trialled and is currently being implemented in all Health Service Districts.

Work on improvements at Gympie Hospital was funded through Queensland Health's Capital Works Program.

### 172. Health Districts, Water Backflow

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

Which health districts have received assistance from corporate office to fund backflow audit and rectification work to protect drinking water in their hospitals and other facilities?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): Development of a 'risk based approach' was the only recommendation for Queensland Health arising from the Public Works Committee report No. 61, 30 November 1999, Public Sector Backflow Prevention Programs.

Despite the irresponsible scaremongering by the Opposition, the Committee found overall, backflow presents a minimal risk to public health, it is easily

prevented and current public sector programs are an appropriate and proper management response.

For Queensland Health, the Committee noted:

the lack of evidence that serious health problems have occurred as a result of backflow incidents

evidence that there has been no reported incident of backflow in a Queensland Health facility. (This continues to be the case.)

a staged risk management approach is an appropriate strategy to address backflow prevention

Queensland Health's asset management program is an effective means of managing backflow risks within its facilities.

Queensland Health subsequently, in association with Project Services, Department of Public Works, developed a customised risk management strategy to be an integral part of its maintenance management framework.

This strategy has been successfully trialled and is currently being implemented in all Health Service Districts.

### 173. Health Districts, Water Backflow

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

How much has each health district budgeted for backflow rectification work in 1999-2000 and what was the cost of identified work to be undertaken to complete rectification after 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): Development of a 'risk based approach' was the only recommendation for Queensland Health arising from the Public Works Committee report No. 61, 30 November 1999, Public Sector Backflow Prevention Programs.

Despite the irresponsible scaremongering by the Opposition, the Committee found overall, backflow presents a minimal risk to public health, it is easily prevented and current public sector programs are an appropriate and proper management response.

For Queensland Health, the Committee noted:

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evidence that there has been no reported incident of backflow in a Queensland Health facility. (This continues to be the case.)

a staged risk management approach is an appropriate strategy to address backflow prevention

Queensland Health's asset management program is an effective means of managing backflow risks within its facilities.

Queensland Health subsequently, in association with Project Services, Department of Public Works, developed a customised risk management strategy to be an integral part of its maintenance management framework.

This strategy has been successfully trialled and is currently being implemented in all Health Service Districts.

All redevelopments are being built in accordance with backflow prevention system standards of the Sewerage and Water Supply Act 1949. The associated costs are met from within the capital works budgets.

No specific budgets for backflow rectification after 1999/2000 have been advised. It is foreshadowed that backflow prevention system rectification and servicing will be included in conventional facility maintenance budgets.

#### 174. Health Districts, Water Backflow

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

Will she give her guarantee that each of the State's health districts have completed an audit of facilities for backflow hazards and will she advise the Parliament when these audits were completed for each of the districts?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): Development of a 'risk based approach' was the only recommendation for Queensland Health arising from the Public Works Committee report No. 61, 30 November 1999, Public Sector Backflow Prevention Programs.

Despite the irresponsible scaremongering by the Opposition, the Committee found overall, backflow presents a minimal risk to public health, it is easily prevented and current public sector programs are an appropriate and proper management response.

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Queensland Health subsequently, in association with Project Services, Department of Public Works, developed a customised risk management strategy to be an integral part of its maintenance management framework.

This strategy has been successfully trialled and is currently being implemented in all Health Service Districts.

#### 175. Townsville Hospital, Waiting List

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

With reference to a Cardwell woman who has sought cardiac services through Townsville Hospital (correspondence sent to the Health Minister today), who initially was given a 14 September appointment for an echocardiogram but who has now had this cancelled due to "critical staff shortages"—

How many people are waiting for these and other cardiac services at Townsville and what is the Government doing to address these staff shortages?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): Cardiac investigations are undertaken by highly trained health professionals. Unfortunately, it is difficult to fill these positions outside the metropolitan area. However, the District is actively recruiting cardiac technicians and it is hoped that appointments can be made within a month.

#### 176. Drug Courts Trial, Drug Detoxification Unit

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

How many detoxification beds will be supplied directly by Queensland Health in the drug courts trial?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): The majority of detoxification beds will be provided by non-Government service providers.

#### 177. Drug Courts Trial; Drug Rehabilitation and Detoxification Services

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

With reference to the drug court trial—

Will she outline which organisations will receive funding from the Health Department for (a) providing detoxification and rehabilitation treatment, (b) the mix of treatment options, (c) the approximate throughput through these various options and (d) the performance standards of providers?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00):

(a) Negotiations have been undertaken with a number of agencies for dedicated placements in their rehabilitation programs. These are yet to be finalised.

(b) The mix of treatment will reflect the needs of participants.

(c) At this stage, it is not known precisely the proportion of clients entering the different treatment options available.

(d) The performance standards will be developed as part of a Service Agreement with the relevant agencies when finalised.

#### 178. Drug Courts Trial; Corrective Services Department and Health Department

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

With reference to the drug courts trial and as the Government has stated that the Corrective Services Department will provide the offender's program planning and supervision and as a component of the order, some of the treatment including substance abuse educational programs, ending offending programs and substance abuse relapse prevention programs—

As this could lead to some cross-over between the Health Department funded delivery of programs and the Corrective Services Department, will she explain

how this potential duplication will be worked out and what the funding split is between the departments?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): There is minimal overlap between Corrective Services Department programs and Queensland Health treatment programs. The Corrective Services Department programs are primarily offender specific programs. Queensland Health's programs do not generally target offenders. Collaboration between staff of both Departments will ensure there is no duplication of approaches.

### 179. Youth Crime Prevention Projects; Youth Justice Services

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (15/3/00)—

With reference to funding by her department of youth crime prevention projects in a number of electorates throughout the State and the budgeting for a number of pilots of Youth Justice Services in a number of locations—

- (1) How many of these projects and pilots are for Labor held electorates?
- (2) How many are to be conducted in electorates held by non-Labor Members of this Parliament?

**Ms BLIGH** (14/4/00):

(1) Ten of the funded youth crime prevention projects are based in Labor held electorates. Four projects only provide services to clients within those electorates and six projects service clients in other electorates not held by Labor members. Two of the funded projects operate on a Statewide basis.

Two of the pilot Youth Justice Services, the catchments of which follow local government boundaries, are based in Labor held electorates. The Ipswich Area Youth Justice Service based in the Ipswich CBD, however, also services all or part of the electorates of Bundamba, Crows Nest, Inala, Ipswich West, Lockyer and Moggill.

The Logan Area Youth Justice Service based at Woodridge also services the Beaudesert and Logan electorates.

(2) Nine of the funded youth crime prevention projects are situated in electorates held by non-Labor Members of this Parliament. Two of these projects also service other electorates. The third pilot, the Townsville Area Youth Justice Service based at Thuringowa also services all or part of the electorates of Burdekin, Charters Towers, Hinchinbrook and Townsville.

### 180. Light Rail Project

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/3/00)—

With reference to recent media comments by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane attempting to distance himself from the Beattie Government Light Rail Project—

- (1) Does the Government have the support of the Brisbane City Council for the use of its roads for the light rail network?

(2) Will there be any restriction upon the movement of private passenger vehicles in Roma Street as the result of the Light Rail Project?

(3) Will he give an assurance that the light rail cars and associated infrastructure will be made by Queensland workers?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (17/4/00):

(1) Brisbane City Council Civic Cabinet, by letter dated 26 February 1999, supported the development of the light rail system for Brisbane's inner city. Brisbane City Council has been closely involved in the planning of the Brisbane Light Rail Project.

(2) Planning for the final layout of Roma Street incorporating the Inner Northern Busway, the Brisbane Light Rail Project and general traffic lanes is currently being finalised. Full traffic impacts will not be known until that planning is finalised but these impacts will be minimised.

(3) As the member should be aware under the conditions of the Commonwealth's Centenary of Federation funding established by his Federal Coalition counterparts, current policies relating to competitive neutrality in tendering must be complied with. These policies prohibit discriminating between bids on the basis of which State work may be carried out in.

### 181. Community Housing Program

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (15/3/00)—

With reference to the community housing units nearing completion at Salisbury—

(1) Do the dwellings comply with Local Government zoning and town planning requirements for its Salisbury location?

(2) Does his Community Housing Program ensure that State Government funded housing projects gain approval from the Local Government Authority?

(3) Does his Public Housing Program ensure that State Government funded housing projects gain approval from the Local Government Authority?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (14/4/00): You should be aware that Schedule 8 Part 3 Clause 12 of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 does not bind the Department of Housing. The Department will not be returning to the days of the Coalition with inappropriate high-density developments built in total arrogance of any local authority requirements.

This most recent attack by yourself and your Liberal Party Council colleagues clearly amplifies the Liberal Party philosophy of attacking any form of crisis accommodation being located in residential areas.

### 182. Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing, Sport and Recreation Division

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (15/3/00)—

With reference to Treasury's identification of one-off savings of \$21.7m in the budget of the former

Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing in 1999-2000—

- (1) What percentage of the \$21.7m was identified as a saving in the Sport and Recreation Division of the department?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the savings identified by Treasury and made in that division's budget?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (12/4/00):

- (1) 82%
- (2) The breakdown of the \$17.7m identified by Treasury in respect of the Sport and Recreation Division's budget is as follows—

\$7.7m was a reallocation of funding within the Sport and Recreation Division to the following projects: Malanda Stadium (\$4m); Royal Lifesaving Society (\$0.100m); and the Ballymore redevelopment (\$3.6m); and

\$10m which was part of an initial (special) funding allocation for the Ballymore redevelopment was identified as a saving, as it was not envisaged that this funding would be required at that time.

### 183. Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (15/3/00)—

With reference to estimates provided by the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing in July 1999 that the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund had the potential to attract \$65m from gaming machine revenue in 1999-2000—

- (1) What is the mid-year forecast of revenue to this fund?
- (2) What is the projected increase in revenue to this fund compared with 1998-99 receipts?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (12/4/00): It appears that the member has misinterpreted the budget papers as the \$65m referred to actually relates to total funding for the Sport and Recreation Industry Development Output (SRBF). This output is one of three outputs funded in 1999-2000 in part from the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund.

In terms of the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund (SRBF)—

- (1) The mid-year revenue forecast for the SRBF has increased slightly by \$0.250m primarily as a consequence of increases in Commonwealth Contributions to the Elite Athlete Development Program.
- (2) Revenue from gaming machines provided to the SRBF in 1999-2000 has increased by \$50,000 over 1998-99 receipts.

### 184. Queensland Events Corporation

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Premier (15/3/00)—  
With reference to Treasury's identification of one-off savings of \$21.7m in the budget of the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing in 1999-2000—

- (1) What percentage of the \$21.7m was identified as a saving in the budget of the Queensland Events Corporation (QEC)?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the savings identified by Treasury and made in the QEC budget?

**Mr BEATTIE** (13/4/00):

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Nil.

### 185. Fire Services, Accounts for Hoax Calls

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (15/3/00)—

With reference to a report in The Daily Mercury on 7 March concerning the issuing of accounts to the parents of three children accused of making hoax calls to the fire service and to his statements in that report and on ABC Radio on 10 March—

- (1) Were accounts sent to the parents of those three children within two days of the alleged hoax incidents; if so, why were they sent before police investigations were completed?
- (2) Was this action in line with Government policy and on how many previous occasions has this occurred in 1999-2000?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (13/4/00):

(1) I have been advised by the Chief Commissioner of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority that no accounts have been sent to the parents of the children accused of making these hoax calls. The matter is being investigated by the Queensland Police Service.

(2) Persons maliciously causing false alarms may be charged for the cost of attendance by the QFRA, under the QFRA Code of Practice 1009, Charging of Attendance at incidents, paragraphs 3.2.3 and 3.2.4.

Further, it is an offence under the Fire and Rescue Authority Act 1990 to wilfully give false alarm of fire, and persons may be charged with this offence by the Queensland Police Service.

No invoices have been issued by the QFRA to persons allegedly making hoax calls in any region during the 1999/2000 year.

### 186. Gold Coast-Brisbane Passenger Transport, Subsidy

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Treasurer (15/3/00)—  
With reference to advice from National Competition Council Chairman Graham Samuel, voiced at the Australian Bus and Coach Association Conference in Melbourne on 13 March that the Queensland Government should subsidise all passengers on the Coachtrans bus service between the Gold Coast and Brisbane to meet its national competition policy obligations—

- (1) What is the position of the Government on this question?
- (2) Will the Government meet the June deadline to decide on the subsidy issue?
- (3) Is the Government able to meet the National Competition Council requirement that it provide a "competitively neutral" framework for

Queensland Rail, Coachtrans and any other operator in the Gold Coast to Brisbane passenger transport market?

**Mr HAMILL** (13/4/00): With regard to Mr Baumann's specific questions, the answers are as follows:

- (1) The Government continues to consider policy issues associated with payment of subsidies for passenger transport.
- (2) The Queensland Government, rather than the National Competition Council, will determine the public interest in relation to public transport subsidies.
- (3) The Queensland Government will determine the public interest in relation to an appropriate CSO framework. It is not a matter for the National Competition Council.

#### **187. Rockhampton-Bundaberg Rail Service, Miriam Vale Station**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/3/00)—

With reference to the Rockhampton to Bundaberg train, scheduled for Friday nights and to constant difficulties and frustration being experienced by parents from Miriam Vale and Agnes Waters area in having their children alight this train service at Miriam Vale, thus saving parents a trip to either Gladstone or Bundaberg—

- (1) As these parents and private schools in Rockhampton and Yeppoon, are continually encountering difficulties when booking tickets for a Miriam Vale stop on a Friday night, will Queensland Rail give consideration to allowing sufficient time in its schedule for this stop when required?
- (2) Given that Miriam Vale does not have its own senior high school and considering the increasing needs of this fastest-growing shire in Queensland, could additional time at Miriam Vale Station be factored in to Queensland Rail's scheduled timetable (as a stop for alighting passengers only) so that ongoing communication problems over this issue can be resolved?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (17/4/00):

- (1) The Spirit of the Tropics service is the long distance Traveltrain which travels between Brisbane and Townsville. It travels on its return journey through the Mount Larcom and Miriam Vale stations on Tuesday and Friday nights, departing at 9.11pm and 10.56pm respectively.

Arrangements have been made so that the Spirit of the Tropics will stop at Miriam Vale and Mount Larcom. The passenger service offered at these stops will be a pick-up and set-down service, similar to that offered by the Tilt Trains.

- (2) Bookings for this additional service are essential and can be made on the day of travel and no more than 14 days in advance. The reason for this restriction is that the Spirit of the Tropics, Sunlander and The Queenslander services, are dedicated

mainly for passengers who are travelling from Brisbane and to stations beyond Rockhampton.

#### **188. Gold Coast Convention Centre; Conrad Jupiters**

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Premier (15/3/00)—

- (1) When can the people of the Gold Coast expect the Beattie Government to commence construction of the convention centre that has been promised by the ALP Government?
- (2) Is it correct that Conrad Jupiters are ready to begin construction immediately upon receipt of Government funding for this much needed project?

**Mr BEATTIE** (13/4/00):

(1) Commencement of the construction of the Gold Coast Convention Centre is dependent on suitable arrangements being negotiated between my Government and the preferred developer and the completion of an Environmental Impact Study including obtaining all necessary Government and Gold Coast City Council approvals. At this stage, Environmental Impact Statement and Gold Coast City Council approvals are expected to be finalised by late 2000, with construction expected to commence in early 2001 and conclude by late 2002.

(2) In late 1999, my Government appointed Jupiters Limited as the preferred developer for the proposed Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. This appointment entitles Jupiters Limited to negotiate on an exclusive basis with my Government in relation to its proposal. Substantial negotiations are required to address a number of matters, including the commercial arrangements and the amount of Government support required. My Government shall only award Jupiters Limited the development rights if satisfactory arrangements can be negotiated. These negotiations are proceeding and are expected to be concluded in April 2000.

The Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre project will go through the normal approval processes as set out in the Integrated Development Assessment Scheme provisions of the Integrated Planning Act 1997, and will be subject to the approval of the Gold Coast City Council. In addition, the project will be subject to a process of full and open public consultation by undertaking a comprehensive Environmental Impact Study. It will be up to the Gold Coast City Council to approve the project after the conclusion of the Environmental Impact Study.

#### **189. TAFE Teachers; Bannikoff Report**

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/3/00)—

- (1) At 1 March, what progress had been made towards achievement of the Bannikoff Report recommendation that the ratio of teaching staff to non-teaching staff in TAFE be adjusted to 60:40?
- (2) As at 1999-2000 Estimates hearings he indicated that some institutes had already

achieved that 60:40 goal, will he name those institutes which had achieved that goal by 1 March?

**Mr BRADY** (14/4/00):

(1) DETIR and TAFE Queensland have adopted the national standard used by the National Centre of Vocational Educational Research (NCVER) which measures the ratio between delivery and overheads as opposed to teaching and non-teaching staff. I am advised that the ratio of delivery costs to non-delivery costs now exceeds 60% across the system.

(2) Current figures show that Brisbane, Central Queensland, Cooloola Sunshine, Gold Coast, Logan, Moreton, North Point, Southbank, Southern Queensland, The Bremer, Tropical North Queensland and Yeronga Institutes of TAFE have achieved the 60:40 goal as defined in (1).

#### 190. Evans Deakin, Job Losses

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Premier (15/3/00)—

With reference to the push by him for "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs"—

What assistance and support has been given to (for example) Evans Deakin workers who will lose their jobs despite the company operating at a commercially acceptable level in Queensland?

**Mr BEATTIE** (13/4/00): The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations is holding discussions with the Executive of Evans Deakin Industries Engineering Division and with the recruitment firm Morgan and Banks, to determine the level of assistance required.

The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations will investigate whether skills enhancement training could assist those workers who are to be retrenched from the Sherwood and Colmslie facilities.

#### 191. Hospitals and Nursing Homes, Meals

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

What evaluation has the Queensland Health Department undertaken regarding the nutritional value of meals given to aged patients in the State's hospitals and State nursing homes?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): In July 1998, Queensland Health published standards for the delivery of food services. Among other things, these standards state that all facilities must have a:

"... Healthy Eating Policy which embraces the broad concept of healthy eating, where not only nutritional issues are considered, but also psychosocial, environmental, functionality of food and client perceptions and expectations of food and health."

The standards also state that the facility's Healthy Eating Policy must be based on the nutrition-related references in National Standards.

Frozen food products on Standing Offer Arrangements were selected by an expert group of

Queensland Health dietitians and food services staff on the basis of a range of criteria including:

nutritional analysis

organoleptic qualities (taste, texture, aroma, presentation).

Queensland Health dietitians regularly review menus and the dietary requirements of patients. Where appropriate, diet interventions which may include texture modifications and nutritional supplements are provided to patients on an individual needs basis.

#### 192. Kilcoy Resident, Facial Surgery

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (15/3/00)—

With reference to the case of a Kilcoy man (about whom she has received correspondence) who has been waiting for facial surgery since August 1999 to allow him to eat solids again and who in the meantime has a peg in his stomach—

When will this man receive an appointment for surgery which Royal Brisbane Hospital has been unable to give him due to their cutback in services?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/4/00): This patient who suffered a wound to his face in August of 1999 has very complex medical problems. The complexity of his case has meant ophthalmologists (eye surgeons), plastic surgeons, ear nose and throat surgeons and maxillo-facial surgeons have been involved in his care. The patient attended an outpatient appointment on 22 March 2000. A further appointment has been scheduled for 12 April 2000.

The scheduling of his surgery is a clinical decision and requires the coordination of several specialists due to the complexity of his surgery.

#### 193. Trade Commissioners, Remuneration Package

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Premier (16/3/00)—

With reference to the recent appointment of Messrs Gibbs and Ahern and Mrs Atkinson as Trade Commissioners—

- (1) What is the total value of the remuneration package for each of these commissioners (listed by name of commissioner)?
- (2) What are the individual components (eg type of car, whether or not a housekeeper is employed, value of accommodation allowance, etc) of the remuneration package for each of these commissioners (listed by commissioner)?
- (3) What is the dollar value for each component detailed in (2) (listed by commissioner)?
- (4) What is the travel budget for each commissioner (listed by commissioner)?
- (5) How many days per year is each commissioner projected to spend overseas (listed by commissioner)?
- (6) What percentage of each commissioners' remunerated time is expected to be devoted to trade-related duties for the Queensland Government?

**Mr BEATTIE (17/4/00):**

(1) Queensland Government Commissioner Robert Gibbs receives a remuneration package worth \$595 less than the package paid to his predecessor John Kenny who was appointed by the Borbidge Government. The newly created positions of Special Representatives for Queensland—Africa, Middle East and India, Michael Ahern, and Special Representatives for Queensland—South East Asia, Sallyanne Atkinson, receive remuneration packages worth \$70,000 and \$90,000 respectively.

(2) See Attachment One.

(3) See Attachment One.

(4) Travel costs for each officer in 1999/2000 will be authorised by the Director-General of the Department of State Development and Trade based on business requirements and the approval of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade of any specific travel proposals.

(5) The amount of time that each Commissioner is to spend overseas will be based on a business case that must be approved by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade.

(6) The majority of each Commissioner's remunerated time is expected to be devoted to trade related duties for my Government.

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

**194. Chinchilla State School**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (16/3/00)—

With reference to the lack of sufficient playground at the Chinchilla State School and to his receiving a deputation from the Chinchilla Council and Chamber of Commerce urging the State Government to construct a new school on land already owned by Education Queensland—

Now that the construction of the Kogan Creek Power Station seems assured bringing an increase in population in Chinchilla, which will further crowd an overcrowded playground, will he now progress this initiative by making funding arrangements that will enable the construction of the new school to coincide with the development of the power station and the coal mine?

**Mr ELDER (17/4/00):** If the Kogan Creek Power Station Project obtains all the necessary approvals, the workforce during the 3 year construction phase is expected to peak at 1,200 and the operational workforce is estimated to be 200. Of the total expected 1,200 peak workforce, no more than 100 will be employed by the project for a duration of 12 months or more. Of these 100 employees, no more than 40 families are expected to relocate to Chinchilla during the construction phase of the project. I am advised that Education Queensland is satisfied that Chinchilla State School has the capacity to accommodate this potential increase in student numbers but has identified Brigalow State School as being materially affected

by this development. Consequently discussions were undertaken regarding the likely impacts and mitigation strategies developed.

Consolidated Electric Power Asia (CEPA) has consulted with Education Queensland extensively throughout the IAS process and has developed an enhancement package for the Brigalow State School. This school is located on the Warrego highway at the intersection of Banana Bridge Road which will carry the construction traffic for the project. A number of impacts were identified including: noise, dust, the bus pick-up and drop-off zone and the car park area, all of which will impact directly on the school and the Principal's residence.

Education Queensland and the Brigalow State School community agree with the mitigation strategies suggested and an agreement with the proponent is currently being developed.

On conclusion of the consultation process it was clear that there is a great deal of support for this project amongst the local people. Issues raised to date are being addressed and the proponent has made a commitment to continue to consult with the community throughout the life of the project.

**195. Riding Schools Inquiry; Complete Riding School**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/3/00)—

With reference to the report of board of inquiry established by the Queensland Government to consider certain matters relating to riding schools—

- (1) If the inquiry was based on a number of incidents which had occurred throughout the riding school industry as stated by him and his chosen commissioner, why then was the incident at the Complete Riding School the only incident singled out for this inquiry?
- (2) What are the further implications of the findings of the inquiry and will it result in the establishment of a standard code of practice and accreditation for instructors and owners of riding schools?

**Mr BRADY (17/4/00):**

(1) Section 129 of the Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 provides that the Minister may establish a board of inquiry about any workplace incident by gazette notice. I established the Board of Inquiry based on the incident involving Benjamin Kendell at the Complete Riding School. Although the Board of Inquiry was not based on any other incidents, in establishing the Inquiry I considered evidence that indicated that horse riding school accidents often involved children. The Inquiry was conducted in two parts: firstly to examine the cause of the incident involving Benjamin Kendell, and secondly to consider measures to reduce the risk of injuries at horse riding schools.

As such the terms of reference for the Board of Inquiry were to:

1. Establish the cause of the incident that led to the injury of Benjamin Kendell at the Complete Riding School on 19 April 1997.



2. Make recommendations on measures to reduce the risk of injuries to clients occurring at riding schools.
3. Submit a written report to the Minister of the Board's findings.

(2) In the report of the Board of Inquiry, Commissioner Bloomfield recommended that an Industry Reference Group be established. I have established the Group under the following terms of reference.

1. To scope appropriate content for standards and guidelines for the health and safety of operators, workers and clients of:

horse riding schools;  
trail riding establishments; and  
horse hiring establishments.

In considering standards and guidelines for the industry, the reference group will have regard to:

Risk assessment checklists allowing appropriate controls to be implemented  
Appropriate safety gear  
Competence of instructors  
Supervision of riders  
Minimum health and safety standards for riding equipment.

2. To identify appropriate contractual agreements between clients and horse riding schools which take into account: plain language, obligations of the school, the noting of the inherent dangers of horse riding and the obligations of the client to observe health and safety procedures.
3. To identify measures that would advance the adoption of a voluntary accreditation scheme for horse riding schools, trail riding and horse hiring establishments.

I will receive recommendations from the Industry Reference Group which I will then release for public comment. This process will lead to improved health and safety standards in the horse riding industry.

#### 196. Maryborough Housing Action Group

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Premier (16/3/00)—

With reference to a recent news report on Channel 7 Maryborough on 10 March in which the Mayor of Maryborough and other Labor Party members were photographed milling around the area of, and photographed entering and leaving the office of, the Maryborough Housing Action Group and as prominent election advertising was displayed on vehicles associated with these persons—

- (1) Is he aware that the office of the Maryborough Housing Action Group was being blatantly used for election purposes?
- (2) Is he aware that the functions of the Maryborough Housing Action Group are subsidised by way of Government grant and the purpose of Maryborough Housing Action Group is to provide emergency and crisis accommodation to people in need?

- (3) Is he aware that the Mayor of Maryborough, Allan Brown, has admitted to the use of the facilities of that office?

- (4) Is he aware that a staff member of Maryborough Housing Action Group has produced election material for distribution whereby on that documentation that worker has stated openly in that documentation that Maryborough Housing Action Group supports her election campaign?

- (5) Is he aware that the office phone number and the office mobile phone number and the office fax number of Maryborough Housing Action Group are advertised on that worker's election material as the contact points for her campaign?

- (6) Why is the Maryborough Housing Action Group office used as an official election office for the Labor Party when Government grants, gaming fund grants and offices leased at Government expense are provided supposedly for assisting all sections of the community in crisis needs including hostels, houses and support?

**Mr BEATTIE** (17/4/00): The Maryborough Housing Action Group is an autonomous, incorporated community organisation, and receives funding both from the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and the Department of Housing. The Maryborough Housing Action Group has advised that community groups are welcome to use its training and meeting facilities when not in use for core business.

#### 197. Fuel Inspections

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (16/3/00)—

With reference to recent allegations being made in regard to fuel being diluted and adulterated, both diesel and petrol—

Have any inspections been made in the area of Leichhardt, Brassall, Fernvale and Lowood and how many complaints have been received?

**Ms SPENCE** (17/4/00): I am pleased to report that trade measurement officers in the Office of Fair Trading have visited fuel outlets in the Ipswich area and obtained fuel samples for analysis. The sampling visits commenced on Sunday 5 March in Fernvale and continued throughout the area.

A total of 37 fuel samples were collected from the 15 fuel outlets visited. Of the 32 samples that have been analysed so far only 2 have been identified as being suspect, however these are still within what is considered to be acceptable quality limits.

To date there have been 6 inquiries or complaints known to involve fuel outlets located in the Ipswich area. There have been 37 complaints or inquiries about this issue throughout Queensland.

#### 198. Vegetation Management Legislation, Notification of Endangered Ecosystems

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (16/3/00)—

With reference to the Vegetation Management Act—

- (1) When is his department going to notify individual land owners that their freehold land contains endangered ecosystems?
- (2) What action has his department undertaken to relieve the concerns and alarm that has been caused by the inaccurate maps used at discussion forums?
- (3) When will up to date aerial photographs be taken to reassess endangered areas?
- (4) Does he expect, with new maps, that the area of endangered ecosystems could change?

**Mr WELFORD** (14/4/00):

(1) Landholders can inspect maps showing endangered regional ecosystems at any district office of my Department of Natural Resources. Landholders will also be consulted during the development of regional vegetation management plans.

(2) Procedures are in place to document errors on vegetation maps and to update the maps as required. Landholders with information about errors should contact their nearest district office of my Department of Natural Resources. The regional planning process, which my Department is about to commence, is designed specifically to involve landholders in verifying the maps at individual property level.

(3) My Department of Natural Resources uses satellite imagery collected every two years as a basis for identifying the location of remnant vegetation. The latest imagery was collected in 1999 and is currently being processed for updating the remnant vegetation maps. Detailed information on vegetation types and regional ecosystems is also obtained through additional fieldwork by staff from the Queensland Herbarium.

(4) Yes. In addition to correction of errors, new maps will show the extent to which ongoing clearing has further reduced the area of endangered regional ecosystems. Updated information may also show where excessive clearing has caused additional regional ecosystems to move to the endangered category or become extinct.

### **199. Termite Control; 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 (16/3/00)—

With reference to so-called environmentally friendly termite control methods and as Queensland has experienced an increase in termite infestation in dwellings, builders are no longer permitted to use tried and tested products, but must use the new products and as these new products are not effective and the Building Services Authority (BSA) is not responding to consumer complaints—

- (1) When will she act to ensure that the BSA deals with consumer complaints quickly?
- (2) When will she act to ensure that long term effective termite control is introduced?

**Ms SPENCE** (17/4/00):

1. In the 1998/99 financial year, the BSA was able to respond to 50% of the 5221 disputes it received within 21 days. It was also able to finalise 50% of the disputes within 65 days. 78% of consumers found the response times to be acceptable and 84% of contractors found the finalisation times to be acceptable. Since 1 July 1995, 22,974 dispute notifications have been received by BSA. Only 360 or 1.6% have related to termite infestation.

2. Organochlorides were banned Australia-wide in 1995 following major public health concerns and concerns about the loss of export meat markets, and have been replaced by a number of other physical and chemical barrier methods.

The Building Code of Australia (BCA) is a nationally developed document for the technical standards required for building work. Termite management systems referred to by the BCA provide our community with long term effective solutions to minimise attack on our buildings by subterranean termites, but they also depend upon diligence, inspections and when necessary, re-treatment to ensure barriers are maintained.

BSA in concert with other industry stakeholders has embarked upon a statewide awareness campaign to ensure consumers are properly informed of their obligations and responsibilities in protecting their properties.

A Termite Working Party comprising representatives from all industry and Government stakeholder groups has also been formed to advise on the development of strategies to minimise the risk of termite infestation including:

- (a) Strengthening the occupational and contractor licensing requirements for pest control operators engaged in termite treatment;
- (b) Heightening community awareness of the termite issue and the means available of reducing the risk of infestation;
- (c) Ensuring compliance with standards and regulation; and
- (d) Promoting to Standards Australia, the expedited development of the new standard on termite control.

I urge consumers to have properly licensed pest control operators to inspect their buildings so that the potential disastrous consequence of termite infestation and damage can be avoided.

### **200. Mr W. Blyth, Townsville Land Purchase**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (16/3/00)—

Why was a block of land allowed to be purchased on the strength of the 50 year flood plan approved by the Thuringowa Council in 1986 by a man by the name of Warren Blyth of Lot 6 Bentley Drive, Nome, Townsville who has witnessed his home flooded eight times in ten years and while during this time he has not received council approval for his house?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (12/4/00): Approval for the subdivision of land is the responsibility of Local

Governments. With respect to Mr Blyth's inability to gain final approval for his house, I understand this matter has been before the Queensland Building Tribunal and is currently subject to appeal.

### 201. Recirculating Aquaculture Industry

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (16/3/00)—

With reference to failure of the recirculating aquaculture industry and to (a) statistics produced by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries-Fisheries (QDPI) in 1997-98 which stated that there were 37 aquaculture projects using recirculating technology and closer examination of those statistics revealed that the average annual income of each farm was under \$2,000 and the percentage of fingerlings introduced which reach sale size and age was 18 per cent, and despite these QDPI statistics, a senior fisheries officer stated that the recirculating industry was going well and argued that a research grant for the University of Queensland and a Hervey Bay grower to continue their research into bacterial filters and water quality was unnecessary and (b) a recent private survey which has revealed that there were very few, if any, recirculating systems still in production and that all such systems were experiencing severe problems and as recirculating systems are the most environmentally friendly methodology and as a successful system, once evolved, has great export potential from the "Smart State" to countries such as China which already have huge environmental problems—

Will he now conduct a thorough survey of the recirculating aquaculture industry, and then commit to a thorough research program into the three major problems of the industry—the system technology, the quality of feed and bacterial diseases?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (17/4/00): No. I am advised the Department of Primary Industries' (DPI) production return statistics show that the number of aquaculture farms using recirculation technologies is continuing to increase, from thirty farms in 1996/97, to 58 farms in 1997/98, to 75 farms in 1998/99. Of the 75 farms, 31 marketed product in 1998/99.

DPI provides the aquaculture industry with fish health services through the Oonoonba Veterinary Laboratory in Townsville and the Yeerongpilly Veterinary Laboratory in Brisbane. Officers of these Laboratories have previously and will continue to assist recirculation farmers with disease diagnosis and fish health services.

Intending purchasers of recirculation systems who contact DPI are given good background information on recirculation technology to assist them in making sound decisions on the purchase of a system. DPI provides a network of extension officers who assist the aquaculture industry in improving their productivity and farm practices.

### 202. State Forests, Weed and Pest Control

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (16/3/00)—

With reference to the Regional Forestry Agreement and the subsequent closing of forestry grazing leases—

- (1) What measures have been put in place to address the situation of lantana growth explosion which has previously been kept under control by the graziers?
- (2) With current complaints of weeds and pests being out of control in State forests, what controls have been put in place to adequately address this ongoing problem which will be exacerbated by the closing of the forestry grazing leases?

**Mr WELFORD** (14/4/00):

(1) It is not correct to assume that all grazing leases will cease within the area identified for increased protection under the SEQRFA. In those areas where grazing might eventually be phased out, it will be achieved by negotiation with affected stakeholders. However, significant lease areas will continue to exist for grazing where that use is sustainable. In all such cases Departments will be putting in place alternative arrangements to address land management requirements such as fire, weed and pest animal management.

(2) The Government policy on the Management of Pests on State Land was approved in February 2000. This means five major land holding agencies, including my Departments, will develop, adopt and implement agency strategies and plans to control pests on land and water bodies for which they have direct management responsibility. Adoption of this policy demonstrates the Government's commitment to ongoing pest management in these lands.

### 203. Tinaroo Dam, Redclaw Stocking

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (16/3/00)—

As other species not native to the Upper Barron ie barramundi are stocked and redclaw already exists in the Barron River and redclaw are the major reason why most people visit Tinaroo and therefore are important to the local economy and if fished out will harm the local economy and as the local fish stocking association has strongly urged stocking, why can't redclaw, a native freshwater crayfish in North Queensland, be stocked into the Tinaroo Dam when the dam itself is man made and therefore not a native ecosystem?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (17/4/00): The Tableland Fish Stocking Society which is the community-based stocking group for Lake Tinaroo has been issued with a permit by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) to stock up to 330 000 redclaw into Lake Tinaroo. This permit also authorises the stocking of barramundi, snub-nosed gar and sooty grunter.

A bag limit and the return of females carrying eggs and young applies to the taking of redclaw in its natural range and in Lake Tinaroo.

The consideration of future stockings of Tinaroo Dam by the Tableland Fish Stocking Society will be considered by the QFMA on receipt of an appropriate application.

**204. Queensland Police Service, Workers' Compensation**

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (16/3/00)—

What is the (a) workers' compensation bill for the Queensland Police Service for 1999-2000, (b) amount of that bill unpaid at the beginning of March 2000 and (c) cost of workers' compensation anticipated for 2000-2001 for the Queensland Police Service?

**Mr BARTON** (12/4/00):

(1) The workers' compensation bill for the Queensland Police Service for 1999-2000 was \$7,612,220.45.

(2) The amount of this bill unpaid at the beginning of March 2000 was nil.

(3) The cost of workers' compensation anticipated for 2000-2001 for the Queensland Police Service is unknown at this stage. Advice from Work Cover Queensland is that the premium rate will remain unchanged.

**205. University of Queensland, Ipswich Campus and Gatton College**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Premier (16/3/00)—

With reference to the historic decision by the University of Queensland Senate on 14 October 1999 regarding the future of Gatton College—

(1) Is his Government satisfied the Senate decision is sufficient to ensure the future of the college?

(2) Is his Government maintaining an active interest and monitoring role in the implementation of the proposed development program at Gatton College?

(3) Given the University of Queensland has established an implementation committee to ensure that satisfactory progress is achieved, does his Government monitor the progress of this committee?

(4) How much has his Government expended on the development of the Ipswich Campus and Gatton College respectively?

(5) What is the State's expenditure per student at the Ipswich Campus and Gatton College respectively?

(6) What initiatives are in place or planned by his Government to assist the development of Gatton College?

(7) Has he considered transferring any Government department activities to Gatton College as part of the development program?

**Mr BEATTIE** (17/4/00):

(1) The University Senate is the governing body of the institution, and as such, issues and decisions relating to the future development of the University and its various campuses, facilities and courses are matters for the Senate. Professor Ted Brown, Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Queensland, briefed my colleague, The Honourable Henry Palaszczuk, MLA, Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities, on the recommendations in his report on the future utilisation of the Gatton campus,

which were approved by the University of Queensland Senate on 14 October 1999.

(2 & 3) As a matter of practice, the Government does not formally monitor the details of internal university processes. However, my Government is in regular contact with The University of Queensland and we are being kept informed of developments with respect to Gatton Campus.

(4) Within the last ten years there has been no State funding provided to The University of Queensland for capital development at its Gatton Campus.

Since 1996 Labor and Coalition Governments have contributed a total of \$19.75 million to The University of Queensland for capital development expenditure on its Ipswich Campus.

(5) Apart from the capital grants mentioned above, the State provides no recurrent funding to the Ipswich Campus of The University of Queensland.

The State Government fully funds one year Certificate Courses at Gatton Campus which the Commonwealth Government will not fund. The total State expenditure for these courses since the 1990-1991 financial year is \$7,804,400.

(6) I am advised that discussions have commenced between the Department of Education and The University of Queensland about the development of agricultural education in Queensland and the role of Gatton College in these developments.

(7) My Government has no current plans to transfer any of its activities to Gatton College.

**206. RNA Exhibition Ground, Upgrade**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (16/3/00)—

With reference to a report in The Courier Mail on 2 March which indicated that, as a product of talks between the State Government and the Brisbane City Council, consideration was being given to a multi-million dollar upgrade of the RNA exhibition ground including the construction of a 7000 seat indoor sports stadium—

(1) Has any officer from the Division of Sport and Recreation been involved in those talks?

(2) Were those talks initiated by the former Minister for Sport?

(3) Were those talks initiated after the decision was made to award the super stadium to Suncorp Metway Stadium?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (12/4/00):

(1) At the request of Mr Vivian Edwards, Senior Vice President of the RNA, an officer from Sport and Recreation Queensland attended a meeting of the Master Planning Sub Committee of the RNA site on 21 January 2000. At that meeting, representatives of the RNA canvassed the concept of developing a new indoor stadium as a component of a master plan for the site.

(2) No

(3) As indicated in response to Question 1 the talks were initiated by representatives of the RNA in January 2000.

### 207. Queensland Building Services Authority

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (16/3/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA) and its insurance and general funds—

- (1) Is the QBSA or its board able to transfer funds between these funds; if so, when was this power conferred upon the QBSA or its board?
- (2) What is the amount, date and reason of any transfers of funds during the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date) between the funds?
- (3) What is the anticipated amount, date and reason of any transfers of funds during the remainder of 1999-2000 between the funds?
- (4) What effect will any of these or future transfers have on the insurance fund deficit?

**Ms SPENCE** (17/4/00):

(1) The Authority is able to transfer funds from the Insurance Fund to the General Statutory Fund under the provisions of Sections 26(4) and 26(5) of the Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991. The powers under Sections 26(4) and 26(5) were introduced from 1 October 1999.

(2) As the transfer provisions only commenced operation on 1 October 1999 no transfer was made for the 1998-99 year. In respect of the 1999/2000 financial year to the end of February 2000, \$3,666,664 has been transferred from the Insurance Fund to the General Statutory Fund for the purposes of administering the Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991.

(3) In 1999/2000, it is planned to transfer the full \$5.5 million allowed by Regulation 32 of the Queensland Building Services Regulations 1992. Proposed transfers during the remainder of the year are:

Month—Amount
March—\$458,333
April—\$458,333
May—\$458,333
June—\$458,337

(4) Current forecasts suggest that the Insurance Fund will record a surplus of \$95,795 in the 1999/2000 financial year after transfer of the \$5.5 million. The amount to be transferred in future years will have regard to the net asset position of the Insurance Fund and the over-riding requirement that it remain actuarially sound.

### 208. Respite Services and Accommodation for Disabled Citizens, Waiting Times

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (16/3/00)—

With reference to the Report on Government Services 2000, by the Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision (p. 1083) regarding families of people with disabilities—

- (1) What is her excuse for such families in Queensland to have to wait 22 weeks for respite services—twice as long as for three of the other States; 6-7 weeks longer than the National average?
- (2) Why do Queensland families also have the longest wait for residential accommodation services?

**Ms BLIGH** (17/4/00): The information referred to in this question relates to the results of a national consumer satisfaction survey conducted during 1999, and reported in the Report on Government Services 2000.

(1) The information discussed on page 1083 relates to proportions of responses in the survey, and not number of weeks waiting time for support. In addition, the figures referred to are the perceptions of families of clients who are currently receiving respite services to their wait for in home support. That is, 22% of families of clients currently receiving respite services were waiting for in home support services.

(2) This tabulated information does not show that Queensland has the longest wait for residential services. Rather, it shows that Queensland has the highest response rate for families of clients currently receiving respite that were also waiting for in home support. For other types of support, families of respite clients in Queensland perceive their waits for residential services, respite services and open employment services to be comparable to the national average.

### 209. Public Hospitals, Medical Superintendents

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

Will she provide a list of vacancies for medical superintendents and also for staff specialists within the public hospital system?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): There are currently 34 vacancies for full-time staff specialists, one vacancy for a full-time medical superintendent and three vacancies for Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice in the public hospital system in Queensland. The vacancy for the full-time medical superintendent is at Townsville Hospital. Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice vacancies, advertised during the last month, are at Cunnamulla, Gordonvale and Mungindi.

There has been a significant drop in the number of vacancies for specialists across the state since the Coalition left Government and a significant increase in the number of new specialist positions.

Full time specialist vacancies have fallen from 125 in March 1995 to 34 in March 2000 despite 26 new full time positions being created since July 1998.

### 210. Public Hospitals, Specialist Staff

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

Will she outline the resources to be provided to the public hospital system to attract or keep highly trained and specialised medical staff?

**Mrs EDMOND (17/4/00):** The following are actions being taken by Queensland Health to attract and retain highly trained and specialised medical staff:

#### Incentives for Full Time Specialists

Incentives created under the previous Labor Government to attract full-time specialists include an option A right of private practice allowance of 35% of base salary for metropolitan specialists and 45% for non metropolitan specialists; paid study and conference leave with reasonable expenses including airfares; free accommodation for non metropolitan specialists; provision of fully communications equipment and private use of fully maintained vehicles. As a result of these incentives and a new strategy for the advertising of vacant positions, full-time specialist vacancies have fallen from 125 in March 1995 to 34 in March 2000 despite 26 new full-time positions being created since July 1998.

#### Incentives for Visiting Medical Specialists

Queensland Health provides access to salary sacrificing, paid conference leave and an allowance for associated expenses, and higher commencement pay rates for visiting specialists in rural areas.

#### Incentives for Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice (MSRPPs)

MSRPPs have free accommodation, private use of a fully maintained motor vehicle, communications equipment, paid conference leave with reasonable expenses, locum medical officers for their private practice, and the free use of a private surgery where available. Queensland Health also indemnifies MSRPPs and Medical Officers with Right of Private Practice (MORPPs) who perform procedures on private patients. Recent improvements have included an additional half-day off per week and the introduction of MORPPs in locations where this is feasible.

#### State Scholarship Scheme

This scheme, which has seen 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 \$5,559 and an annual travel allowance of \$500.

#### Rural Medical Indemnity Scheme for Rural Private General Practitioners

A subsidy of up to \$4,100 towards the cost of Medical Indemnity 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 doctors, support staff and nurses. The scheme also assists Queensland Health by providing additional relief at country public hospitals in emergent situations as one of the criterion for providing the grant.

#### Indemnity for Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice

As mentioned above, indemnity cover is provided to MSRPPs for procedures performed on private patients in public hospitals or in their private rooms.

#### Accommodation

A review on accommodation for rural doctors has been conducted by Asset Management, Queensland Health. \$2M has been provided in 1999/2000 to upgrade staff accommodation in rural areas.

#### 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 150 sites enabling assessments of patients and mentoring of staff in remote areas by specialist practitioners in major centres. Telepsychiatry has already proven to be highly successful.

#### Rural Registrar Program

A Commonwealth/State program has been established, supporting nine rural specialist registrar training positions and outreach dermatology services. These training positions provide additional support for country doctors.

#### Rural Undergraduate Placement Program

This program provides opportunities for medical students to spend elective periods in certain rural and remote areas.

#### 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, based in Toowoomba, has been appointed to this new position reporting to the Principal Medical Adviser.

#### Doctors in the Bush Project

The Doctors in the Bush scheme recruits both Australian and overseas trained doctors. A significant

aspect of the scheme is the development of postgraduate training towards Fellow Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGPs) on location in rural practice. That is supervision and mentoring at a distance involving collaboration between Queensland Health, Queensland Rural Medical Support Agency (QRMSA), Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGPs), Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and Queensland Divisions of General Practice (QDGP).

The majority of incentives are directed to the recruitment and retention of medical staff in rural and remote areas of the State as the majority of vacancies exists in these areas.

### 211. Prince Charles Hospital

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

What is the forecast budget over-run for the Prince Charles Hospital?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): All districts are required to provide regular budget analyses which reflect fluctuations and variations during the course of the year.

Districts are required to achieve balanced budgets each year.

### 212. Queensland Health, Capital Works Program

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

Will she advise the amount of under-expenditure within the capital works program of Queensland Health?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): Due to inclement weather and some problems with the Mental Health projects in relation to heritage and site availability issues, it is anticipated that there may be a minor shortfall in expenditure for the 1999/2000 financial year of up to \$10 million. This should be taken in the context of a capital works budget of \$585 million and the Government's success in 1998/1999 in bringing forward from 1999/2000 into that year an additional \$12 million in capital works.

Clearly this is a vast improvement on the major underspending of the Coalition. When in Government, the Coalition's capital works freeze not only deprived workers of jobs, but also delayed the implementation of Labor's planned hospital rebuilding program and increased costs as a result.

The 1997-98 budget appropriation under the Coalition was \$557 million. Actual expenditure was \$475 million giving a net underexpenditure of \$82 million.

### 213. Queensland Health, Capital Works Program

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

Will she describe the exact stage and expenditure of each Queensland Health capital project?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): Progress and expenditure of each Queensland Health capital project is as set out in Attachment A. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 214. Queensland Health, Building Projects

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

Will she advise if the commissioning has been deferred of any Queensland Health building projects?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): There are no Queensland Health building projects on which commissioning has been deferred although wet weather has impeded the completion on some sites by up to one month.

### 215. Queensland Health Facilities

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

Will she advise if any Queensland Health acute facilities have been converted to sub-acute or rehabilitation facilities and identify where these conversions have occurred or will occur?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): All Queensland Health acute facilities continue to provide acute care. There are no plans to convert any acute facilities into non acute services only.

### 216. Wolston Park Hospital; Youth Detention Facility

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

Does she believe it is appropriate to have a youth detention facility constructed adjacent to the Wolston Park Hospital and in the interests of patients safety, what measures has Queensland Health undertaken to upgrade the security of the Wolston Park Hospital?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): The appropriateness of the placement of the youth detention facility was considered and determined by Cabinet following consultation by the relevant departments. Whilst security at the existing hospital is considered adequate, the new Wacol tertiary mental health service will have modern and appropriate security provided. The provision of security is based on the protection and safety of consumers, staff and their property and maintenance of the integrity of the perimeter of the high security clinical program.

The construction of the youth detention facility does not, of itself, require an upgrade of security services. Officers from Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland have advised officers of my department that the proposed youth detention facility incorporates the highest levels of perimeter security for such a facility in Australia. This includes the latest electronic monitoring technology to complement the integrity of the facility's physical barrier.

**217. Wolston Park Hospital, Land Surplus**

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

Has Queensland Health identified if there are any parcels of land at Wolston Park Hospital which are surplus to need; if so, what steps have been taken to dispose of this land?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): Queensland Health will require less than 4.5% of the original area of the Wolston Park site.

Discussions and negotiations have occurred, or are occurring, with the Department of Corrective Services (DCS) and Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland (FYCC).

Remaining areas has been offered to all government departments in accordance with the provisions of the GLMS guidelines for the sale of government property.

Additionally, the terms and conditions of the Land Act 1994 lease are currently being negotiated with the Gailles Golf Club. The Wolston Park Golf Club has an existing Land Act 1994 lease until 2009.

**218. Wolston Park Hospital, Staffing**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

Will she advise the number of full time equivalent nursing positions currently at Wolston Park Hospital and how many positions will be made redundant in the proposed downsizing of the hospital?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): In line with the Ten-Year Mental Health Strategy for Queensland (1996), extended care beds from the three psychiatric hospitals, these being Baillie Henderson, Mosman Hall and Wolston Park Hospitals, are being decentralised to new and relocated tertiary mental health services in Queensland. Incentives have been provided to encourage experienced mental health staff to move to these new facilities. The net effect will be an increase in mental health staffing of over 200 staff during the 1998/99 and 1999/2000 period.

In order to assist with this increase in staff, registered nurses are being offered scholarships in mental health nursing.

**219. Queensland Health, Service Delivery in Indigenous Communities**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

Further to the scathing criticism by the Premier, of Queensland Health, what direction and measures have been taken by her to ensure that Queensland Health improves its service delivery to improve the health standards in indigenous communities?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): The basis of the question is incorrect. There has not been any scathing criticism of Queensland Health by the Premier.

**220. Indigenous Communities, Alcohol and Drug Strategy**

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

As \$3m was allocated in the 1999-2000 State Budget for the development of alcohol and drug strategies to stem the violence associated with excessive substance abuse, will she outline what strategies have been implemented in indigenous communities and how much of the allocated funding has been spent on these strategies?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): Queensland Health is utilising a significant portion of its alcohol and drug strategies funding pool to provide teams of indigenous health workers at indigenous communities in the Cairns, Mount Isa and Cape York Districts. The aim of the teams will be to coordinate public health interventions to address the harms associated with the inappropriate use of alcohol.

The expected outcomes of the successful implementation of the project are—

- coordination of alcohol and drug activities;
- establishment of safe havens;
- establishment of sobering-up places;
- changes in drinking habits through innovative supply and demand control strategies;
- decreased violence/assaults; and
- reduced incidence of underage drinking and self-harm.

In addition to this major community-based initiative, funding has also been allocated to ensure that the very successful indigenous-focused Croc Eisteddfod Festival also continues on an annual basis. The success of the 100% IN CONTROL Weipa Croc Eisteddfod Festival has created a vital new medium for the proactive expression of Australian youth culture—one which addresses health, education, employment, reconciliation and social justice issues in a powerful and credible way for participants, spectators, communities and governments alike. The communities of Kununurra and Moree have now staged their own Croc Eisteddfod Festivals, with more communities throughout Australia set to follow in 2000 and beyond, reflecting the image of the Weipa Festival.

These new services augment Queensland Health's existing commitment to reducing the harms associated with inappropriate substance use by indigenous people through increased numbers of indigenous alcohol and drug community workers; an audiographic alcohol and drug training package for indigenous health workers and alcohol and drug community workers; alcohol and drug training for workers in indigenous rehabilitation services, community controlled health services and other services; as well as workshops to develop strategies for responsible drinking practices on communities. Queensland Health also provides funding to a range of indigenous non-government organisations providing alcohol and drug services.

**221. Clermont Hospital (See also 000718QN)**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

With reference to concerns brought to my attention of budget cuts to the MPHS Catering Division at the Clermont Hospital—



- (1) How many meals were catered for the month of February by the Clermont Hospital kitchen?
- (2) What was the budget allocated for catering by the Clermont Hospital kitchen for the month of February?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00):

- (1) It should be noted that the information given to you regarding the budgets is inaccurate. It should further be noted that the number of meals served is dependant on occupancy rates and condition of patients hospitalised.
- (2) Meals catered for the month of February by the Clermont Hospital kitchen were 1,415 which averaged 16 meals at each breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- (3) The non labour budget allocation for catering for the month of February was \$2,227.

## 222. Public Housing Program

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (16/3/00)—

With reference to the public housing program for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date), for the dwelling types: duplexes, detached houses, seniors units and attached apartments (by bedroom count) (16/3/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/4/00): The information sought by the Honourable Member would require a vast amount of time and research by the Department of Housing. This would be an expensive and inappropriate waste of taxpayers' funds that could be better used providing quality housing services to people in need. If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide the relevant information.

## 223. Public Transport Directory

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/3/00)—

With reference to the Public Transport Directory, a 60 page full colour book delivered to all Brisbane households just in time for the Local Government elections which includes advertising by Queensland Transport and Queensland Rail—

- (1) How much did Queensland Transport and Queensland Rail each pay towards this publication?
- (2) When were arrangements made for these advertisements or sponsorships?
- (3) Was a specific budget allocation made to Queensland Transport for this publication; if so, how much; if not, from what program were these funds allocated?
- (4) How many booklets were to be produced and how were they to be distributed?
- (5) Where were these books printed?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (17/4/00):

- (1) Queensland Transport purchased one advertisement for TransInfo at a cost of \$8,500. The advertisement "Every sign we're getting smarter" was provided at no cost as the space was not sold. Queensland Rail purchased an advertisement at a cost of \$15,000.
- (2) The TransInfo advertisement was booked on 4 January 2000. The "Every sign we're getting smarter" advertisement was provided on 7 February 2000. The Queensland Rail advertisement had a booking deadline of 17 December 1999. The final copy was submitted on 24 January 2000.
- (3) Expenditures by Queensland Transport and Queensland Rail were minor budget allocations provided from their respective marketing budgets.
- (4) It is understood that Brisbane City Council distributed 400,000 directories. Further detail should be sought direct from Brisbane City Council.
- (5) Brisbane City Council were responsible for the production of the directory, therefore, details should be sought direct from Brisbane City Council.

## 224. Gold Coast High-rise Buildings, Hydrant Pipes

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/3/00)—

With reference to reports in the media on faulty hydrant pipes in high rise buildings on the Gold Coast—

- (1) When did he or his department first become aware of the problem?
- (2) As this matter is life threatening, what action is he taking to minimise risk to unit owners?
- (3) Will he guarantee that unit owners will not be evacuated from their units?
- (4) In view of the exorbitant cost involved in rectifying the situation, will he take a submission to Cabinet for financial assistance to unit owners?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (17/4/00):

- (1) The issue of Substandard Fire Hydrant Systems was first brought to the attention of the then Queensland Fire Service in March 1995.
- (2) Both I and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) appreciate the serious nature of this problem. Deficient Building Fire Safety puts lives and property at risk.

In view of the wide impact of the issue the QFRA has adopted a consultative approach aimed at, firstly investigating the extent of the problem and then taking remedial action.

Approximately 18 months ago the QFRA convened a taskforce comprised of a wide range of stakeholders to investigate this matter. The taskforce confirmed that substandard copper pipe existed in some hydrant systems but was unsure of the extent of the problem. The taskforce found that buildings constructed during the 1980-1990 period seemed to be the main problem area. The taskforce recommended that all buildings over four storeys built during this period undergo an engineering

assessment. The assessment was conducted in accordance with a range of criteria covering both the standard of copper used and general fire safety maintenance issues.

163 of 182 buildings in the target group have now returned their engineering assessments. 68 of the assessments indicate the use of substandard copper. Building owners and managers have been kept updated on the situation through newsletters, correspondence, personal contact with QFRA officers and a 1 800 information assistance line. The newsletters and correspondence clearly set out the problem and action required to be taken to ensure that hydrant systems comply with applicable building fire safety legislation.

Consultation with stakeholders has been ongoing with two open forums held in October 1999 and March 2000 as part of the QFRA's communication and consultation strategy. These forums brought together representatives of a range of bodies corporate and building managers, as well as owner/occupier associations to discuss outstanding issues and resolve any unanswered questions.

The strategy adopted by the QFRA is aimed at achieving removal and replacement of the substandard copper pipe.

In view of the expense and complexity of the problem this will not be achieved over night.

To minimise risk to life and property in the interim the QFRA has put in place a range of fire response measures.

The location and condition of each of the 68 buildings with substandard copper pipe has been recorded by the QFRA's Communications Centre to ensure that in the event of a fire, responding fire crews are aware of the problem and can respond accordingly. In addition, an increased level of response has been allocated for the affected buildings.

(3) At this stage there is no intention to ask occupants to move out of their buildings as additional precautions should be put into place by the owners of the buildings to ensure a level of safety is maintained until the fire hydrant systems are reinstated to the required standard of safety and reliability. However, should a fire occur in one of the target group buildings it would of course be necessary for an evacuation of occupants to occur.

(4) The QFRA's primary responsibility is to ensure acceptable fire safety standards are maintained in buildings. There is no current intention to seek Cabinet approval for assistance to be provided to building owners to replace substandard systems.

## 225. Noosa National Park

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (16/3/00)—

- (1) How much has been spent on maintenance of Noosa National Park in 1999-2000?
- (2) How much has been spent on new infrastructure in 1999-2000?

**Mr WELFORD** (14/4/00):

- (1) \$22,651.63
- (2) \$2,000.00

## 226. Youth Detention Facility

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

What was the purchase price and amount of land acquired from Queensland Health by the Department of Family Services for the development of a youth detention facility adjacent to the Wolston Park Hospital?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00): The purchase price was commercially appropriate and the amount of land represents around 3.5% of the total existing site.

## 227. Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, Rockhampton Base Hospital

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

- (1) As Government claims that waiting times for specialist services are "within prescribed tolerances", what is the waiting time for an appointment to see ENT and orthopaedic surgeons by public patients at the Rockhampton Base Hospital?
- (2) Once an appointment to see a specialist is actually given, what is the waiting time for that appointment to eventuate?
- (3) What is being done to fill vacancies in specialist positions in Rockhampton (which services many public patients in the region)?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/4/00):

(1) New referrals to outpatient clinics continue to be reviewed by a consultant or senior medical officer, to determine the urgency of the referral and patients continue to be seen on a priority basis as determined by the doctor. Urgent cases are seen immediately in either the outpatient clinic or in the emergency department. The waiting time for non-urgent cases varies and is dependent on the priority given to the condition and the volume of urgent cases presenting.

(2) Despite the current staff shortages in ENT and Orthopaedics at Rockhampton Hospital, urgent outpatients and surgery cases continue to receive treatment in a timely manner. New patients requiring urgent attention are seen immediately in either the appropriate outpatient clinic or in the emergency department. As at 1 January no Category 1 ENT or Orthopaedic patients had waited longer than 30 days for surgery. In Category 2, only 2 ENT patients (8%) and 1 Orthopaedic case (4.8%) had waited longer than 90 days for surgery. The Rockhampton Hospital offers outpatients with non-urgent conditions access to services at other sites should they desire.

(3) Rockhampton Hospital is actively recruiting medical staff to fill vacancies in specialist positions. The position of ENT specialist is currently being advertised and a number of applications for the position of Orthopaedic Staff Specialist are being reviewed.

## 228. Regional Forest Agreement

**Mr LESTER** asked the Premier (16/3/00)—

With reference to the loss of 26 jobs and the risk that another 60 workers will be laid off at Ipswich-based CSR timber products, the only hardboard plant left operating in Australia and the single largest investment in hardwood utilisation in Queensland and to CSR's submission to the Queensland Government on the RFA, and I quote; "calculations show that a cutback of 20% or higher in resource availability would result in the mill closure and the loss of 213 jobs. A reduction of 10% to 15% in fibre availability would provide serious business concern and job cutbacks." and given his RFA deal has cut wood supply by 23 per cent for the first year, by a further 27 per cent for the next nine years and by another 5 per cent for the last 15 years—

Does he now concede his RFA deal is a jobs destroyer?

**Mr BEATTIE** (17/4/00): My Government's South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement has provided unprecedented long term Crown native hardwood resource security to the hardwood timber industry in South East Queensland at current allocation levels for a 25 year period up to and including the end of 2024. In order to achieve this resource security, some Crown allocations will be surrendered as part of the negotiated outcome. These surrendered allocations, in total, amount to some 15% of the native forest hardwood timber processed annually by mills drawing on South East Queensland's native hardwood forests.

In August 1999, CSR Limited sold Australian Hardboards to Hudsons Timber a major supplier of timber and building products to the trade and retail markets with operations in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland and employs 900 people across 25 locations throughout Australia. Australian Hardboards Limited at Bundamba employ some 210 workers. Australian Hardboards is the largest of two hardboard plants that operate in Australia.

My Government's South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement has not only provided unprecedented resource security for the timber industry but through the implementation of a 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. This will provide business opportunities for regional and rural Queensland.

Planting in this year alone throughout South East Queensland will total some 2500 hectares. A significant amount of this hardwood plantation program is within economic transport distance to Bundamba Plant. This represents both security and growth potential for Australian Hardboards Limited. Future resources for the plant are more than adequately guaranteed from private, public and joint venture plantations.

My Government's South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement provides both resource and employment security and growth potential for the Queensland native hardwood industry throughout

the supply chain from primary production and harvesting through to sawmilling operations, secondary processing and value adding such as Australian Hardboards Limited at Bundamba.

Rather than destroying jobs, my Government has demonstrated through the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement that our focus is clearly on providing more jobs for Queenslanders, building Queensland's regions and valuing the environment.

## 229. Sunshine Coast Arts and Convention Centre, Maroochydore

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Treasurer (16/3/00)—

How much money has the State Government approved to spend on the Sunshine Coast Arts and Convention Centre project at Maroochydore?

**Mr HAMILL** (13/4/00): I am aware of a proposal for a Sunshine Coast Arts Centre that also includes an art gallery. While there was originally a proposal for a Convention Centre, a feasibility study undertaken with funds from the State Government found that the Sunshine Coast Arts Centre should be developed without an accompanying Convention Centre. My understanding is the Maroochy Shire Council has accepted this.

There is no present commitment for funding for the Sunshine Coast Arts Centre.

## 230. Milk Labelling; Dairy Industry

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (16/3/00)—

With reference to the Government's decision to join with other States to fully deregulate the dairy industry, contrary to the Premier's rhetoric on National Competition Policy—

- (1) Will he provide bipartisan support for the Coalition's initiative and introduce "State of Origin" labelling for milk so Queensland consumers will have the opportunity to support Queensland dairy farmers and Queensland jobs?
- (2) What additional support will the Government provide to farmers and towns that will be affected by his decision to supplement the Federal Coalition Government's dairy industry restructure package and dairy community assistance package?
- (3) Will the Government be allocating any of the \$98m windfall it will receive in NCP payments over the next two years towards assisting dairy farmers and dairy communities?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (17/4/00):

- (1) I have seen no details of the Opposition's proposal other than that referred to in the Honourable Member's media statement. The Opposition should be aware that food labelling is dealt with under the Food Standards Code which is administered by the Australian and New Zealand Food Authority. Requests for amendments to the Food Standards Code need to be submitted for consideration by ANZFA. Such a variation to the

Code would need the approval of the Council of Health Ministers, comprising all State, Territory and the New Zealand health ministers. The process requires full public consultation and the conduct of a Regulatory Impact Statement.

(2) In the absence of my insistence on a wider assistance package, Queensland rural and regional communities would be \$12 million worse off today under the Commonwealth Government's initial proposed package which ignored the need for direct assistance to address adverse effects from dairy deregulation on regional dairying communities. The State Opposition did nothing to assist in securing the extra assistance and is now belatedly seeking to get on the bandwagon. Dairy deregulation is a Commonwealth Government plan that this State has reluctantly agreed to, only at the request of the Queensland dairy industry who can see no better alternative.

I have also sought and obtained sufficient support from other States to establish a means for continued monitoring of the situation so that, when the impacts become apparent, better-targeted responses can be developed. A Working Group is to be established by the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand to monitor the deregulation process and make recommendations to address any unintended off farm consequences that occur.

(3) There is not, and never has been, any "\$98m windfall".

### **231. QCL Limestone Mine, Waste Water Discharge**

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (16/3/00)—

In view of the officially recognised watertable depletion within the East End community at Mount Larcom attributable to the dewatering practices of the Queensland Cement Limestone Mine, will he advise on what basis QCL is permitted to continue discharging water as waste when mines such as the Stuart Shale Oil Project at Yarwun, Targinie and Queensland Magnesia Operations at Kunwarara are not permitted to discharge off lease?

**Mr McGRADY** (17/4/00): Queensland Cement Limestone is permitted to discharge excess water from the mine leases in accordance with licence conditions and their Environmental Management Overview Strategy (EMOS).

### **232. Miriam Vale Shire, Road Funding**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/3/00)—

With reference to Miriam Vale Shire in my electorate which is the fastest growing local authority in Queensland and it is hoped that a burgeoning tourist industry will help reduce high unemployment levels of about 19 per cent—

(1) Why has the Main Roads Department reduced the allocation to Miriam Vale Shire for the

sealing of Round Hill Road, from Tablelands Road to Agnes Water which will add two years to the construction timetable of this project?

(2) As I understand that construction work on an additional existing gravel section of Fingerboard Road closer to Miriam Vale also will be drastically delayed as a result of this re-allocation in (1) above by his department of TIDS funds, can these decisions be reviewed?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (19/4/00):

(1) Roundhill Road is a Local Government Road under the control of Miriam Vale Shire Council. Responsibility for funding works in relation to Roundhill Road is a Miriam Vale Shire Council responsibility.

Main Roads has been contributing to its upgrade to a bitumen sealed standard through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS).

Main Roads has not reduced the overall contribution to Miriam Vale Shire for the sealing of Roundhill Road from Tablelands Road to Agnes Water.

The original indication from the Shire in 1998/99 was that \$2.56M was required to finalise the bitumen sealing on Roundhill Road.

In May 1999, the Shire revised their estimate and advised that a further \$1.54M was required to complete the works.

Main Roads have agreed to provide the additional funds requested by the Shire.

(2) Construction work on Fingerboard Road has not been included on the current Roads Implementation Program (RIP). The allocation of TIDS funding will be reviewed, in conjunction with the Miriam Vale Shire Council, in the preparation of the 2000/01 RIP.

It is not anticipated that funding will be available to commence the Fingerboard Road construction until the Roundhill Road bitumen sealing is finalised.

### **233. Community Jobs Plan; Community Employment Assistance Program**

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/3/00)—

Will he provide a list, updated to 15 March indicating the total expenditure, by electorate, of (a) Community Jobs Plan projects funding and (b) Community Employment Assistance Program projects funding?

**Mr BRADY** (17/4/00):

(a) Since October 1998 and up until 15 March 2000, 203 projects have been approved for grants totalling \$31.51 million under the Community Jobs Plan. Attachment A lists the total expenditure by electorate for this program.

(b) For this same period, 127 projects have been approved for grants totalling \$7.67 million under the Community Employment Assistance Program. Attachment B lists the total expenditure by electorate for this program.

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****234. Goods and Services Tax**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (11/4/00)—

With reference to the confusion especially amongst older Australians with respect to the GST—

What does she intend to do with respect to large insurance companies who are further compounding that confusion by the addition of the wording on accounts as in the AMP general insurance account renewal form which states "the total amount due includes GST and Fire Services Levy of \$xxx and stamp duty of \$xxx" thus hiding the exact amount of the GST component requested because it is included with the Fire Services Levy amount?

**Ms SPENCE** (11/5/00): The GST is a Commonwealth tax and its implementation and enforcement are primarily the responsibilities of the Commonwealth Government.

I understand that the company is not required to show the GST component, only a GST inclusive price.

If AMP is publishing information on a national scale which consumers find confusing, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is the appropriate body to raise the matter with AMP.

**235. Cultural Heritage; Indigenous Consultants**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Premier (11/4/00)—

- (1) Will he explain where in Queensland legislation does it provide for two separate aboriginal groups namely the Birragubba and the Bindal to be able to claim exorbitant fees for walk throughs and observing works for a public boat ramp even though one group, Birragubba, acknowledges that it has no native title claim over the area?
- (2) How does Michelle Bird of the Northern Archaeology Consultancy Services acting as their negotiator quote the Cultural Records Act 1987 and Heritage Act 1992 for the justification of the fees namely \$3600 for herself and \$900 for each tribe plus accommodation, meals and any other expenses incurred?
- (3) As on top of this, both these groups are asking \$950 per day and \$1050 per day respectively to have representatives from their tribe on site when excavation commences and again accommodation, travelling, meals and any other expenses, will he provide me abstracts from the two Acts that authorise what these groups are demanding and what Michelle Bird of the Northern Archaeology Consultancy Services says justifies all of this?

**Mr BEATTIE** (11/5/00):

- (1) There are no provisions in Queensland legislation providing guidance or prescription about the engagement of Indigenous consultants to assist with cultural heritage assessment or monitoring.

The selection of Indigenous consultants and their rates of remuneration are matters which are agreed by commercial arrangement between the proponents of a development and the consultants employed to advise and assist them.

Indigenous cultural heritage may exist in an area where native title has been extinguished.

(2) The engagement of a qualified archaeological consultant is a commercial arrangement undertaken by the proponent of a development. The consultant may employ Indigenous people to assist in the identification of items and in the monitoring of activities.

(3) The level of fees paid is a matter of commercial agreement between the proponent and the professional consultant and is not a matter regulated by legislation.

**236. Moreton TAFE Institute, Mount Gravatt Campus**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/4/00)—

With reference to the Moreton Institute of TAFE, Mount Gravatt campus—

- (1) Is he aware of downsizing in various departments at this campus?
- (2) Is he aware that final year fashion students have been combined into one class?
- (3) Is he aware that as a result of this, 25 students are forced to share only 14 computers in the fashion design classes?
- (4) As a result of this downsizing, how many teachers have been retrenched/relocated?
- (5) What action will his department undertake with this college to rectify these deficiencies that are impacting on student learning?

**Mr BRADY** (11/5/00): I am advised by the Moreton Institute of the following:

(1) Yes, there was a need to downsize some departments at the Mount Gravatt campus of the Moreton Institute of TAFE to ensure that the Institute's financial viability is restored. This is as a result of the financial position the Institute was in when the Beattie Government took office.

(2) Moreton Institute has three (3) final year Fashion student groupings—Advanced Diploma, Diploma and Certificate and that the final year Diploma of Fashion students were combined into larger classes as a result of low class numbers.

This decision to combine these classes was made prior to any changes in teaching numbers. It is a common practice at Moreton Institute to combine classes where there is an opportunity to cluster the modules—with no disadvantage to the student. The teaching program and teaching methodology is adjusted to meet student's learning requirements.

(3) The merging of computer classes in the Diploma of Fashion Course resulted in a timetable clash where the larger computer laboratories were not available. The teaching team ensured that the teaching

program was adjusted to the computer resource availability at the time.

The Institute is currently planning an expansion of the existing Fashion computer rooms to accommodate classes of up to 30 students and is planning adjustments to timetabling to ensure that the larger computer laboratories throughout the Institute are available to the fashion classes.

(4) No teachers were retrenched. Seven teachers were relocated within the Institute.

(5) While no students have been denied learning opportunities, the Institute is implementing a plan to introduce new resources and flexible delivery options for students.

### 237. Domestic Violence Centres

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to domestic violence centres in the State of Queensland—

- (1) How many women stayed in a refuge during 1999?
- (2) How many men stayed in a refuge during 1999?
- (3) What is the occupancy rate during 1999 for women's refuges?
- (4) What is the male occupancy rate for 1999?
- (5) What is the bed cost per night for women's refuges?
- (6) What is the bed cost per night in men's/men with children refuges?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

(1) The latest Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) Data Collection report for 1998/99 uses "support periods" as a measure of the number of people accessing supported accommodation. A "support period" is an occasion of support provided to a SAAP client. In 1998/99, refuges for women and children escaping domestic violence provided approximately 5,056 support periods.

(2) In 1998/99 SAAP services available to single men and families provided approximately 5,650 periods of support.

(3) There is no available data on occupancy rates for SAAP.

(4) See 3.

(5) There is no available data on bed costs for domestic violence refuges.

(6) See 5.

### 238. Domestic Violence Centres

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to domestic violence centres in the State of Queensland—

- (1) What amount of funding is made available for women's refuges and women with children refuges for those women and their children who are escaping domestic violence?

(2) What amount of funding is made available for men's refuges and men with children refuges for those men and their children who are escaping domestic violence?

(3) How many women's refuges are there?

(4) How many men's refuges are there?

(5) What is the total number of beds in women's refuges in Queensland?

(6) What is the total number of beds in men's refuges in Queensland?

(7) What is the total number of beds for men with their children in refuges in Queensland?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

(1) Refuges for women and children escaping domestic violence are funded by my Department under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP). In the 1999/00 financial year, \$8,299,688 is available to fund SAAP services providing accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence.

(2) In the 1999/00 financial year, \$20,697,849 is available to fund SAAP services able to be accessed by men and men with children.

(3) There are 46 services funded under SAAP to provide accommodation to women and children escaping domestic violence. A further four services are funded under SAAP to provide information and support for these women.

(4) Men and men with children can access 68 accommodation and support services across the state which target single men, mixed client groups or families. Young men can also access 59 youth services across Queensland.

(5) I am advised that there are a total of 277 beds in Queensland for women and children escaping domestic violence.

(6) I am advised that there are 380 beds in Queensland available to single men.

(7) I am advised that in addition to the services outlined in (6), men with children may access 637 beds provided through generalist SAAP services or 482 beds provided by services funded to provide accommodation for families.

### 239. Domestic Violence; Sexual Assault

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

(1) What amount of funding is made available for the prevention of domestic violence against women and their children in the State of Queensland ie information centres, health initiatives, counselling services, education programs, domestic violence centres, court support, emergency housing, legal aid grants and refuges for women and other services not mentioned that are directed towards alleviating the suffering of women and children in domestic violence situations, detailing itemised amounts?

(2) What amount of funding is made available for the prevention of domestic violence against

men and their children in the State of Queensland ie information centres, health initiatives, counselling services, education programs, domestic violence centres, court support, emergency housing, legal aid grants and refuges for men and other services not mentioned that are directed towards alleviating the suffering of men and children in domestic violence situations, detailing itemised amounts?

- (3) What amount of funding is made available for the prevention of sexual assault of women and made available for programs providing support for female victims of sexual assault?
- (4) What amount of funding is made available for the prevention of sexual assault of men and made available for programs providing support for male victims of sexual assault?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00): Domestic Violence is whole of government issue affecting the entire community and a number of Government Departments fund initiatives that are designed to prevent domestic violence. In this respect I refer the Member for Hervey Bay to the Minister for Health, the Minister for Equity and Fair Trading and the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development, the Minister for Police, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Education. With respect to initiatives funded through my portfolio, Queenslanders affected by domestic violence can access services funded by my Department under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) and the Domestic Violence Initiatives Program (DVIP). Many of these initiatives are not gender specific.

(1) Women and their children escaping domestic violence can access one of 50 services, mostly refuges, funded by SAAP at \$9.2m across Queensland. In the 1998-99 financial year, services specifically for women accounted for 29% of Queensland's recurrent SAAP funding, and services which were not gender specific (including services for young people) accounted for 63% of recurrent SAAP funds.

DVIP provides funding of \$5.8M recurrently for Queensland services to respond to domestic violence. Under DVIP, no funding initiatives have specified women exclusively as the target. The initiatives generally target victims of domestic violence or people affected by domestic violence and may include community awareness activities. Approximately 76% of DVIP funds have been allocated to strategies which support people affected by domestic violence in this way, including the network of 11 regional domestic violence services, the statewide Domestic Violence Telephone Service and the statewide Domestic Violence Resource Centre. There are, however, eight funded services which identify as women's services (such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal and Advocacy Service for example). These services receive approximately \$223,620 and represent 4% of DVIP funding.

Services for children (a statewide resource service and 12 funded counsellor positions for child

witnesses of domestic violence) amount to \$729,190 or 12% of DVIP funding.

(2) In the 1998-99 financial year, services specifically for men accounted for 8% and services which were not gender specific (including services for young people) accounted for 63% of recurrent SAAP funds. Men and men with children affected by domestic violence can access the 68 accommodation and support services across the State that target single men, mixed client groups or families. These services are available to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless for a variety of reasons, which may include domestic violence. Young men can also access the 59 youth services across Queensland.

DVIP provides funding of \$5.8M recurrently for Queensland services to respond to domestic violence. The initiatives generally target victims of domestic violence or people affected by domestic violence and may include community awareness activities. Approximately 76% of DVIP funds have been allocated to strategies which support people affected by domestic violence in this way, including the network of 11 regional domestic violence services, the statewide Domestic Violence Telephone Service and the statewide Domestic Violence Resource Centre.

Services for children (a Statewide resource service and 12 funded counsellor positions for child witnesses of domestic violence) amount to \$729,190 or 12% of DVIP funding.

(3) Support services for victims of sexual assault are primarily the responsibility of the Department of Health, and I refer the Member for Hervey Bay to the Minister for Health Wendy Edmond MLA, for a more comprehensive answer. However, my Department does fund some organisations to provide support to victims of crime.

Funding for support for victims of sexual abuse includes \$500,000 provided to the Victims of Crime Association Qld for the provision of non-gender specific support and counselling to victims of crime, including sexual abuse and \$101,700 provided to MICAH Inc to provide non-gender specific support to victims of abuse in institutions. Only one organisation is funded under this initiative to respond to gender specific issues—\$13,360 is provided to MARS (Men Affected by Rape and Sexual abuse). There are no victims of sexual assault support services funded by my Department which respond to women exclusively.

(4) As above.

#### 240. Domestic Violence Centres

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to domestic violence centres in the State of Queensland—

(1) How much does each occupant pay for accommodation in women's refuges?

(2) How much does each male occupant pay for accommodation in refuges?

- (3) How much do occupants contribute to the day to day running costs of women's refuges on a percentage basis?
- (4) How much do male occupants contribute to the day to day running costs of men's refuges on a percentage basis?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

(1) Occupants of women's refuges do not pay a set fee for accommodation. Crisis accommodation is provided regardless of a client's ability to pay. However, clients may pay a reasonable charge for crisis accommodation where they have access to income and where this is consistent with the support plan, which is developed by the client and refuge.

(2) Clients may pay a reasonable charge for crisis accommodation where they have access to income and where this is consistent with the support plan, which is developed by the client and the service.

(3) The day to day running costs of women's refuges are funded by my Department and through contributions by auspice organisations. Charges paid by occupants of women's refuges may be used towards running costs or other costs associated with operating the refuge, but this is not a requirement. The charges paid by clients do not represent a significant portion of services' income in most cases.

(4) The day to day running costs of the crisis accommodation services referred in the response to part 2 are funded by my Department and through contributions by auspice organisations. Charges paid by occupants of these services may be used towards running costs or other costs associated with operating the service, but this is not a requirement. The charges paid by clients do not represent a significant portion of services' income in most cases.

#### **241. Department of Education, Appointments**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Education (11/4/00)—

With reference to an officer of the Department of Education who has approached me claiming some appointments have been made within the department without the correct procedures being followed and as this is a serious allegation that, if correct, will damage morale within the department—

Will he categorically deny that there have been any departmental appointments made where correct procedures have not been followed?

**Mr WELLS** (11/5/00): I have not been informed of any departmental appointments where the correct procedures have not been followed. Should the Honourable Member know of any such appointments he should provide that information through the correct procedures.

#### **242. Government Departments, Job Applications**

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/4/00)—

With reference to applications for jobs with Government departments—

Will he tell me if applicants are advised if their application is unsuccessful and how they are advised?

**Mr BRADY** (11/5/00): Applicants for gazetted vacancies in the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations are advised in writing of the outcome of their application. This practice is in accordance with the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Recruitment and Selection Manual.

Further questions in regard to the practices of other Government departments and agencies should be directed to the Office of the Public Service Commissioner or the agency concerned.

#### **243. Danbulla-Lake Tinaroo Draft Management Strategy**

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/4/00)—

With reference to Question On Notice No. 77, and paying particular attention to the Government's self-confessed accountability and commitment to consultation—

- (1) Will he consider releasing the Danbulla/Lake Tinaroo draft management plan so that I can go through what will be an important document for this very important part of the Tablelands?
- (2) Is it unreasonable for me as the Member for Tablelands to want input into this document?
- (3) If it is not finished, when will it be finished and when can I expect to see it?

**Mr WELFORD** (10/5/00):

(1) Yes, my Department of Natural Resources has recently updated the draft Danbulla-Lake Tinaroo Management Strategy to reflect current changes in policy and legislation. Representatives of the Steering Committee have been asked to review the document and to support the release of the document for public comment. Such approval will certainly allow comment from all members of the public.

The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from my Department of Natural Resources and my Environmental Protection Agency, School for Field Studies, Wet Tropics Management Authority, the Mayor of the Atherton Shire Council and the Planner for the Atherton Shire Council.

(2) No, it is not unreasonable but I will take advice from the Steering Committee as to how and when to release the draft to you and the community.

(3) The draft Danbulla-Lake Tinaroo Management Strategy was posted to Steering Committee members on the 13 April 2000. Each representative group has been asked to provide comment to the Regional Forest Planner, Department of Natural Resources, Atherton by 31 April 2000. Both the Forest Planner and Operations Manager will seek interviews with each Steering Committee representative thereafter to discuss areas of concern and to seek approval to release the draft Strategy. The documents must be reprinted for public release



which is expected to be as soon as the Steering Committee review process is completed.

#### 244. The Spit, Main Beach

**Mr GRICE** asked the Premier (11/4/00)—

With reference to the front page of the Gold Coast Bulletin on 8 April in which there are details involving the Aboriginal Community of the Gold Coast and a proposed cultural centre which all involves a deal involving land on The Spit at Main Beach—

- (1) Will he provide me with the full details of any proposals or negotiations currently under way involving his department or other departments especially Environment and Heritage, Natural Resources and Transport as well as Gold Coast City Council in an overall strategy for future land use on The Spit as I understand some of these moves could call for the movement of the present trawling fleet from its location next door to the nearly completed six-star Versace Hotel.
- (2) Will he also tell me why the public of the Gold Coast, especially the northern end around Southport and Main Beach, have not been told about any proposal by Government departments, council or individual developers or groups about The Spit land?

**Mr BEATTIE** (11/5/00):

(1) As the Honourable Member would be aware, the Kombumerri people have claimed native title to certain land and waters at the Gold Coast.

The Kombumerri people have produced the outline of a complex proposal, which would allow the development of some land on the Spit at the Gold Coast and include the provision of land for an indigenous cultural centre. The Kombumerri people believe that this would lead to the resolution of a significant part of their native title claims.

My Government is considering, and will continue to consider, all proposals for the resolution of the claims put forward by the Kombumerri or their advisers as is the case with all native title claim negotiations.

(2) The proposal that has been put forward originated with the Kombumerri people and their advisers. Discussions with the Kombumerri people on this matter are preliminary in nature. Firm and final written details of the proposal have not yet been provided and my Government has not agreed to adopt any particular proposal.

#### 245. Respite and Non-respite Care for Children

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to her inability or unwillingness to provide information to the Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision to distinguish between respite and non-respite care for children in supported placements when compiling returns on the placement arrangements for children in the care of her department—

- (1) When will she introduce modernised record-keeping to provide such a basic break-up as that between respite and non-respite care?
- (2) What was the actual break-up by age cohorts of the frequency of placements of children in the care of her department during the first 9 months of 1999-2000—preferably with respite placements identified separately?
- (3) Is she still unable to do what the other larger States can do in this regard?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

(1) Data on respite and non-respite placements is not one of the key performance indicators in the Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision (SCRCCSP) report, it is one of many descriptive indicators. Differences in State and Territory child protection legislation and service responses lead to variations in data collections. Queensland expects to be able provide data distinguishing between respite and non-respite care for the 2002 report.

(2) Data is available from 1 July 1999 to 29 February 2000. The number of placements for all children in care who exited out-of-home care in this period by age group is as follows:

for children under one year, 36 children had one placement, nine children had 2-3 placements;

for children 1-4 years, 78 children had one placement, 20 children had 2-3 placements, three children had 4-5 placements;

for children 5-9 years, 97 children had one placement, 30 children had 2-3 placements, five children had 4-5 placements, two children had six or more placements;

for children 10-14 years, 140 children had one placement, 55 children had 2-3 placements, 14 children had 4-5 placements, five children had six or more placements; and

for children 15-17 years, 58 children had one placement, 19 children had 2-3 placements, five children had 4-5 placements, six children had six or more placements

(3) The imputation in the question has no basis in fact as Queensland's data collection capacity is very good compared to other States. Queensland is ahead of the larger States in its provision of data to the SCRCCSP. Queensland reported on more of the key performance indicators for supported placements in the 2000 report than did Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

#### 246. Youth Detention Centres

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

- (1) How many admissions to youth detention centres have occurred in the period 1 July 1999 to 31 March 2000?
- (2) For how many of these children have Secure Care Plans been prepared in accordance with approved standards?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

(1) 766

(2) Of these, 258 young people were eligible for Secure Care Plans and 179 (almost 70%) had Plans in place. This is an average over this nine month period. At the end of the period, 85% of young people had plans in place.

#### 247. Disability Services

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

As she has already informed the House that the cost of additional senior positions in Disability Services Queensland will be found from the overall Budget of that agency even though these costs are not specifically provided for in the Budget Papers, will she now assure the House that the needs of hundreds of Queenslanders in similar or worse circumstances than those of 'William' (The Courier Mail of 14 March) will also be met out of departmental funds; if not, why does she regard the setting up of an elaborate and costly bureaucracy as more important than the provision of desperately needed services for people with a disability?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00): This Government is strongly committed to addressing the high levels of unmet need for disability services that remain in Queensland. The record levels of new funding provided by the Beattie Government since it came to office, including the \$30m Unmet Need New Initiative in the 1998-99 Budget, have provided the best possible practical demonstration of this commitment. This money has gone where it is most needed – to provide Queenslanders with flexible, individualised support and to fund organisations to provide disability services across Queensland.

As I have advised previously in my response to Question on Notice No 2008, which was tabled on 31 December 1999, no service delivery funding has been used for the establishment of Disability Services Queensland as a separate Government department.

#### 248. Disability Services

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to her opposing institutional care, when in Opposition, for people with disabilities—however she has not carried through with the promises about closure of such facilities when facing the realities of Government—

- (1) Why has the Government failed to regulate the operation of hostels and boarding homes which are now being referred to as 'de facto' institutions for people with disabilities—places that do not have the built-in safeguards of residential facilities such as the modernised Basil Stafford Centre?
- (2) What has she done about the recommendations in the Burdekin Report of 1993 relating to this "scaled down re-institutionalisation"?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

1. Currently, major work is being undertaken by the Hostel and Industry Development Unit located in the Portfolio of the Honourable Judy Spence, Minister for Equity and Fair Trading and I refer the Honourable Member to Minister Spence for a response to this question.

2. It is not possible to determine to which recommendations the Honourable Member refers.

#### 249. Disability Services

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to the Report on Government Services 2000, by the Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision (p. 1081) (11/4/00)—

What steps will she be taking in the provision of services for people with disabilities to address the situation where a higher percentage of clients in Queensland than in any other State or Territory indicated that they wanted to be moved for negative reasons?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00): This Government will continue to deliver an unprecedented level of improvement to the lives of people with a disability in Queensland. The data presented in the report on Government Services 2000 is from a survey of client and family satisfaction conducted between August and November 1999. These results are more likely the result of the neglect shown in this area by the previous Government. The Beattie Labor Government has created Disability Services Queensland to provide leadership across government and provide better outcomes for people with a disability, making disability a visible priority for this and future governments. The Beattie Labor Government has also allocated \$30m to address unmet need, providing hundreds of Queenslanders with tailored support and funding more than fifty-one new disability services outlets across the State. This Government has also established stronger partnerships between people with a disability, families and service providers through focus groups, forums and reference groups, the regional priority panels and the Disability Council of Queensland.

#### 250. Disability Services

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to the Report on Government Services 2000 by the Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision—

Why is the Beattie Labor Government paying substantially less per place than any other State (p. 1094); at the same time outspending all other jurisdictions on the proportion of total expenditure on administration costs (p. 1095)?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00): It is inappropriate to compare the data presented in relation to the administration costs of the different State

Governments, as the States have different methods of determining administration costs and costs included are not similar across States. For example, travel is included as an administration cost and the cost of servicing a State as large as Queensland with many diverse regional and remote communities will obviously be significantly higher than the cost of servicing a smaller State.

It is, however, appropriate to compare funding in the State of Queensland from year to year. The Honourable member may be interested to note that the administration costs of the disability budget in Queensland have in fact decreased significantly during the Beattie Labor Government, for example 13.2% in 1998/99 compared to 16.8% under the Borbidge/Sheldon Coalition State Government in 1996/97.

The Honourable member may also be interested to note that the funding of non-government community accommodation and care services has increased significantly under the Beattie Labor Government with an injection of \$30 million recurrent funding for Disability Services Queensland.

### 251. Disability Services

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

What specifically is she doing to meet the now identified need of more than 1000 people with the highest priority of need for disability services when only 221 of these people had received packages by March?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00): The Beattie Labor Government is the first Queensland Government to attempt to quantify and address the level of unmet need in relation to services for people with a disability. This Government has brought an unprecedented level of improvement to the lives of people with a disability in Queensland. The figures you quote relate to those people who received packages up to the third funding round, out of the \$30M allocated by the Beattie Labor Government for Queenslanders with a disability. A further funding round is nearing completion, with \$1.5M allocated for people with a Priority Rating of 1.

We will continue to allocate resources according to priority.

### 252. Indigenous Children, Supported Placements

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to her administration wherein the percentage of indigenous children in supported placements has risen from 10.1 per thousand at June 1998 to 11.0 at June 1999—

- (1) What assurances will she give to the people of Queensland that this trend will be reversed?
- (2) What specific steps have been taken to reduce the percentage of indigenous children in supported placements?

- (3) What performance objectives have been met in regard to this matter?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

(1) I place a very high priority on addressing the over-representation of Indigenous children in the child protection system. It should be noted that children are placed in supported placements by my Department to ensure their safety. I will continue to ensure that both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children are placed in safe, stable and caring placements whenever it is not safe for them to remain at home.

(2) The Child Protection Act 1999, proclaimed on 23 March 2000, sets out the legislative and policy framework for improving child protection responses to indigenous communities. The Act promotes working with families in a culturally appropriate way as the primary way of protecting children. Consultation with appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies is required when responding to children who have been harmed or are at risk of harm.

A range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Agencies are funded throughout Queensland to provide practical assistance, support, counselling and child protection intervention services to families. Funding for these agencies has been increased from 1999-2000 to enable them to expand their range of services. Additional funding of \$550,000 in 1999-2000, \$1.1M recurrently in 2000-01, will enhance the capacity of indigenous community agencies to reduce the number of children in care and in supported placements.

Work is currently being undertaken between staff of my Department and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Agencies to progress a range of strategies aimed at continued improvement to child protection services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. An additional five positions have been established in departmental area offices specifically for Indigenous family and community workers.

During 1999, there was extensive training undertaken throughout the State for frontline child protection workers including workers in Indigenous agencies. The training will improve the skills and knowledge in assisting families in the care of children.

(3) The Department's Strategic Plan 1999/2002 includes a key objective of developing a range of culturally appropriate services and programs. One of the performance indicators is to reduce over representation of indigenous children in statutory care.

In 1998/99 there was a significant drop in the number of child protection cases notified to my Department concerning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. In 1998/99, 10% of all cases notified concerned Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, compared with 14.4% of all notifications in the previous year.

### 253. Illicit Drugs

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to children in the care of the Director-General of the department—

- (1) What is the number and percentage of children involved with illicit drug taking?
- (2) What measures does the department undertake to free children from illicit drug taking?
- (3) What measures does she use to determine the success or otherwise of progress in regard to (2)?
- (4) How successful in her measurement terms has this been (that is, the number of children successfully exiting the rehabilitation program and not returning to illicit drugs while within the department's care)?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

- (1) By its very nature, the use of illicit drugs is not a measurable phenomenon and the Department is not able to quantify a precise measure of drug use amongst the population of children and young people under protection orders.
- (2) A response to the health needs of an individual child or young person is formed in a casework relationship, and appropriate medical, therapeutic and social services are accessed on a case-by-case basis. Whenever a departmental caseworker becomes aware of a young person with a drug dependency or who uses illicit drugs, the issue is considered to be serious and appropriate case planning and referral occurs. More importantly, many young people and foster carers are exposed to proactive or preventive drug education.
- (3) The measures of success are determined as a part of the individual case planning and review mechanisms outlined above.
- (4) Information about success is maintained on individual case files.

#### **254. Families, Youth and Community Care Department**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 1646 of 10 November 1999 and to her answer on 9 December 1999 in relation to the criteria to determine the success or otherwise of young people exiting the care of the department, and to her indication in her answer that each has a plan in place to identify their needs in transition—

- (1) To what extent and in what ways does her department provide follow-up support to such young people in the 15-17 years age groups?
- (2) What proportion of those actually carry through to full implementation of their plan?
- (3) What consequences flow from failure to comply with the plan?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

- (1) Case planning for young people leaving care usually commences after they turn 15 years and continues until they exit care on or before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Case plans are comprehensive and include input by the young person, their foster carers, their

family or community, their case worker and anyone else identified as a significant person in their lives. Plans are made around priority needs such as education, training and employment, income support, health issues, accommodation and self care skills, identity issues, family and social support networks and emotional and behaviour development. Case plans are reviewed every six months or more frequently if necessary. Young people are assisted to not only prepare to leave care but for life as an adult 'after care'. Planning and support is available to young people who have left care yet feel the need for ongoing support. The objective of leaving care planning is to assist young people by providing them with the personal supports and practical skills necessary to establish themselves as responsible, confident and contributing members of their community.

- (2) Case plans must be flexible and adaptable to the changing needs of young people. Plans made at age 15 years may change dramatically by age 18 years due to changes in life circumstances or their level of maturity, for example a young person may decide to apply to University rather than seeking employment.
- (3) Plans are developed through the collaborative process as described above. A plan is reviewed if it does not meet the needs of the person concerned.

#### **255. Supported Accommodation Assistance Program**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), under her administration wherein Queensland has the lowest per person allocation of all States and Territories of funds under this program and the lowest percentage allocation to recurrent SAAP funding of all the States—

- (1) What is she doing to rectify the Beattie Government's neglect in this regard, by way of additional Queensland Government funding?
- (2) What proposal has she placed before the Commonwealth Government to achieve additional Federal funds for allocation under this program in Queensland?
- (3) What specific services are proposed to be enhanced or established by the allocation of additional SAAP funding in Queensland and over what time frame?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

- (1) The neglect referred to in the question is more appropriately sheeted home to the Borbidge/Sheldon Coalition Government. Since the Beattie Labor government came to office there has been an increase of \$5.3m to community organisations to provide SAAP services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Additional State funding includes \$0.341m for Indigenous rural and remote services for women escaping domestic violence, \$2.6m per annum representing the State commitment to the implementation of the Crisis Assistance and Supported Housing (CASH) Award and additional

funds to meet increases in superannuation guarantee charges and indexation.

(2) I have recently presented the Queensland case for additional growth funds from the Commonwealth in relation to the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) IV Agreement. I am arguing that Queensland has been underfunded for a significant period of time and that we have a strong claim for increasing the Commonwealth contribution to Queensland SAAP at least on a per capita basis that acknowledges the population growth in Queensland. Under the current Commonwealth offer, Queensland's proportion of total Commonwealth funding will be only 16.6% even though its proportion of the nation's population is 18.5%. This represents a shortfall of almost \$3m in funding. This is even more marked when considering that recent ABS data indicates that Queensland has 24% of Australia's homeless population. The identified shortfall is having a severe impact on Queensland's capacity to address the needs of people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. I have sought the support of the Commonwealth to redress this shortfall progressively over the five years of the next SAAP Agreement. To date, the Commonwealth has failed to support any proposal to ensure that Queensland's share of Commonwealth SAAP funds corresponds to its population.

(3) My Department is currently engaged in mapping supported accommodation services throughout Queensland to identify the areas of highest need and gaps in current service provision to help determine how additional Commonwealth funds of approximately \$2.178m available to SAAP in Queensland from July 2000 are to be allocated.

#### 256. Families, Youth and Community Care Department

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to her portfolio—

- (1) How many Family Services officers are attached to each office and how many cases per officer are at each location?
- (2) How many Child Care staff are attached to each office and how many Child Care facilities are supervised by each officer?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

(1) The number of Family Services Officers in each area office as at March 2000 is listed in the table below. Staff/case ratios are configured differently in each office and work load allocation depends on variables such as team specialisation, urgency of case, complexity of case, availability of community resources and geographic location.

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

(2) The number of Child Care staff attached to each Regional office is listed in the table below. Work load allocation depends on variables such as risk assessment, complexity of issues, level of regulation and geographic location.

Region—No. of Full Time Equivalent Positions

Brisbane City—7.4  
Wide Bay Burnett—1  
Gold Coast—5  
Central Qld—3  
Ipswich & Logan—5  
Mackay & Whitsundays—1.25  
Toowoomba/South West—2  
Townsville & Hinterland—3.25  
Caboolture & Redcliffe—2.6  
Cairns & Tableland—2.8  
Sunshine Coast—2  
Remote & North West—2.5

#### 257. Children, Out-of-home Care

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (11/4/00)—

With reference to children exiting care in the period 1 July 1999 to 31 March, after less than 12 months in care—

Will she indicate (a) the total number of such children, (b) the number who had one placement only while in care, (c) the number who had two such placements and (d) the number who had three or more placements?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00): The most recent data concerning children subject to orders who have been in out-of-home care for less than 12 months and who exited out-of-home care is for the period 1 July 1999 to 29 February 2000.

- (a) The total number of children exiting out-of-home care in the period 1 July 1999 to 29 February 2000 after less than 12 months in out-of-home care is 454.
- (b) The number who had one placement only while in care is 373.
- (c) The number who had two placements is 62.
- (d) The number who had three or more placements is 19.

#### 258. Suncorp-Metway Stadium; 2003 Rugby World Cup

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (11/4/00)—

With reference to claims by the former Sports Minister, Mr Gibbs, that he had clinched a deal which ensured the redeveloped Suncorp Metway Stadium would be one of the principal venues for the 2003 Rugby World Cup, including a semi-final venue and to recent media reports that the chairman of the Rugby World Cup Committee, Mr Leo Williams, has issued a warning that the stadium will not be considered as a venue unless it is completed and tested at least six months before the World Cup—

- (1) What discussions or events prompted Mr Williams to issue the warning?
- (2) Is it possible for the redevelopment project to be completed six months before the Rugby World Cup?
- (3) Is there any written agreement between the Government and the Rugby World Cup

Committee concerning venues in Queensland for the 2003 event?

- (4) If the project does not proceed, how many Rugby World Cup matches will be played in Queensland in 2003 and where will they be played?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (11/5/00):

- (1) I am unaware of Mr Williams' reasons for making this statement.
- (2) Advice from the Government's Stadium Development Group, chaired by my Department, is that the stadium can be completed six months prior to the event.
- (3) It is my understanding that the Queensland Events Corporation is negotiating with the Australian Rugby Union regarding a number of rugby events including a World Cup quarter-final in 2003. This was publicly announced by the Australian Rugby Union in a media release of 2 December 1999.
- (4) The Australian Rugby Union is still to finalise its Host Union Agreement for the 2003 tournament with the International Rugby Board and Rugby World Cup. Therefore, it is impossible to determine at this stage how many matches will be played in Queensland.

## 259. Drug Education

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (11/4/00)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 17 of 29 February and to his answer of 30 March that "The \$82 per student for Drug Education is based on a conservative calculation of the costs involved in three general areas of activity"—

- (1) What is the specific proportion and value of each of the 'school-based costs' he cited including specialist teachers, guidance officers, behaviour management support staff and implementation of the new health and physical education syllabus?
- (2) What is the specific nature and value of each of the 'system priorities and programs' he cited including dedicated State drug education funding, dedicated Federal drug education funding and central office support staff?
- (3) What is the specific proportion and value of each of the 'joint Government initiatives' he cited including school-based nurses and school-based police officers?
- (4) What is the specific nature and value of any other expenditure included in his calculation of \$82 per student?
- (5) Is the claimed value of all such measures in excess of \$38m per year, based on total State school enrolments in 2000 of 467,800 students at \$82 each?
- (6) Why has he used this new methodology for calculating expenditure on drug education in Queensland when no other education department anywhere else in Australia uses this methodology?

**Mr WELLS** (11/5/00): As I indicated in my answer to the Question on Notice No 17 of February 29th, the \$82 per student for Drug Education is based on a conservative calculation of the costs involved in the development and delivery of programs that are teacher facilitated and student orientated rather than those, which are drug oriented, one off or information based. Such programs are more likely to achieve positive educational outcomes, and support our concern that every student in the State receives appropriate drug education.

The specific details of "system priorities and programs" are readily available on the public record and include policy development and professional development of teachers and educational advisers. Education Queensland has been working with the Commonwealth to ensure an alignment between the National Strategic Plan and its own activity. The groundbreaking work being carried out by Queensland with funding under federal government initiatives focuses on teacher and community development, on-line materials development and will directly support the implementation of our new policy.

Our approach endeavours to address the issue of drug education through mainstream curricula and co-curricula activities and, as such, brings a much wider range of personnel and programs to bear on the issue than has previously been the case. May I remind the Honourable Member once again that all Ministers in this country of all political parties have said "that drug education is best taught in the context of the school health curriculum." Expenditure on drug education will therefore be more widely diffused throughout the State system rather than towards a single program, which has been the case in the past.

Good practice, based on research, suggests that programs that are teacher facilitated and student orientated rather than those which are drug oriented, one off or information based, are more likely to achieve positive educational outcomes. This key factor is what makes the Queensland approach to drug education different from those taken in other states, and is widely acknowledged as the only one which has the potential to reach all students.

Finally, I have been provided with no evidence that life education programs have led to a decrease in the uptake of drug related behaviours by young people.

## 260. CITEC

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (11/4/00)—

With reference to the changes to the pricing structure of 1900 prefixed numbers by CITEC—

- (1) What was the basis for introducing a \$500 minimum monthly service operation charge for services generating less than \$500 gross revenue?
- (2) What was the average operating cost for 1900 services incurred by CITEC for 1998-99?

- (3) What was CITEC's total revenue derived from 1900 services in 1998-99?
- (4) What was the total number of services utilising the 1900 service of CITEC in 1998-99?
- (5) What proportion of these services had gross monthly service revenues of (a) less than \$500, (b) \$501 to \$2000, (c) \$2001 to \$5000, (d) \$5001 to \$10000, (e) \$10001 to \$25000 and (f) more than \$25001?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (11/5/00):

(1) Prior to the introduction of the \$500 minimum monthly fee, the service was not attracting sufficient revenue to cover a number of its operating costs.

The imposition of a number of charges by the "wholesale" provider, Telstra, also impacted upon the financial position of the service. In November 1999, a minimum monthly fee of \$50 per month for services earning less than \$100 per month was introduced by Telstra. Additionally, where the gross revenue generated in a particular month is \$10,000 or less, Telstra pays no revenue to the provider.

When added to the typically high demands for support and assistance which come from small clients, these pricing moves from the wholesaler meant the introduction of a minimum monthly service fee had to occur for the service to remain viable.

(2-5) In regard to questions 2-5, I am not prepared to disclose this information which is commercial in confidence. To do so would potentially provide an unfair advantage to the commercial competitors of CITEC.

## 261. Moranbah District Health Service

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (11/4/00)—

With reference to my question without notice on 16 March, where she did not answer and consequently released a media statement on 22 March—

- (1) As she mentions that \$396,000 of funding for building of Montcler Nursing Home went through the Moranbah District office budget, can she show how this could be, as I have been informed that because it was Commonwealth funding, it went directly to capital works and then straight into the project?
- (2) Will she explain what new building repairs and what maintenance is going to be carried out that will cost \$685,000 this year throughout the Moranbah District Health Service?
- (3) Will she advise what tasks are going to be done that is going to cost \$249,000 in the Moranbah District Health Service this year?
- (4) With her claim that the Moranbah District Health Service's budget has been boosted, can she advise in what areas the budget has been boosted; is it food, care, nursing, operational, clinical or the district office?

**Mrs EDMOND** (11/5/00):

(1) Moranbah Health Service District received capital funding of \$395,600 from the Commonwealth following agreement in April 1999. These costs were transferred by journal between the District and

Capital Works Branch on 30 June 1999, as this component of the funding was a capital commitment by the Commonwealth for the establishment of Clermont as a multipurpose health service.

(2) Clermont Hospital was recently redeveloped at a cost of \$7.2 million. Money has been allocated this year in Moranbah district for upgrading of the other hospital facilities, including a new x-ray area for Moranbah, upgrading of the hospital kitchens and laundries in Dysart and Moranbah, and a new nurse call system in Monash Lodge Hostel. Funds are also being spent on building and upgrading staff accommodation to aid in recruitment and retention of staff to rural areas.

(3) The amount of \$249,000 has been set aside in the Moranbah Health Service District for quality assurance programs, to increase funds for the Patient Travel Scheme and for staff training in emergency care. There is also funding for improved waste management, and workplace health and safety issues.

(4) The budget has increased in medical wages, nursing wages, capital works and assets, repairs and maintenance. There have been improvements in services such as the appointment of a full-time mental health worker to Clermont, and a significant increase to the budget for Monash Lodge Hostel in Clermont. A permanent position has been funded for a second medical officer to be employed in Clermont, which commenced last year. The position of the community network support officer has been recurrently funded this year with some increase in hours from the district budget to support the fight against youth suicide. The six new nursing home beds in Clermont were opened this year.

It is disappointing that the local member is not supportive of these important upgrades of health facilities and services in the area but appears to be intent on wasting Queensland Health's time pursuing malicious rumours and gossip.

## 262. Community Jobs Plan

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/4/00)—

Will he list all those community jobs programs which were completed by 31 March and in relation to each, will he indicate the number of participants who (a) enrolled in the program, (b) completed the program, (c) went into employment at the end of the program, (d) went into further training at the end of the program and (e) remained unemployed at the end of the program?

**Mr BRADY** (11/5/00): To date final reports have been received for twenty-seven Community Jobs Plan projects that were completed by 31 March 2000. Based on the reports received, 49.3% of the participants that enrolled on a project either gained employment or went on to further education and training. The figures quoted include not only those participants that completed the project and went on to employment or training, but also those that may have been fortunate to gain positions prior to completing the project and withdrew early.

This is an excellent result and is especially pleasing considering that the participants were either long term unemployed or those particularly disadvantaged in the labour market, including indigenous, mature aged and disabled people.

In relation to the final reports received to date the following details are provided: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 263. Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Report

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Education (11/4/00)—

With reference to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Report—National Inquiry into Rural and Remote Education "Emerging Themes"—

- (1) Will his department be providing responses to the issues raised in the report?
- (2) What process will his department undertake to formulate responses to the report?
- (3) In the formulation of his department's responses, will his department be formally consulting with groups such as the ICPA, QCPCA?
- (4) When will these responses be provided?
- (5) Will the responses of his department to this report be made public?
- (6) What new funding allocations has his department identified for dealing with areas of deficiency identified in the report?

**Mr WELLS** (11/5/00): The department informs me that report referred to by the Honourable Member is only an interim report. The final report is still to be presented. The department informs me that they are analysing this interim report to see what comments, if any, need to be made on that interim report.

As this is a national inquiry the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission will report to the Commonwealth Government (Attorney-General).

### 264. Mr P. Comben

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/4/00)—

What are the details of all consultancies awarded by his department to former Labor Minister Pat Comben, or companies associated with Mr Comben including details of (a) purpose of consultancy, (b) the date Mr Comben was appointed to each consultancy, (c) the date the department called tenders for each consultancy, (d) how much Mr Comben was paid and how is it budgeted for payment over the remainder of the financial year and (e) other costs, including office and travel expenses incurred by Mr Comben, to date, for these consultancies?

**Mr WELFORD** (10/5/00):  
Environmental Protection Agency

Two consultancy contracts have been awarded to the Honourable Pat Comben. Mr Comben personally

formulated the original NatureSearch program in 1990-91 and he is uniquely placed to guide the QPWS in re-establishing the program and engendering its renewed spirit now. This outstanding community based initiative suffered a fatal asphyxiation of interest and commitment under a disgracefully cynical attack by the Coalition Government. Already, the community has demonstrated its support for the renewed NatureSearch Program with some 500 naturesearchers participating in voluntary wildlife identification and recording activities. I hope to expand this to more than 5000 across the State. Mr Comben's credentials as a wildlife educator (as recognised by Channel 7 television and other media) will unquestionably inspire growing public interest and involvement.

(a) The purpose of the first consultancy was to develop the initial phase of the NatureSearch program.

The purpose of the second consultancy is the promotion of NatureSearch to potential volunteers, community groups, local government and other stakeholders both directly and through the media and the provision of expertise to support and implement NatureSearch.

(b) The first consultancy commenced on 11 February 1999. The second consultancy commenced on 21 July 1999.

(c) The first consultancy was offered to the Honourable Pat Comben using the provisions of Part C Section 7.3 of the Queensland Government State Purchasing Policy that provides for consultancies of a specialist nature to be offered directly. Offers for the second consultancy were invited on 9 April 1999.

(d) The Honourable Pat Comben was paid \$10,000 under the first consultancy. The total value of the second consultancy is \$72,800 of which \$50,260 has been paid as at 14 April 2000. The balance of \$22,540 is budgeted to be paid fortnightly.

(e) Additional costs under the terms of the first consultancy were \$809.46. Under the second consultancy agreement reimbursement of \$907.31 has occurred. The NatureSearch program is housed within Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service where standard office accommodation together with computing and telephone facilities have been made available for the consultancy.

Department of Natural Resources

(a)-(e) My Department of Natural Resources has awarded no consultancy to Mr Comben.

### 265. Public Housing Program

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (11/4/00)—

With reference to the carryover of capital works within the public housing program, what has been the, or is the, projected carryover of capital works for (a) new construction, (b) acquisition, (c) maintenance and (d) upgrades (including urban and community renewal) for 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?



**Mr SCHWARTEN** (11/5/00): See Attachment A for the carryover of capital works within the public housing program for (a) new construction, (b) acquisition, (c) maintenance and (d) upgrades (including urban and community renewal) for 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

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

#### **266. Fire and Rescue Authority; Ambulance Service**

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (11/4/00)—

Will he list all Queensland Fire and Rescue Authorities and Queensland Ambulance Service stations in Queensland, together with current staffing levels and vacancies for each?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (12/5/00): Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

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

#### **267. Speed Cameras**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/4/00)—

With reference to the situation in New South Wales where tens of thousands of speed camera fines are under review and may be cancelled because police did not allow the video cameras a big enough margin for error and fines totalling millions of dollars are at stake and more importantly, restitution of lost drivers' points—

Could such a situation occur in Queensland and what safeguards are in place to ensure the highest level of accuracy in speed camera operations?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (15/5/00): The situation which occurred in NSW, related to the technology in use in that State not allowing a sufficient margin of error when determining infringements. The technology and systems used in NSW are manufactured by a different supplier from those used in Queensland. The situation which occurred in NSW could not occur in Queensland, as the technology used in this State not only meets the relevant Australian Standards for operation of radar devices, but exceeds that standard for accuracy. Additionally, all cameras are checked and calibrated prior to each speed camera deployment to ensure compliance with the requirements of the relevant Australian Standards.

#### **268. Commercial Rowing Club**

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (11/4/00)—

With reference to plans by his department to relocate the Commercial Rowing Club (CRC) (11/4/00)—

What negotiations and discussions have occurred between the Government and CRC, what time-frame

for relocation is under consideration, what location is being considered for relocation and what will be the costs involved?

**Mr FOLEY** (11/5/00): As the Department of Public Works has primary responsibility for this project, it is suggested that you redirect the question to the Honourable Robert Schwarten MLA, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing.

#### **269. Queen Street Bus Tunnel**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/4/00)—

With reference to the South East Transit Project and, in particular, the route for buses across the Victoria Bridge—

- (1) What route is to be taken by buses accessing the Queen Street bus tunnel?
- (2) Is he satisfied that the Queen Street bus tunnel has sufficient capacity to support the South East Transit Project and the Inner Northern Busway?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (15/5/00):

(1) Buses on the south-east busway that are destined for the Queen Street bus station will travel via Mater Hill Station, South Bank Station and Cultural Centre Station and then across the Victoria Bridge to enter directly into the Queen Street Station.

The busway operating strategy is currently being prepared in consultation with public transport service providers to achieve the optimum level of service for passengers. The draft operating strategy proposes that all-day bus services will travel via South Bank to either Queen Street station or turn at North Quay to access important destinations such as the Gardens, Spring Hill and the Valley.

These all-day services will be supplemented in the peak periods by services that will depart the busway at Woolloongabba to use the Captain Cook bridge to service the Parliament, Riverside and Stock Exchange precincts.

The operating strategy includes plans to alter bus routes when the Brisbane Light Rail Project and Inner Northern Busway commence construction and operations to ensure that people can conveniently reach their destinations and to maximise interchanging opportunities.

(2) The draft busway operating strategy has been developed with the capacity of the Queen Street Station as one of the key considerations and, as mentioned in the previous answer, the draft strategy has been developed with staged alterations to bus routes as the Inner Northern Busway and Brisbane Light Rail project come on-line.

It is important to note that the draft operating strategy will be subject to refinement and improvement based on consultation with bus operators and comments by the travelling public.

#### **270. Manufactured Milk; Parmalat**

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (11/4/00)—

- (1) Further to a question to him from the Shadow Minister for Primary Industries, what will he do regarding the processor Parmalat telling farmers at a meeting in Beaudesert that, in four years, they will not accept manufactured milk and the farmers will have to throw that excess milk away?
- (2) If this is how deregulation will proceed, what can he, as Minister, do to make sure that this heavy handed attitude is not continued after the official change to deregulation in June-July?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (11/5/00):

(1) My advice is that senior staff of Pauls Ltd have investigated the alleged statement, and have concluded it was in fact not made. I understand that the matter was checked with the Chairman and Secretary of the Dairyfields Milk Suppliers Co-operative Ltd which conducted the meeting, and the Pauls representative who addressed the meeting, all of whom have all confirmed that no such statement was made at this meeting.

(2) I am further advised that Pauls has no plans to cease taking manufacturing milk from the Queensland industry.

#### 271. Child Protection Services

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (12/4/00)—

With reference to the provision of child protection services and as child protection funding and operations are provided in Dalby, Warwick and Charleville—

Is it her intention to centralise all child protection services to the extent these three towns in southern inland Queensland will lose their funding and services?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00): There is no intention to centralise the existing child protection services in Dalby, Warwick and Charleville. There will be no loss of funding and services.

In fact, my Department's strategic direction focuses on improving the delivery of services that meet local community needs.

#### 272. Domestic Violence Centres

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (12/4/00)—

With reference to domestic violence centres in the State of Queensland—

- (1) How many people stay in a women's refuge for one night, two nights, four nights, seven nights, 14 nights, one month, two months, three months, six months or nine months and more?
- (2) How many people stay in a men's/men with children refuge for one night, two nights, four nights, seven nights, 14 nights, one month, two months, three months, six months or nine months and more?

- (3) How many people revisit the women's refuge for accommodation on more than one occasion?

- (4) How many men revisit the refuge for accommodation on more than one occasion?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

- (1) This data is not available under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program.

- (2) See 1.

#### 273. Mr H. Te Kooti, Death

**Mr PAFF** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (12/4/00)—

With reference to the murder of Heora Te Kooti outside the Prince of Wales Hotel on Brisbane Street in Ipswich—

- (1) What further charges if any, are being considered against seven members of a gang of aboriginal youths who are alleged to be responsible for the death of Mr Te Kooti?

- (2) Is he prepared to instigate an inquiry into the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in relation to the disgraceful apathy of this department in failing to instigate charges against other alleged offenders of this horrific crime?

**Mr FOLEY** (14/4/00): The investigation of a homicide, as with any crime, is a matter for the police and not the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. If the resulting evidence is insufficient to support particular charges being brought at all or to satisfy a jury beyond reasonable doubt of a person's guilt, that is not the fault of the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is also not the fault of police if, after all inquiries are exhausted, the evidence is not strong enough to convict somebody of an offence.

It is a misuse of the Parliament to apply pressure to the Director of Public Prosecutions in respect of the prosecution of any person. Doing so is an attempt to politicise his office. It is important for all citizens that the independence of that office is maintained. Neither politicians nor the media should seek to influence the decision to prosecute or not prosecute a person for any crime. The dangers of doing so should be obvious to anyone. Partiality in decision-making by prosecutors would mean that some who should be brought to trial may not be and others would wrongly be brought to trial.

While any right thinking person is appalled at the fatal assault of Mr Te Kooti, persons should only be put upon their trial for offences related to that death if there is sufficient evidence to support the charges. A jury of twelve citizens was not satisfied of the guilt of the one person brought to trial. Unlike those intemperately commenting on the case, those jurors had the benefit of seeing and hearing all of the evidence. The Director of Public Prosecutions has personally spent many hours considering all of the evidence submitted to his office and has advised me that he is satisfied that those who were not put upon their trial should not have been tried on the presently available evidence. To do otherwise is to ensure an

acquittal and to prevent charges being brought at a later time should new evidence come to light.

The allegations within the member's questions are scandalous. The member for Ipswich West, Mr Paff, has learned nothing from his previous suspension from the Parliament for misleading statements.

#### 274. Energex

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (12/4/00)—

- (1) What are the measurable results that allow for the creation of bonuses every six months for Energex management?
- (2) What is the average dollar amount in bonuses granted to Energex management?
- (3) What is the average dollar amount created in bonuses for non-management staff eg truck driver?
- (4) Have bonuses for management been as high as \$50,000?

**Mr McGRADY** (16/5/00):

(1) Since January 1998, all staff of ENERGEX Limited and ENERGEX Retail Pty Ltd have been eligible to participate in a performance pay scheme similar to those offered by the private and public sector competitors of Energex and Energex Retail. These schemes are also widely used in other private sector industries. Executive staff of Energex and Energex Retail participate in an annual scheme whilst other employees are covered by six monthly cycles.

Individual or team performance agreements identifying key performance indicators and key behaviours are agreed between employees and their manager at the commencement of the bonus cycle. Individual performance agreements for senior executives are agreed between the senior executive concerned and the Chief Executive Officer.

(2) I am advised that the average bonus paid to staff of ENERGEX Limited and ENERGEX Retail Pty Ltd who occupy a management role (ie. including both executive contract staff and Award employees in a management position) was approximately \$6,367 covering the 1998-99 financial year.

(3) The average dollar bonus paid to ENERGEX Award non-management employees of ENERGEX Limited and ENERGEX Retail Pty Ltd during the 1998-99 financial year (ie. two six monthly cycles) was approximately \$1,567.

(4) Yes.

#### 275. Dairy Industry; Enzootic Bovine Leucosis

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (12/4/00)—

With reference to the deregulation of the dairy industry and the tragic effects this will have on Queensland farmers and as his department, together with the processors, actively forced Queensland farmers into an eradication program over the last decade to rid the Queensland dairy herds of Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL) and as this eradication has been at a great cost to this industry

but farmers were promised the benefit of being able to sell a wholesome product to the public—

- (1) Was EBL considered in the negotiations with other States in the deregulation debate?
- (2) Will his department actively promote Queensland milk as a wholesome product because of its clean EBL status?
- (3) Will his department encourage processors to use EBL as a marketing tool against southern milk flooding into Queensland; if not, why were Queensland farmers forced into such an eradication at such great cost?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (11/5/00): The very successful EBL accreditation scheme was very much an industry initiative. The scheme is supported by DPI in the form of research, provision of testing facilities and certification of herd statuses. However primary responsibility for management of the scheme has been the dairy industry, both at the producer organisation and processor level. The dairy industry should be congratulated on this very significant achievement.

(1) Negotiations regarding deregulation have centred on the Commonwealth Dairy Industry Adjustment Program which was developed by industry and negotiated directly with the Commonwealth Government. I am not aware that industry has raised the EBL issue in this process. The EBL scheme is a somewhat separate issue to deregulation. However improving the already superior disease status of Queensland's dairy herd can only assist competitiveness in a deregulated environment.

(2) While DPI has a role in generally promoting the wholesomeness of Queensland Primary Produce generally, specific food promotion is not part of its role. This role is the responsibility of industry. Public sector milk promotion occurs at the Commonwealth level through the Australian Dairy Corporation, and at the State level through the Queensland Dairy Authority. In addition extensive private promotion activities occur within the various industry sectors.

(3) Whether EBL should be used as a marketing tool is a decision for industry. The task is not complete in Queensland and there are wider product marketing issues to consider. Overall it is considered to be in the best interests of the dairy industry to approach EBL control from a national perspective, as is now being done. Queensland is cooperating with other States to develop a set of national Standard Rules for control of EBL.

#### 276. Domestic Violence Centres

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (12/4/00)—

With reference to domestic violence centres in the State of Queensland—

- (1) How many employees "live-in" at women's refuges?
- (2) How many employees "live-in" at men's refuges?
- (3) How many volunteers "live-in" at women's refuges?
- (4) How many volunteers "live-in" at men's refuges?

- (5) Do either the employees or volunteers who "live-in" at women's refuges contribute to the accommodation and meal costs; if so, how much?
- (6) Do either the employees or volunteers who "live-in" at men's refuges contribute to the accommodation and meal costs; if so, how much?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

- (1) None that the Department is aware of.
- (2) I am advised that there are a small number of SAAP services that target young people, single men and families that have "live in" staff, including caretakers. The Department does not record this information as it is believed to be a small percentage of services and does not represent a significant issue regarding the quantity or quality of services provided to clients of SAAP services.
- (3) None that the Department is aware of.
- (4) As the Department does not record this information, I cannot comment on the number of volunteers who "live-in" at men's refuges.
- (5) As the Department is not aware of any employees or volunteers who "live-in" at refuges, I cannot comment on whether or not contributions are made towards accommodation and meal costs.
- (6) As the Department does not record this information, I cannot comment on whether or not either employees or volunteers who "live-in" contribute towards accommodation and meal costs.

#### 277. Nome District, School

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Education (12/4/00)—

With reference to the Nome District School Development Committee which has delivered to him a discussion paper that clearly shows that the Nome district has met all Queensland Education benchmarks with projected figures—

- (1) Will he now reconsider the feasibility of a new school at Nome in the electorate of Burdekin, that has been promised by both sides of Government for over 13 years?
- (2) Will he call for an immediate assessment for the need of this school according to the current and projected needs of the parents of the Nome district and their children's education?

**Mr WELLS** (12/5/00): The department informs me that the ultimate size of the Nome District in dwelling numbers (using projected development potential) is some 40 percent below Education Queensland's minimum benchmark for new school construction. That is, the district is expected to have an ultimate capacity of 1800 dwellings; however Education Queensland's benchmark for new schools is for between 3000 and 6000 dwellings to be established over a 15 year period. At 20 dwellings per year development rate, it is unlikely that the minimum benchmark of 3000 dwellings will be reached in the foreseeable future. This rate is quite low when compared to other localities in Townsville's urban area which have development rates up to approximately 250 dwellings per year.

A recent whole of government regional planning study, The Townsville Thuringowa Strategy Plan was signed off by Townsville City Council and State Government. This study shows that the Nome locality is to receive only rural residential development of 650 dwellings approximately and that this is preferred to occur in 2006 to 2012.

The department informs me that an assessment of the Report prepared by the Nome District School Development Committee has been undertaken and the department informs me that the report does not prove that all requirements for a new school have been met.

Some of the more important points to be made about the Nome District are:

This locality is close to Townsville's urban area and relates effectively to that city rather than being an isolated rural community. Travelling times and conditions for Nome District students are equal to those of students in other urban areas of Queensland.

The preference of local students to attend other than their local school is an important factor in assessing the viability of a new school. On-the-ground trends show that, while an assessment of students who live in the locality has been completed; it by no means guarantees that these school students will choose to attend a new school. This fact relates to the survey undertaken by the Committee as well.

#### 278. Tilt Train

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (12/4/00)—

With reference to the new tilt train—

Will the train be accessible to all members of the community; if not, why not?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (15/5/00): The Cairns tilt train service will provide four return services weekly between Brisbane and Cairns. The new tilt train will complement the Queenslander, Sunlander and Spirit of the Tropics services between Brisbane and Cairns.

The Cairns tilt train will accommodate all passengers in a modern long distance sitter train, offering a high standard of comfort, including provision of in-seat video and audio entertainment. Special provision has been made in the design of the cars to accommodate physically impaired passengers.

#### 279. Aquaculture Industry

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (12/4/00)—

With reference to steadily increasing evidence that ankylosing spondylosis is a significant problem limiting the commercial production of barramundi in recirculating production systems and spinal deformation has been related to dietary deficiencies of Vitamins C and E and tryptophan, the most likely cause is Vitamin C deficiency and as a major producer of fish feeds uses a protected Vitamin C produced by Roche Vitamins, Roche recommending a level of 350 ppm of active ingredient and Dr Stuart

Rowland of NSW Fisheries recommends 350 ppm. The major feed compounder currently uses under 250 and the Vitamin C content is not on the product label. Vitamin C content is decreased when feed is stored at temperatures over 4 degrees C. Currently the labels of aquaculture rations do not have a date of manufacture or an expiry date, nor do they have storage recommendations—

Will he undertake a detailed study of the recirculating aquaculture industry, its lack of success, and the incidence and causes of "broken back" disease and then make some informed recommendations concerning Vitamin C content, labelling and storage as a potential growth industry for Queensland is currently limited by lack of knowledgeable QDPI research?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (11/5/00):** The recirculation aquaculture industry in Queensland is a small scale producer of barramundi product. In 1998-99 the twenty licensed tank based recirculation operations produced 32.9 tonnes of fish, an average of 1.6 tonnes per farm. This was six percent of the total farmed barramundi production of 515 tonnes in 1998-99. The eighteen pond based barramundi farms produced on average 27 tonnes per farm in the same period.

The relatively low level of production from tank based recirculation systems is due to a number of factors including the scale of production required to be competitive and the level of skill and expertise of system designers and operators.

Many recirculation based aquaculture operations are of small scale and poorly designed. Sound advice and practical assistance is available through the Department's extension officers. Unfortunately a number of prospective recirculation system operators do not avail themselves of this free, independent advice before embarking on their project.

Operating a recirculation system is very demanding and requires a high degree of skill and expertise. It requires dedicated labour and management input every day. Many small scale systems are often run as part time operations. Again, the Department provides advice and assistance via a State wide network of aquaculture extension and fish health management officers supported by both Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI) and other researchers.

Unfortunately, some recirculation system operators do not avail themselves of these services until they are having major problems with their enterprise. At which time it is often too late to correct the problems.

Nevertheless, large-scale, efficient and profitable fish production in recirculation systems is achievable. This is evidenced by systems overseas, as well as in South Australia, where comparatively large systems have been successfully producing barramundi for more than five years.

Investigations of the broken back syndrome by DPI fish veterinarians have revealed the following factors to be associated with the syndrome:

whilst the syndrome is seen in some recirculation systems, it has never been seen in a pond based barramundi farm

poor storage of feed at high ambient temperatures can lead to deterioration in levels of vitamins in the feed, including Vitamin C  
accumulation of high levels of organic material in recirculation systems, predisposing fish to infection

low water temperatures resulting in reduced feed intake. Many small scale recirculation systems can not heat their tank water. Barramundi reduce their food intake below twenty-five degrees Celsius

bacterial infections due to poor system management and inherent system design faults which do not allow isolation and treatment of sick fish

a water source that has a low hardness (soft water) may also be a factor in the appearance of the broken back syndrome in some situations. Fish can absorb minerals from the water and calcium in water may be important for normal bone metabolism in barramundi.

Well designed and well run recirculation systems do not appear to have any problems with broken back syndrome in the barramundi they produce.

At present there are no mandatory requirements for labelling of aquaculture feeds. I would encourage aquaculture feed manufacturers to provide relevant consumer information on their product labels.

The Government recognises the significant sustainable development opportunities available through aquaculture, including tank base recirculation systems and provides a comprehensive range of research, extension and fish health management services to existing and prospective aquaculturists.

In conclusion I see no need for a detailed study of the recirculatory aquaculture industry.

## 280. Lake Tinaroo; Red Claw

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (12/4/00)—

With reference to the red claw stocking issue on Lake Tinaroo—

- (1) Will he ensure that the proposed recreational fishing permit will apply to all fishers including red claw fishers?
- (2) Will he instigate research into red claw population dynamics within the lake?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (11/5/00):**

- (1) The permit scheme currently applies to recreational fishing using a fishing line or set line. It currently does not apply to the use of traps to take species such as red claw crayfish.

This reflects the fact that when the permit scheme was drafted, no stocking groups were permitted to stock red claw.

The permit scheme has also been set up so that it is flexible enough to allow frequent reviews when ongoing issues can be considered. The first review of the scheme will commence in early 2001.

In a recent decision by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, the stocking group for Lake Tinaroo have been given permission to stock red claw as part of their stocking permit.

(2) The Fisheries Group of the Department of Primary Industries undertakes post-stocking monitoring of stocked impoundments throughout the State. This will include monitoring of impoundments where red claw is permitted to be stocked. The monitoring looks at numbers, sizes and species breakdown of stocked fish populations with a view to evaluating the success of stocking and the establishment of the recreational fishery.

### 281. Overseas Students, Accommodation

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (12/4/00)—

With reference to concerns which have been raised with my office about the Australian Tax Office allowing single parents to supplement their income by housing short term overseas students in private accommodation and as this housing of these students is reported as being classed as a 'hobby' and therefore is non taxable—

- (1) What institutes act as the 'go-between' between the student and accommodation provider?
- (2) What incentives does this Government offer to overseas students to attend Queensland higher and/or further education centres etc?
- (3) How many students on average attend these centres in Queensland?
- (4) What is the average stay of these students?
- (5) What is the average monetary accommodation costs of these students?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00): This question relates to the portfolio of the Honourable Dean Wells, MLA, Minister for Education.

### 282. Bargara Ambulance Station

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (12/4/00)—

With reference to the tremendous residential growth in the Woongarra coastal strip ranging from Burnett Heads to Elliott Heads in the Burnett Shire since the Bargara Ambulance Station was sited at Tanner Street—

- (1) When does the department intend to upgrade the Bargara ambulance facility to a 24-hour manned station?
- (2) With much of the growth proceeding and predicted to grow most rapidly in the southern Coral Cove to Innes Park area, is consideration being given to relocating the current station?
- (3) Which sites or general localities are being considered as potential new positions for an ambulance station which will service the coastal fringe?
- (4) What investigation has the department undertaken in relation to each of these sites?
- (5) When does the department intend to begin community consultation on this issue and how long is it anticipated to take?
- (6) What format will this consultation take and what factors will be considered when taking the final decision?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (12/5/00):

(1) There is currently no intention to upgrade the existing Bargara Ambulance Station to a 24 hour staffed station. The existing station is staffed during the daylight hours and an Ambulance Officer is on-call at all other times.

(2) Consideration is being given to the relocation of the Bargara Ambulance station to a location that better services the communities of the Burnett Coast.

(3) Preliminary investigations have taken place to identify suitable land in the Port Road/Bargara Road areas of Kalkie. No decisions have been made as to the most suitable site for an ambulance station.

(4) A vacant block of land on Port Road has been viewed and was found to be unsuitable. No other land has yet been identified.

(5) The Burnett Coast Local Ambulance Committee has been involved in initial consultation regarding the possible relocation of the Bargara station. Wider community consultation will take place when the QAS has sufficient information and data to support the relocation.

(6) Extensive community consultation will occur via the Burnett Coast Local Ambulance Committee and appropriate community consultation processes. Factors to be considered when making a decision to relocate the Bargara station will include:

- (a) population growth trends in the various communities of the Burnett Coast area;
- (b) emergency caseload work patterns that currently exist in the Burnett Coastal area;
- (c) a review of the effect on response times of various locations on the Burnett Coast area; and
- (d) the proposed redevelopment of road networks in and around the Bundaberg/Burnett Coast area.

### 283. Local Governments

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (12/4/00)—

With reference to the Vegetation Management Act and the Draft Water (Allocation and Management) Bill that propose amendments to the Integrated Planning Act and as Local Governments in Queensland will be the agency who receive over their counter tree clearing applications and development applications for pumps, bores, weirs and other water-related works—

- (1) What analysis has his department undertaken of the financial impact of this additional workload on Local Government?
- (2) Will his department be providing funding to Local Governments in Queensland to assist with training for Local Government staff?
- (3) What level of funding does his department propose to provide to each Local Government?
- (4) Should a Local Government opt to be the assessment manager for a development application under this legislation, what

arrangements has his department made to financially assist Local Government with this work?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (11/5/00):

(1) Regarding the Vegetation Management Act 1999, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposed to be the assessment manager for applications where clearing remnant native vegetation is the only assessable development being proposed. Applications will be made directly to DNR and local government will not be involved in either processing or assessing these applications.

The exceptions to this basic position arise only if a local government itself chooses to be more involved or if clearing is a consequence of other assessable development already administered by the local government (for example, a residential subdivision estate involving the clearing of remnant native vegetation as a consequence of constructing the subdivision estate).

For clearing that is a consequence of other assessable development administered by the local government, local government is already the assessment manager. DNR will be involved as a concurrence agency and will be responsible for assessing the vegetation clearing component of the proposal.

Accordingly, under IDAS, local governments essentially have the same assessment responsibilities as they did previously. Local governments may choose to take on a greater assessment manager role, but it is local governments that make this choice.

This position is mirrored in the Draft Water (Allocation and Management) Bill. If the local government does not have an existing responsibility for the regulation of development covered by that Bill, it will not have that responsibility imposed on it under IDAS. A local government will only be assessment manager for works under the Bill if the works are a consequence of other development already administered by the local government (such as the subdivision of land), or it decides to establish an assessment jurisdiction relating to the works under its planning scheme.

Accordingly, implementation of both statutes will not significantly affect the existing workloads of local governments.

(2) Information on the operation of the Vegetation Management Act 1999 has been made available to Councils and has been incorporated into the current IDAS training workshops presented by my Department to local government and other stakeholders throughout the State. More detailed training and information will be provided when the legislation is proclaimed.

The provision of training and education by my Department to local governments and other stakeholders on new reforms in the IDAS system has and will continue to be given a high priority. My Department will work with the Department of Natural Resources in the training of their staff, local government staff and key client groups to ensure a smooth incorporation into the IDAS system of

development approvals under the Vegetation Management Act 1999 and the Draft Water (Allocation and Management) Bill.

(3) As indicated above, the impact on local governments from both the Vegetation Management Act 1999 and the Draft Water (Allocation and Management) Bill will be minimal. Accordingly, no additional assistance measures, beyond the training and education process referred to in (2) above, are proposed.

(4) Many local governments are already involved in vegetation management through the operation of local laws. For those Councils who request delegated powers for assessing clearing applications, the new legislation will not involve any greater resourcing or processing time.

Under the Draft Water (Allocation and Management) Bill it will be entirely at the discretion of the local government as to whether they choose to establish a jurisdiction with respect to assessable works through their planning scheme.

In these circumstances, additional funding is not considered warranted.

#### **284. Lonscan Drug Detection Units**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (12/4/00)—

With reference to the new Canadian made machines that can vacuum the skin or clothing of prisoners or visitors and can detect even the smallest particle of narcotics or explosive material even if the person has been in contact with drugs some days before the testing—

In view of the delay in getting them into actual operation, are Queensland prisons now actively using these machines and what sort of results are they getting?

**Mr BARTON** (12/5/00): Yes. The lonscan drug detection units have detected 77 people with drug residue on their person since they were introduced into Queensland's corrective services system.

#### **285. Apprentices and Trainees**

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

With reference to public sector apprenticeships/traineeships—

- (1) What was the quota assigned to each department/agency for 1998-99?
- (2) Which agencies failed to achieve their assigned quota?
- (3) What are their assigned quotas for 1999-2000?

**Mr BRADY** (12/5/00): (1-3) Refer to table below. Please note, most apprentices were assigned during 98/99 financial year. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### **286. WorkCover**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

- (1) Has WorkCover now realised the severe detrimental effect that the loss of experienced staff, resulting from implementation of the Service Project, has had on claims management?
- (2) With the Service Improvement Program being fully implemented in September 1999, why is WorkCover now extensively advertising for new claims managers when nearly 300 experienced staff were strongly encouraged to leave as a result of substantial financial redundancy rewards being offered?
- (3) Is this an admission that the Government got it wrong in allowing WorkCover to remove experienced staff at a redundancy cost of \$9.1m and is now faced with having to pay substantial recruitment costs?

**Mr BRADDY** (12/5/00): I refer the Honourable Member to the answer to Question on Notice No. 11.

### 287. Group Training Schemes

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

With reference to group training schemes where the department provided over \$5.2m in State and Commonwealth funding, administered by the department, to group training schemes in 1998-99—

How much of this \$5.2m was State funds?

**Mr BRADDY** (12/5/00): State and Commonwealth funding for group training in Queensland is provided on a dollar for dollar basis.

As part of its commitment to group training the State contributed \$100,000 more than the allocation provided by the Commonwealth in 1998/99.

### 288. Private Training Providers

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

Over the past six months what has been (a) the average delay and (b) the longest delay that has elapsed between his department's receipt of valid invoices from private training providers and payment of such providers?

**Mr BRADDY** (12/5/00):

(a) The average time taken to process a claim for validated training activity during the period 1 October 1999 to 17 April 2000 was four (4) working days.

(b) Since 1 October 1999, of the 528 claims for payment submitted, 388 were paid before the end of the month in which the claim was submitted. Of the remaining 140 claims for payment, only eight (8) were paid outside the contract conditions which provide that the Department will pay Registered Training Organisations within 20 working days of the end of the month in which correct and conforming training data is received.

45 days as a result of the provider's failure to provide bank account details as requested.

### 289. General Construction Training Package

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

Was the 'refinement' of the General Construction Training Package by Construction Training Queensland submitted to the National Training Framework Committee for endorsement in late October 1999 as planned; if so, what has subsequently been done to 'implement it as a priority' as advised to him by his department in briefing documents?

**Mr BRADDY** (12/5/00): The 'refinement' of the General Construction Training Package, originally proposed by Construction Training Queensland, was not submitted to the National Training Framework Committee. National and State Construction Industry Training Advisory Bodies met in November 1999 and determined that rather than progress with a 'refinement', the issues raised by Construction Training Queensland would be considered during the full review of the General Construction Training Package. This review has now commenced.

Subsequently, Construction Training Queensland has agreed to progress the implementation of relevant qualifications from the General Construction Training Package in those occupational areas where there are existing trade callings. My Department is working closely with Construction Training Queensland on this task and it is anticipated that from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000, the relevant apprenticeships and traineeships will be based on qualifications from the General Construction Training Package.

### 290. Moreton Institute of TAFE

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

With reference to an article that appeared in Business Queensland on 24 March under the title "TAFE hook-up to save \$9m"—

- (1) What is the actual cost of the agreement between Moreton Institute of TAFE and Microsoft?
- (2) Was this project advertised so that firms other than Microsoft could tender?

**Mr BRADDY** (12/5/00): I am advised that:

(1) The cost to the Moreton Institute of TAFE is \$330,996 per year over a three year period totalling \$992,988. Microsoft estimates that the potential savings and business benefits accruing to Moreton Institute of TAFE over the three year period will be approximately \$9 million.

(2) Moreton Institute negotiated with Unisys and Microsoft to customise a Customer Campus Agreement that would supply a range of products to meet the Institute's business needs and ensure the up-skilling of staff and students. This agreement was not subject to tender as Microsoft is the sole supplier of Customer Campus Agreement of Microsoft products.



**291. TAFE; Apprentices**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

With reference to several complaints his office has received relating to problems experienced by apprentices undertaking learning modules to obtain qualifications as gas technicians, such training having been undertaken at Logan Institute of TAFE and some at Gateway Campus of Brisbane Institute of TAFE—

- (1) Why did his Director-General initially indicate to him that these problems had been resolved when they were still on-going?
- (2) Have they now been resolved; if so, how?
- (3) Would he have as quietly accepted these problems if private training providers had caused them?

**Mr BRADY** (12/5/00): I am advised that:

- (1) Based on the information available to him at the time, the Director-General believed that the initial problems were resolved. Upon receipt of additional information the matter was immediately referred to the Commissioner for Training for urgent investigation.
- (2) The Commissioner For Training has provided interim advice and, based on this advice, an ex gratia payment of \$1,837.50 is being made to the complainant by way of compensation for additional costs incurred as a result of incorrect information, including lost time hours, incorrect pre-vocational credits and general inconvenience. The Commissioner For Training believes that the immediate problems are now resolved. However, he has identified systemic problems and issues which will require further investigation and resolution. A more comprehensive report, with recommendations, is to be provided.
- (3) I do not accept that anyone has acted "quietly" as suggested.

**292. Breaking the Unemployment Cycle**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

- (1) Will he list the number of apprentices who commenced employment with each department/agency, under the Government's "Breaking the Unemployment Cycle" initiatives, up until 15 March?
- (2) How many of those apprentices ceased employment with their department/agency (a) during their probation period and (b) after their probation period but prior to completion of their apprenticeship?
- (3) Will he provide the same information in relation to trainees?

**Mr BRADY** (12/5/00): I am advised that:

(1 & 3) The following figures are provided for those trainees and apprentices employed by Public Sector Agencies as at 17 April 2000. Figures as at 15 March

cannot be given as the database has been set up to provide current accumulative figures.

(2) To provide this response would require an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources. It would take over 200 hours of resource time to undertake this process accurately to identify those apprentices and trainees who are funded under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Public Sector initiatives and who have ceased employment during the probation period.

Breaking the Unemployment Cycle apprentices and trainees are not identified separately in the Departmental computer system from other apprentices and trainees. In addition, the accuracy of the information contained in the system is influenced by the late reporting by parties to training agreements regarding the termination of the training agreement during probation. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

**293. Community Jobs Plan; Community Employment Assistance Program**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

With reference to the Community Jobs Plan and Community Employment Assistance Program—

- (1) How much funding was provided under each, by electorate, to 31 December 1999?
- (2) How much funding has been provided under each, by electorate, since 1 January?

**Mr BRADY** (12/5/00): Both the CJP and CEAP are application-based programs and being demand driven, rely on the capacity of organisations within a community and local councils to develop and manage the projects.

Grants for CJP and CEAP projects are awarded on the basis of recommendations from the fourteen state wide Community Jobs Priorities Committees. These recommendations are based on regional and locally based priorities and take into account the regional unemployment rate, and the need to focus on particular target groups, the geographic spread of proposed projects in the area, the potential for sustainable employment and budget availability.

These committees consist of broad representation from communities including local government, employers, the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and the Department of State Development. The process of selection is completely independent of Government. As Minister, I have no role in approving CJP and CEAP projects.

(1) Since October 1998 and up until 31 December 1999, 172 projects have been approved for grants totalling \$27.7 million under the Community Jobs Plan. For this same period, 120 projects have been approved for grants totalling \$7.28 million under the Community Employment Assistance Program. Attachment A lists the total expenditure by electorate for both programs for the period October 1998 to 31 December 1999.

(2) Since 1 January 2000, 47 projects have been approved for grants totalling \$6.6 million under the Community Jobs Plan. For this same period, 18 projects have been approved for grants totalling \$1.03 million under the Community Employment Assistance Program. Attachment B lists the total expenditure by electorate for both programs since 1 January 2000.

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

#### 294. Dental Health Service, Maroochydore

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (12/4/00)—

Why has the Labor Government withdrawn a public dental health service for adults from Maroochydore which means all public Maroochydore patients now have to travel to Nambour or Kawana and does she think it is acceptable to have no service in Maroochydore?

**Mrs EDMOND** (12/5/00): The service at Maroochydore is a School Dental Clinic. This means it should be providing treatment to school children not adults.

Funding for adult dental services provided by the Sunshine Coast Oral Health Service has increased over the last three consecutive budgets. Over this time throughput for adult services has also increased and is currently running ahead of target for this year.

#### 295. TAFE Teachers; Bannikoff Report

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

- (1) At 1 March, what progress had been made towards achievement of the Bannikoff Report recommending that the ratio of teaching staff to non-teaching staff in TAFE be adjusted to 60:40?
- (2) As he, at last year's Estimates Committees hearings indicated that some institutes had already achieved that 60:40 goal, will he name those institutes which had achieved that goal by 1 March?

**Mr BRADY** (12/5/00): I refer the Honourable Member to the answer to Question on Notice No. 189.

#### 296. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

With reference to the departmentally driven model for an Effective Apprenticeship and Traineeship Administration System where it is proposed that "training agreements for both apprentices and trainees will only be approved and registered after a probation period has been completed and a structured training entry program inclusive of a training orientation course undertaken"—

What is the legal status of the worker prior to the contract being approved and registered?

**Mr BRADY** (12/5/00): With the introduction of the Industrial Relations Act 1999, the definition of an apprentice and trainee was widened to cover situations where the training agreement was not registered.

Consequently, if there is a genuine offer and acceptance of employment as an apprentice or trainee then such persons are considered to be an apprentice or trainee and afforded the same protection despite not having their training agreement formally registered.

#### 297. Voluntary Early Retirement, Moreton Institute of TAFE

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

How many VERs has the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and Queensland Public Sector Union agreed should be offered to TAFE staff at Moreton Institute by July/August?

**Mr BRADY** (12/5/00): A total of 14 VERs have been offered to staff by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

#### 298. 2001 Goodwill Games

**Mr MALONE** asked the Premier (12/4/00)—

- (1) Will he confirm that a Cabinet Budget Review Committee document prepared by the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing in June 1999 predicted that the 2001 Goodwill Games could cost anything from \$10m to \$24m more than the \$20m already allocated by the State Government?
- (2) What were the findings of the review of predicted Goodwill Games overruns conducted by officers from Treasury and his own department as a result of the warnings by officers of the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing and presented to the Cabinet Budget Review Committee by the former Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing?
- (3) What is the revised total contribution of the Queensland Government to the Goodwill Games?
- (4) Will the \$7m worth of in-kind support announced by the Federal Government partly offset the Queensland Government's total contribution?

**Mr BEATTIE** (12/5/00): There has been no Budget overrun as inferred by the Honourable members.

#### 299. Children's Services Appeals Tribunal

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (12/4/00)—

- (1) Since 1 July, 1998 on what dates and during what hours were the proceedings of the Children's Services Appeals Tribunals open to the public?

- (2) What were the reasons for public hearings on each of those occasions?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

- (1) I am advised that the proceedings of the Children's Services Appeals Tribunals have not, on any occasion, been open to the public.

(2) See 1.

### 300. TAFE; Training Contracts

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

- (1) At (a) 15 January 2000, (b) 15 February 2000 and (c) 15 March 2000 (i) how many private providers were still waiting for reconciliation and final payment of invoices submitted by them for training contracts completed in 1999 and (ii) what was the total value of these invoices?
- (2) At the same dates, what was the total number and value of invoices submitted by TAFE Queensland for training contracts completed in 1999?

**Mr BRADY** (12/5/00): In 1999 User Choice contracts were awarded to a total nominal value of \$81M. To date the Department has paid Registered Training Organisations more than \$73M against their 1999 contracts. For Competitive Purchasing Program contracts, the Department has paid almost \$23M against contracts with a total nominal value of \$40M.

These payment figures are subject to change for the following reasons:

1. Further claims will be made against these contracts by Registered Training Organisations for completed training;
2. Validation of information provided by Registered Training Organisations;
3. For Competitive Purchasing Program contracts, training may continue from 1999 to 2000, and therefore further claims are yet to be made.
4. User Choice contracts cannot be finalised by the Department until the Registered Training Organisation signs a declaration that no further claims will be made.

(1)(i)

- (a) 217 (User Choice) and 36 (Competitive Purchasing)
- (b) 201 (User Choice) and 36 (Competitive Purchasing)
- (c) 178 (User Choice) and 34 (Competitive Purchasing)

(1)(ii)

(a-c) Invoices are not submitted by Registered Training Organisations. For User Choice training, contracts are not completed until Registered Training Organisations sign a declaration that there are no further claims.

(2)(i)

- (a) 16 (User Choice) and 14 (Competitive Purchasing)

- (b) 16 (User Choice) and 14 (Competitive Purchasing)

- (c) 16 (User Choice) and 14 (Competitive Purchasing)

(2)(ii)

(a-c) See (1)(ii) above.

### 301. TAFE; User Choice Training Funds

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/4/00)—

- (1) For each semester of his administration since taking office, will he indicate the total value of (a) user-choice training funds that have been channelled through (i) TAFE Queensland and (ii) private training providers and (b) competitive training funds that have been channelled through (i) TAFE Queensland and (ii) private training providers?
- (2) For the current semester to date, what are his department's commitments relating to (a) user-choice training funds which are being channelled through (i) TAFE Queensland and (ii) private training providers and (b) competitive training funds which are being channelled through (i) TAFE Queensland and (ii) private training providers?

**Mr BRADY** (12/5/00): As User Choice and Competitive Purchasing contracts are awarded for delivery in calendar years, the responses to the above questions are also provided for calendar years.

(1)(a) (i-ii) User Choice (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(b) (i-ii) Competitive Training (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) (a-b) As User Choice funding is not capped, all TAFE Institutes and private providers with current User Choice contracts are paid for the achievement of training outcomes by trainees and apprentices.

An employer and their apprentice or trainee can access structured training from any Registered Training Organisation holding a User Choice contract in Queensland. Clearly, the Department has no say or influence in this choice.

With regards to Competitive Purchasing Program funds, the value of contracts let by the Department to date are set out as per (1) (b) (i-ii) above.

### 302. Powerlines, Beaudesert Electorate

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (12/4/00)—

- (1) As Powerlink has advised at meetings with the Greenbank Area Powerline Group that if the existing north Maclean easement was upgraded to 500kV, the line through Munruben Forest will not be needed, why can't this be done?

- (2) Why can't the new 275kV line along the route of the Logan Motorway be upgraded to a 500kV line?

- (3) As the concept of "prudent avoidance" has been applied in Eastlink, why isn't this policy applied at Munruben Forest where some homes are reportedly within 38 metres?

**Mr McGRADY** (16/5/00): I note the Member's newfound interest in this issue which arises from his electorate, an issue which to date I believe he has ignored to the extent that the affected constituents have taken their representations to the Member for Logan instead, and the Member for Logan has brought their concerns to my attention. I cannot help but wonder what actions the Member took, as the area's elected representative, to warn the Local Government body, developers and incoming residents of the location and nature of the easements. In answer to the Member's questions, I advise as follows:

(1) Powerlink Queensland has advised me that no statements had been made or implied about the elimination of the need to construct a transmission line through Munruben Forest should an upgrade of the north Maclean line to 500kV occur.

Relocation of the lines onto existing easements through McLean is neither practical nor equitable. McLean residents currently have two 275 kV powerlines to Mudgeeraba through their area. It is not feasible to simply add more wires to the existing towers or to rebuild those lines as triple circuit lines. This would involve removing existing lines from service. The continued operation of these existing lines is critical to electricity supply to the Gold Coast and Hinterland areas.

Such an option would also require a widening of the existing easements through McLean by about 80 metres, and this would involve the demolition of several homes. It is unlikely that Powerlink, based on the requirements of the Acquisition of Land Act 1967, would be able to resume that additional easement through McLean given the existence of the vacant easement through Munruben.

(2) Upgrading the line into Loganlea would not provide any improvement in supply to the Gold Coast region. This is one of the reasons why the new transmission line through Munruben is required. In any case, the ramifications of such an upgrade would require easement widening and resumptions of existing homes.

(3) Powerlink's policy of prudence was applied by its predecessor corporation in the acquisition of the easement through Munruben Forest. Developers and residents have since built houses close to the easements, after they were acquired.

### 303. Motor Vehicle Thefts

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (12/4/00)—

- (1) How many car thefts occurred in 1998-99 and how many have occurred from 1 July 1999 to 31 March 2000?
- (2) What is the percentage clear-up of these cases for each period?

**Mr BARTON** (12/5/00):

(1) The number of motor vehicle thefts reported in Queensland for the 1998-99 fiscal year and those

reported from 1 July 1999 to 31 March 2000 are 18,543 and 15,048 respectively.

(2) There were 21% of reported motor vehicle thefts cleared in the 1998/99 financial year and 19% cleared in the period 1 July 1999 to 31 March 2000. Please note that the percentage cleared refers to those offences reported and cleared in the period only and does not include those offences cleared in the respective periods but reported previously.

### 304. South East Transit Project

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (12/4/00)—

- (1) Have any changes been made to the scope or timetable for the South East Transit Project since the Beattie Labor Government has taken office; if so, what are those changes?
- (2) When will the High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes between Springwood and the Logan Motorway be completed?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (15/5/00):

(1) I have pleasure in advising that the Busway is on schedule to be opened to Woolloongabba by September this year and to Eight Mile Plains (together with High Occupancy Vehicle lanes) by June 2001.

The opening of the Busway will make a huge difference to bus travel resulting in shorter and more reliable trip times.

The scope is generally the same as initially planned, except in South Brisbane where alignment changes decided by the previous government moved the route from Grey Street to along the railway corridor and required extensive tunnelling and grade separation.

(2) The High Occupancy Vehicle lanes and associated ramp works south of Eight Mile Plains are undergoing consultation and the timing of works will depend on the progress of community discussions and the resultant budgetary issues. The program completion for this work is likely to be later than the June 2001 initially proposed because of the significant additional cost flowing from the route change in South Brisbane.

### 305. Moranbah District Health Service

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (12/4/00)—

With reference to staffing levels within the Moranbah District Health Service—

- (1) Why haven't nurses at the Clermont Hospital been replaced, even though vacancies have been advertised and applications have been received months ago?
- (2) Why has the Moranbah District Health Service's office increased its staff by approximately seven over the past 12 months, when the Clermont Hospital has been short of three registered nurses and five enrolled nurses for some time and are also consistently told not to replace anyone on recreation or sick leave?

- (3) When staff leave the Clermont Hospital, will they be replaced?

**Mrs EDMOND** (12/5/00):

(1) Nurses have been continuously recruited and appointed. There are no suitable applicants that have not been appointed to vacancies.

(2) This is incorrect. There have been minor changes to the staffing in the District Office. Two senior officer positions have been replaced by one less senior and 1.5 junior positions. The outcome of the change has been an increase in efficiency. The additional 0.5 FTE has not resulted in an increase in expenditure. District Office and Moranbah Hospital have also each employed an administration trainee under a government initiative.

Clermont Hospital as with many rural hospitals has difficulty recruiting appropriately qualified staff. The replacement of nursing recreational leave and sick leave at Clermont Hospital is dependent on the availability of casual staff. More often than not nursing staff are replaced. Operational staff recreational leave and sick leave is not usually replaced.

(3) All funded positions will be replaced.

### 306. Private Sector Rent Arrears

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (12/4/00)—

With reference to his claim during the Estimates Committee hearing in 1999 that the rental arrears figure "is 10 per cent in private enterprise"—

What is the precise figure for private sector rental arrears currently, the source of such information and the methodology used to determine the rental arrears percentage?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (12/5/00): This question clearly is part of an ongoing campaign by the Liberal Party to draw unfavourable comparisons between public and private rental tenants.

Under the Residential Tenancies Act 1994, 'Notices to Remedy Breach' are issued by the parties to residential tenancy agreements, that is, lessors, agents and tenants, as a mechanism for reaching a resolution of the breach quickly and directly between the parties. A Notice to Remedy Breach may be issued if rent is seven or more days in arrears. The Residential Tenancies Authority (RTA) does not issue these notices and therefore no record of the number of these notices issued under the Act is available. However, there is anecdotal evidence within the housing industry that Notices to Remedy Breach may be issued for around 10 per cent of rental properties. The Honourable Member should spend more time lobbying his Coalition colleagues in Canberra for extra federal housing funds and less time nitpicking in an effort to denigrate Department of Housing tenants.

### 307. Services for Homeless People

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (12/4/00)—

- (1) What steps has she taken to ensure that funds allocated by her department for services to homeless people are targeted to the actual needs of this group of disadvantaged Queenslanders who were identified by the survey into homelessness undertaken in Brisbane in November 1999?

(2) Have additional funds been allocated for meeting needs identified in the study; if so, how much and for which specific purposes?

(3) Have any funds been redirected as a result of the study; if so, how much and from which organisations?

**Ms BLIGH** (12/5/00):

(1) On 16 March 2000, I launched The Brisbane Homelessness Taskforce Report "Where did you sleep last night?" based on the survey conducted in November 1999 and my Department will consider the findings of the report as part of the Brisbane Supported Accommodation Service Integration project which will commence shortly.

My Department supports the focus of the report on a regional approach to addressing the needs of homeless people in Brisbane. Officers of my Department will continue to participate in The Brisbane Homelessness Taskforce to ensure that a coordinated approach is adopted by government and non-government agencies around the issue of homelessness in Brisbane.

Within the Brisbane City Region currently my Department funds 52 services under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Services targeting young people consist of 37% of all services, while those targeting women and children escaping domestic violence comprise a further 21%. Two other substantial target groups are families (17%) and cross/multiple and general target groups (15%). In fact, on the night of the Homelessness Taskforce's census, more than half of the 336 homeless people counted were in supported accommodation for that night.

My Department already supports and encourages greater integration of services to meet client needs and client-focused service delivery through a case management approach which is used across all SAAP services. In this way funds allocated by my Department target the actual needs of homeless people accessing SAAP services.

(2) Additional funds for supported accommodation will be available from 1 July 2000. In order to ensure value for money for public funding of services, it is important that a coordinated and well-informed approach is taken to identifying client needs and appropriate service responses to those needs. The specific needs of the Brisbane area will be considered alongside the needs of homeless people in other areas of the State.

(3) At this stage no funds have been redirected as a result of this study. To redirect existing funds from other areas of high need in Queensland would require the closure of supported accommodation services, which would seriously impact upon the State's capacity to support homeless people.

### 308. Orchid and Native Flora Growers

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (13/4/00)—

With reference to amendments to the Nature Conservation Amendment Regulation 1994, which have imposed a licence fee of \$400 per year on hobby orchid growers and other native flora growers who sell plants they have grown—

- (1) Why were these amendments made?
- (2) Why has an unnecessary and costly fee been imposed on these hobby growers?
- (3) Is it true that the inclusion of these hobby growers in these amendments is due to bungling by him and his department?
- (4) Will he now make a further amendment to fix this mistake and waive the licensing fees for these hobby growers; if so, when?

**Mr WELFORD** (10/5/00):

(1) There has been no amendment in relation to the provision of the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 that made changes to licensing requirements. Amendments were made during 1999 which legitimised propagators' authorities. In the drafting of these amendments, the status of mature orchid plants—as distinct from plants in flasks, and small seedlings—was clarified.

(2) No new fees were imposed on orchid growers as a result of this amendment.

(3) No, this is not true. The legislation allows an authorised propagator to trade an orchid seedling that is not more than 100mm in length. This provision has been in place since the legislation was made in 1994.

(4) I am concerned about the complexity of the legislation as it relates to the growing and trading in native plants. I propose that the provisions of the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 relating to protected plants in trade will be reviewed to regularise some unlicensed trading in orchids that has come to the notice of my Environmental Protection Agency.

### 309. Bulletin Magazine

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (13/4/00)—

With reference to his swift action with respect to the arrest and charging of Scott Balson following the alleged naming of Bill D'Arcy over child sex offences on the Australian National News of the Day on an overseas web site on the Internet and the call by Civil Liberties President and Bill D'Arcy's lawyer, Mr Terry O'Gorman, for an even handed approach to the application of the law—

- (1) What does he intend to do with respect to the Bulletin magazine which was in clear breach of the same law when it published the name of Bill D'Arcy in that magazine in the 18 January 2000 edition on Page 10?
- (2) What investigation of this matter has been done to date and will any charges be laid?

(3) Will he explain the difference in the swiftness of the action taken against Balson (who was acquitted) and the slowness and his almost hesitant response to the Bulletin magazine?

(4) Will he explain how the difference in the response by him and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to the clear breach by the Bulletin can be interpreted as anything else other than the law not being administered and applied by him in an even handed fashion?

(5) Is there a statute of limitations that will effect the future charging of any journalist or executive or publisher of the Bulletin magazine should he and the DPP continue to drag the chain over this investigation?

**Mr FOLEY** (15/5/00): Although the edition of "The Bulletin" is dated 18 January 2000, the article was drawn to the attention of the Director of Public Prosecutions on 13 January 2000. As a result, the very same day the Queensland Police Service was asked to investigate with a view to a possible summary prosecution under the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1978.

On 6 April 2000, the Queensland Police Service advised that further investigation was required to establish whether all elements of an offence could be established.

The allegations implicit in the questions are baseless and offensive.

### 310. Tinana Creek and Mary River Barrages, Fishways

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (13/4/00)—

Due to past substantial restocking work in the Mary River, this year there were very large numbers of barramundi and bass gathered at the bottom of both the Mary River and the Tinana Creek barrages—unable to ascend to proceed with their life cycle and for two years vitally interested people have been told by Department of Natural Resources personnel that the funding to build state of the art fish ladders on both barrages has been available and that the plans have been drawn for at least one ladder, will he explain what is causing the construction delay and when can we expect to see these ladders functional?

**Mr WELFORD** (10/5/00): There is no delay.

The Tinana Creek Barrage fishway modifications are planned to commence in June this year, after final approvals are obtained, for completion in November 2000.

The Mary River Barrage fishway modifications are planned for 2001 with DPI Fisheries commencing pre construction monitoring this year.

### 311. Sugar

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (13/4/00)—

- (1) Is there is a glut of sugar on the global market?

- (2) Where is this alleged glut of sugar being stored, in which country or countries and how much in each country?
- (3) Does Australia have no surplus of raw sugar?
- (4) Is the alleged surplus really paper sugar held in the futures markets of stock exchanges?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (15/5/00):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Most countries do hold stocks of sugar, given it is a basic food commodity. The major holders of raw sugar stocks are the major consuming countries including India, Russia, China, Indonesia, USA, European Union. The amount of stocks vary according to the time of year, since many of these countries are also producing countries that hold maximum stocks at the end of their production cycle.
- (3) Queensland produces around 95% of Australia's raw sugar – the balance is produced by New South Wales.

Although there is a world surplus of raw sugar, Queensland is in a position whereby all its raw sugar is sold in the year of production due to its reputation as a high quality reliable supplier.

- (4) Commodity futures markets serve as pricing mechanisms for the physical product.

At present the futures prices for raw sugar are very low, reflecting the fact that there are high global stocks of sugar.

### 312. Motor Vehicle Safety Certificates

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (13/4/00)—

With reference to the introduction of the requirement to obtain safety certificates on used vehicles prior to a dealer being able to offer the vehicle for sale and a requirement to de-register vehicles which do not have the safety certificate also being introduced however, when a dealer de-registers a vehicle and re-registers it again when it obtains the safety certificate, the dealer loses financially and also operators of small used car lots would find it difficult to have vehicles repaired and detailed within the timeframe allowed by the new rules causing unnecessary hardship on these dealers—

- (1) What purpose does it serve to rule that dealers de-register these vehicles?
- (2) Will he consider changing the requirement to de-register vehicles to a requirement of displaying a notice in the vehicle detailing the current status of the vehicle as well as noting that the vehicle may not be road tested until the safety certificate is obtained?
- (3) With these stricter controls on legitimate used car dealerships, will he advise what steps are being taken to stop unlicensed back yard dealers from operating?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (15/5/00):

- (1) Queensland legislation was amended to provide that all registered vehicles must display a current Safety Certificate at the time a vehicle is offered for

sale. This means that information about the approved inspection station and the mechanic who issued the certificate is "up front" at the time when a person first looks at the vehicle.

The new regulations did not introduce a requirement for dealers to deregister their vehicles. This option is purely a business decision for the dealer, should the dealer choose to sell unregistered vehicles in preference to offering the vehicle for sale in the normal manner, that is, registered with a Safety Certificate displayed.

However, there are some exemptions afforded to motor dealers. For example, the requirement to display a Safety Certificate does not apply to a demonstration vehicle, which is a vehicle purchased by a motor dealer from a vehicle manufacturer, and registered to the motor dealer for the sole purpose of demonstrating the vehicle with a view to achieving the sale of other vehicles of that type. However, a Safety Certificate must be provided prior to disposal.

In addition, if a vehicle is traded in to a motor dealer on the eve of a public holiday or weekend, the vehicle may be displayed for sale without a Safety Certificate until the following business day (a business day being Monday to Friday except Public Holidays).

- (2) The new requirements were introduced to ensure that buyers of vehicles knew exactly what they were buying in terms of safety requirements prior to reaching a decision to purchase. Any relaxation of this arrangement would simply take us back to the 'bad old days' which resulted in numerous complaints and hardships for vehicle buyers.

It is important to note that the MTAQ which represents a large number of professional car dealers in Queensland fully supports the new scheme.

The requirement to display a Safety Certificate does not apply to a vehicle on a motor dealer's approved business premises that is clearly marked 'not for sale'. This includes vehicles parked in a specific area and the area is identified as holding vehicles that may not yet be ready for sale or vehicles that are otherwise parked on the premises in a place where it could be reasonably assumed the vehicle is not for sale (eg., the proprietor's own vehicle at the back of the sales office). This procedure is already provided for in the Regulation and dealers are currently aware of this provision.

- (3) The Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Vehicle Standards and Safety Regulation 1999, places the same requirements on private sellers as it does on licensed motor dealers who offer registered vehicles for sale.

The current requirements to obtain a Safety Certificate when a registered vehicle is offered for sale, combined with a system of random on-road enforcement, car sale site audits and inspections, is considered to be the most efficient means of ensuring the safety of Queensland's light vehicle fleet. Enforcement authorities also have the power to issue on the spot penalties of up to \$300 per vehicle as well as seizing the vehicle if the owner is unable to be contacted.

**313. Firearms; Feral Animal Control**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (13/4/00)—

With reference to the issue of D category licences to landowners for the control of feral animals, particularly wild pigs—

- (1) Is his department on a deliberate campaign to deprive farmers of these firearms?
- (2) Do the members of the Weapons Licensing Branch have adequate knowledge and field experience to determine if these firearms are necessary to control these feral animals?
- (3) Is he aware that officers in his department are seeking advice from The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on other methods of control?
- (4) Is he aware that DNR advises his licensing branch that the poison 1080 can be used for feral animal control?
- (5) Are his officers aware that 1080 is a very non-specific poison and is responsible for large numbers of native wildlife kills and is also a very cruel method of control, often taking up to 3-4 days to kill an animal in what can only be described as cruel and inhumane?

**Mr BARTON** (12/5/00):

(1) No, there is no deliberate campaign by the Queensland Police Service to deprive farmers of category D firearms. However the possession and use of category D firearms was heavily limited under the National Uniform Firearm Controls. All States and Territories agreed these controls under the auspices of the Australasian Police Ministers' Council. Queensland legislation reflects these agreed limitations. Licences for possession and use of category D firearms can only be obtained to meet a proven need that cannot be met by other means. The Weapons Licensing Branch, Queensland Police Service applies this legislative provision rigorously. Category D licences are only issued for a maximum period of one year and must be fully justified before reissue. Penalties for breaches of weapons legislation in respect of category D firearms are more severe than for most other categories.

(2) Licences under the Weapons Act 19890 (the Act) and the Weapons Regulation 1996 are decided by the Authorised Officer of Weapons Licensing Branch. The Authorised Officer has substantial knowledge of the needs for firearms to control feral animals through – personal experience; the continuing consideration of a large number of licence applications; and expert advice previously obtained. The Authorised Officer does not rely exclusively on this knowledge and experience. Most applications for category D licences and all unusual applications are referred to advisers with the appropriate formal qualifications. The Authorised Officer is always guided by that advice in making his decisions.

(3) Yes, I am aware that officers of the Weapons Licensing Branch, Queensland Police Service seek advice from the Department of Natural Resources on other methods of control of feral animals. The Weapons Licensing Branch also seeks advice from other sources of recognised expertise. Pursuant to section 42 (3) of the Weapons Act 1990, the

Authorised Officer is required to obtain this information.

(4) The Department of Natural Resources provides a range of advice to the Branch. While I am not personally aware of this advice, I have been briefed that the Department of Natural Resources advice includes the use of 1080 poison as a control method in certain feral pest circumstances.

(5) The nature of 1080 poison and its effects are not matters for the Weapons Licensing Branch to consider. The Weapons Licensing Branch concern is whether the use of 1080 is an approved method of control for the specific purpose quoted in the application. If the 1080 is advised as being appropriate to those circumstances, then it offers an alternative to the use of a category D firearm and will be factored into the licensing decision accordingly. The suitability or otherwise of 1080 poison for feral animal control is more appropriately a matter the Honourable member may wish to take up with my colleague the Honourable Minister for Natural Resources.

**314. Rosewood Emergency Service Centre**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Premier (13/4/00)—

With reference to the Rosewood Emergency Service Centre and the construction of a new building in the narrow Church Lane—

- (1) Is he aware of the numerous serious complaints about a senior ambulance officer who is under investigation also the late turnout to a Code 1 emergency, the total disarray of the conditions effecting emergency staff to the point of stop-work, go-slow conditions?
- (2) Is he aware of the effects on neighbours of the intrusion of the centre on the neighbourhood?
- (3) Is he aware that his previous Minister for Emergency Services had made promises to the community of Rosewood that have now been ignored?
- (4) Is he aware of the ridiculous location of the centre due to the close vicinity to homes and schools and due to the narrow lane where fire appliances have difficulty in entering and turning into and out of the centre?
- (5) Will he now intervene and force the Minister to take some action?

**Mr BEATTIE** (15/5/00): (1-5) An investigator, independent of the Queensland Ambulance Service, has reviewed a number of allegations regarding the conduct of a senior ambulance officer. This investigator has provided a report containing recommendations for appropriate action, which is currently being reviewed.

**315. Dairy Industry**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (13/4/00)—

With reference to the financial assistance being offered to people in the Queensland dairying industry and to his statement on 11 April in State Parliament that the average level of assistance to



dairy farmers would be \$135,000 and as I believe he has grossly exaggerated the level of likely financial assistance—

Will he give a breakdown of the specific financial details that substantiate this claim?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (15/5/00): The estimate is based on the assurances from the Commonwealth Government that \$220 million will be available to Queensland's dairy farmers under the Commonwealth Dairy Industry Adjustment Program. The Queensland Dairy Authority advises that at 28 September 1999, the eligibility date for the Program, there were 1579 producer licences on issue which gives an average payment slightly above the figure I mentioned.

The payments of course are to be administered by the newly formed Commonwealth Dairy Adjustment Authority and the final figures will depend on the applications made, appeals determined and other relevant matters.

### 316. Gas-fired Power Stations

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (13/4/00)—

With reference to the gas power generation units and as a decision as to where these units would be placed was to be made after the conclusion of the environmental impact studies (EIS) which was expected at the end of February—

- (1) Have the EIS been completed; if not, when will they be completed?
- (2) Where is the current preferred site selected for the construction of the units situated?
- (3) What time frame has been allocated for the construction?
- (4) When is an announcement to be made on this issue?

**Mr McGRADY** (16/5/00):

(1) Detailed Environmental Impact Studies for several possible sites are about to commence and Tarong Energy has previously undertaken an environmental study for a gas-fired unit at Tarong Power Station site.

(2) Tarong Energy is continuing to investigate several alternative sites as part of ongoing feasibility study work.

(3) It is estimated that a gas-fired power station would take about two years to construct.

(4) Tarong Energy's project cannot proceed without firm and commercially priced supplies of gas. The commercial feasibility of the proposal is still being assessed and complex negotiations related to gas supplies are continuing.

### 317. Companies, Government Endorsement

**Mr SLACK** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (13/4/00)—

- (1) Before he or his department extends official endorsement by way of publicly supporting a

company operating in the international marketplace, what investigations are carried out to check the credit worthiness or propriety of the company?

- (2) Have these checks been carried out on all companies that have received endorsements from this Government, such as official letters of support from the State Development and Trade Department and public statements of support?

**Mr ELDER** (12/5/00):

- (1) The Department of State Development does not provide official endorsement for companies seeking support for their operations in the international marketplace.

The Department does, however, provide letters of introduction to companies when they are undertaking activities in the international marketplace. These letters do not validate or make statements as to the credit worthiness or propriety of the companies concerned. The letters merely act as an introduction for the companies and confirm that they are Queensland companies and provide basic information about their areas of operation.

Checks are carried out to the extent that the companies provided with the letters of introduction are known to the Department.

- (2) See above.

### 318. Tewantin Fire Station

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (13/4/00)—

With reference to the Tewantin part-time auxiliary fire station being clearly identified as a duplication of service and a waste of Queensland taxpayers money and as the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority Chief Commissioner has given the go ahead to commence proceedings to close this station—

- (1) Why have proceedings to close the station stalled?
- (2) Who is responsible for the continued waste of taxpayers money?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (16/5/00):

(1) The question is based on the assumption that the Chief Commissioner has authorised the closure of the Tewantin Fire Station. The decision to close the Tewantin Fire Station has not been made.

(2) There is no continuing "waste" of taxpayers' money. As occurs on a regular and constant basis throughout Queensland, the Chief Commissioner is currently examining strategies for optimising fire service delivery in the Noosa area.

### 319. WorkCover; Service Improvement Program

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/00)—

With reference to his lengthy general answer to Question on Notice No. 26 which requested precise, identifiable details of savings generated by WorkCover's "Service Improvement Program" which

created hundreds of redundancies and increased stress on remaining WorkCover workers—

Will he provide (a) precise details indicating any savings which partly or fully offset the \$2.737m costs of the project plus over \$488,000 in human resources costs to date and (b) the figures which underpin WorkCover's estimates that savings from the reduction in staff numbers will exceed the total \$5.4m cost of redundancies?

**Mr BRADY** (15/5/00): I am advised by WorkCover Queensland that it does not accept your premise that the Service Improvement Program has increased stress on remaining WorkCover workers.

(1) There have been significant improvements since its introduction including:

For statutory claims:

Average time lost claims cost, decreased from \$4282 to \$4267 despite continued increases in average weekly earnings.

Average time lost claim duration, has decreased from 29.3 days to 27.4 days (6.5%).

In the time taken to determine claims within 14 days, there has been an improvement from 61.7 % in the 97/98 year to 77.8% in 99/2000.

For common law damages claims:

Average common law settlement amount of settled claims has decreased from \$81,000 to \$78,404 (3.2% decrease).

Average time elapsed from date of injury to legal process has decreased from 2.36 years to 2.3 years (2.5% decrease) due to active claims management.

Savings from the Service project were always acknowledged to be realised in the longer term. KPMG estimated benefits by 30 June 2003 would be approximately \$30M per annum.

In addition, based on the claims performance improvements outlined in the answer to Question on Notice 26, estimated current annual savings are in the vicinity of \$15M:

\$10M from the reduction in average claims duration of 1.9 days, based on current ABS average weekly ordinary time earnings and annual number of time lost claims; and

\$5M from the reduction in the average common law settlement cost of \$2,596, based on the annual number of common law claims settled.

(2) The estimated annual savings from the reduction in staff numbers attributable to the Service project are \$7.5M.

### 320. Moranbah District Health Service

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (13/4/00)—

With some \$7.5m allocated to the Moranbah District Health Service Budget, will she advise what qualifications the District Director of Finance and Administration should have in controlling such large funds?

**Mrs EDMOND** (15/5/00): The successful applicant for the position of Director of Finance and Administration is chosen by open merit selection process.

This person would meet the selection criteria articulated in the position description, namely:

SC1—Demonstrated ability in management at a middle to senior level;

SC2—Demonstrated ability in the application of accounting principles and the development and management of budgets;

SC3—Demonstrated communication, negotiation and consultation skills within a multi-disciplinary environment;

SC4—Demonstrated ability to analyse problems and develop and implement appropriate strategies for improvement;

SC5—Demonstrated ability in the use, analysis and interpretation of data to provide information and enhance productivity; and

SC6—Knowledge of contemporary Human Resource Management issues including Workplace Health and Safety issues, Equal Employment Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination.

### 321. Police Services, Statistics

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (13/4/00)—

Will he detail, for all police districts, for 1999-2000 to date (a) the number of code two calls that have gone unanswered, or which have been answered in a time frame outside police operational response target times, (b) the number of calls for assistance that have not been responded to because staff shortages would leave police without back up, (c) the number of operational police deployed within each police district at 31 March 1000, broken down as follows (i) officers on duty, (ii) officers on rostered time off, (iii) officers on recreation leave, (iv) officers on sick leave, (v) officers on higher duties, (vi) officers on detachment and (vii) officers on courses, (d) the number of mobile patrol vehicles, by district and (e) the number of mobile patrols deployed on operations, by district, on 31 March 2000?

**Mr BARTON** (12/5/00): 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 policing services to the people of Queensland.

If the Honourable Member has a more specific Question, I would be happy to provide relevant information.

### 322. Brisbane Institute of TAFE, Ithaca Campus

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/00)—

With reference to his media release of 25 February relating to the Information Technology Centre at the Ithaca Campus of the Brisbane Institute of TAFE—

- (1) When did construction of this centre commence and when was it completed?
- (2) Will he table the report mentioned in the sixth paragraph of his media release?
- (3) Who was commissioned to prepare the report and what was the total cost?

**Mr BRADY** (15/5/00):

- (1) The Information Technology Career Centre at the Ithaca campus of the Brisbane Institute of TAFE is not a new building. The Centre makes use of an existing Information Technology building and incorporates computer classrooms, a flexible learning centre and the campus library. An upgrade of computer equipment occurred as part of the project, with an approximate cost of \$17,000.
- (2) Copies of the report are available under Freedom of Information.
- (3) The report was prepared by Deborah Wilson Consulting Services Pty Ltd., and the total cost was \$12,000.

### 323. TAFE; Apprentices

**Mr BORRIDGE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/00)—

With reference to those TAFE institutes involved in the user choice pilot program—

- (1) Will he indicate whether any apprentices enrolled in current user choice programs have concurrently undertaken a learning module from their program after they or their employee have paid TAFE full commercial fees for such module?
- (2) What financial advantage would accrue to any TAFE college which required apprentices to pay for and complete one of their learning modules at the beginning of their probationary period?

**Mr BRADY** (15/5/00): There are currently no User Choice pilots being conducted by the Department anywhere in Queensland.

User Choice pilots were conducted in Queensland in 1997. Despite no evaluation of these pilots being conducted, the then Minister implemented full User Choice in Queensland in January 1998, the only State in Australia to do so. The ramifications of this ill-considered haste in implementing User Choice—with no policy framework or systems developed to support it—are still being dealt with today.

If the Honourable Member has a specific case where this has not occurred and he wishes to have it investigated, he should raise it.

As a general policy, if an apprentice has completed a module from their learning program prior to their enrolment as an apprentice, they should receive recognition of prior learning.

### 324. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (13/4/00)—

With reference to the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle first introduced in Queensland in the 1980s—

- (1) Why were about 30 per cent of indigenous children in care placed with non-indigenous non-relatives in 1999?
- (2) What is her target for the reduction of this figure by the end of 1999-2000?

**Ms BLIGH** (15/5/00):

(1) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are placed in non-Indigenous, non-relative care placements only when there are no carers of the same cultural background available.

(2) The target is to both reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in the child protection system and to increase the proportion of culturally appropriate placements.

### 325. Supported Accommodation Assistance

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (13/4/00)—

With reference to her dubious distinction of having achieved the lowest number of active support periods for SAAP clients as a proportion of total estimated demand as measured by service requests when those data were collected in November 1998—

- (1) What steps is she taking to provide a better deal for Queensland clients?
- (2) What performance indicators has she set for her department in this regard?
- (3) What time frame has been placed on this process?

**Ms BLIGH** (15/5/00): I am unable to claim credit for this distinction as the question relates to data collected in November 1998 demonstrating the effect of the maladministration of the Borridge/Sheldon Government.

(1) The Beattie Labor Government has taken significant steps to provide a better deal for Queensland clients. In 1999, funds of \$2.6m were allocated for the implementation of the Crisis Accommodation Supported Housing Award to attract a range of qualified and experienced staff and promote greater stability in services, assuring improved outcomes for clients. In 1998/99, funds of \$500,000 were allocated to nine Indigenous women's services in remote communities to assist women and children escaping from family violence. This was an initiative of the Beattie Government achieved without any funding by the Commonwealth. The Beattie Government has established a Ministerial Advisory Board on Homelessness, between Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland and Queensland Housing. This Board will advise respective Ministers on ways to improve the delivery and coordination of services for homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless.

I have recently presented the Queensland case for additional growth funds from the Commonwealth in relation to the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) IV Agreement. I am arguing that Queensland has been underfunded for a

significant period of time and that we have a strong claim for increasing the Commonwealth contribution to Queensland SAAP on a per capita basis that acknowledges the population growth in Queensland. Under the current Commonwealth offer, Queensland's proportion of total Commonwealth funding will be only 16.6% even though its proportion of the nation's population is 18.5%. This represents a shortfall of almost \$3m in funding. This is even more marked when considering that recent ABS data indicates that Queensland has 24% of Australia's homeless population. The identified shortfall is having a severe impact on Queensland's capacity to address the needs of people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. I have sought the support of the Commonwealth to redress this shortfall progressively over the five years of the next SAAP Agreement. To date, the Commonwealth has failed to support any proposal to ensure that Queensland's share of Commonwealth SAAP funds corresponds to its population.

(2) My Department is currently engaged in mapping supported accommodation services throughout Queensland to determine the areas of highest need and gaps in current service provision. We are also exploring the viability of existing supported accommodation services to help determine where new funds expected in July 2000 are to be allocated. The allocation of new funds will be on the basis of demonstrated need. The ability to address continuing need, however, is constrained by the inequity of Commonwealth funding.

(3) My Department will commence the new funding arrangements in July 2000 and the outcomes relating to homelessness will be monitored on an annual basis.

### 326. Fire and Rescue Authority

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (13/4/00)—

With reference to capital works projects for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—

Will he detail (a) projects which were to commence during 1999-2000 with budgeted cost for each, (b) projects which had commenced at 30 March, (c) amounts expended to 30 March on each project and (d) project completion dates and final cost?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (16/5/00):

(a) Details of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority capital works projects 1999/2000 and their budgeted costs are detailed in Budget Paper No. 5 of the 1999/2000 Budget.

(b) All but three projects have been commenced as at 30 March. These are:

Home Hill—co-location with QAS

Toowoomba—Public Safety Office

Rosewood—co-location with QAS

(c) See attachment 1. Amounts expended are within normal budgetary parameters for this agency.

(d) See attachment 1. Total costs will be within normal budgetary parameters for this agency.

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

### 327. Ambulance Service

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (13/4/00)—

With reference to capital works projects for the Queensland Ambulance Service—

Will he detail (a) projects which were to commence during 1999-2000 with budgeted cost for each, (b) projects which had commenced at 30 March, (c) amounts expended to 30 March on each project and (d) project completion dates and final cost?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (16/5/00):

(1) Details of the Queensland Ambulance Service capital works projects 1999/2000 and their budgeted costs are detailed in Budget Paper No. 5 of the 1999/2000 Budget.

(2) All but three projects have been commenced as at 30 March. These are:

Doomadgee—new station and residence

Home Hill—replacement station

Rosewood—co-location with QFRA

(3) See attachment 1. Amounts expended are within normal budgetary parameters for this agency.

(4) See attachment 1. Total costs will be within normal budgetary parameters for this agency.

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

### 328. Local Government Authorities, Rates and Charges

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (13/4/00)—

With reference to rates paid to Local Government authorities—

What has been the quantum of payments for rates and charges for 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date)?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (15/5/00):

Department of Public Works:

The quantum of payments for rates and charges for 1996-97 was \$4.330m, 1997-98 was \$5.279m, 1998-99 was \$4.706m and 1999-2000, as at 26 April 2000, was \$3.772m.

Department of Housing:

The quantum of payments for rates and charges for 1996-97 was \$49.993m, 1997-98 was \$52.267m, 1998-99 was \$53.557m and 1999-2000, as at 31 March 2000, was \$38.502m.

### 329. Housing Industry Trade Training Schemes

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (13/4/00)—

With reference to the HITT Scheme and the HITT Plus Scheme—

By each individual group and each separate scheme will he provide a breakdown of the construction program (including a breakdown of the dwelling type) for 1999-2000 for each group in each scheme?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (15/5/00): In 1999-2000, there are ten group training companies participating in the HITT and HITT Plus schemes. See Attachment A for a breakdown of construction projects by scheme and dwelling type for each group training company. In addition to these construction projects, there are also a number of upgrade projects being undertaken by group training companies through the HITT and HITT Plus schemes. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 330. Housing Industry Trade Training Scheme

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (13/4/00)—

With reference to the HITT Scheme—

By each individual group, what is the quantum and percentage of the training levy paid by Housing Queensland to these groups for work undertaken?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (15/5/00): The information sought by the Honourable Member on training levies paid by Housing Queensland since 1992/93 would require a vast amount of time to compile by the Department of Housing. This would be an expensive and inappropriate waste of taxpayers' funds that could be used towards providing quality housing services to people in need.

However in general each group training company is allocated a number of projects each year through the HITT scheme. There are two parts to each HITT project, one being the commercial component and the other the training component or training levy. With each project, the department provides an estimated market value (or commercial component). The group training company assesses its ability to meet the department's commercial component. The amount of training component is calculated on each individual project. The quantum does not exceed 25 per cent of the commercial component, and the actual dollar amount of the training component will vary dependent on the size and commercial component of each individual project.

### 331. Housing Industry Trade Training Scheme

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (13/4/00)—

With reference to the HITT Scheme—

How many dwellings have been constructed and how many apprentices have been engaged under the scheme for 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date)?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (15/5/00): See Attachment A for the number of dwellings constructed and apprentices engaged under the HITT Scheme for 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date). (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 332. Public Housing

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (13/4/00)—

With reference to the 1999-2000 public housing capital works program—

- (1) What is the number of commencements (year to date)?
- (2) How many of these commencements are identified as adaptable housing?
- (3) What is the breakdown of these commencements for seniors, disability and special needs clients?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (15/5/00):

- (1) As at 31 March 2000, the department had commenced 208 public rental housing dwellings.
- (2) Of the 208 dwellings commenced as at 31 March 2000, 104 (or 50%) were identified as adaptable housing.
- (3) The 208 commencements include 36 for seniors, 46 for clients with a disability and one dwelling to meet the needs of clients through the Institutional Reform program.

### 333. Q-Build

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (13/4/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 23—

What are the estimated full financial year costs of (a) the Q-Build Apprenticeship Scheme, (b) the Indigenous Training and Employment Scheme and (c) the Disaster Management Scheme?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (15/5/00):

- (a) \$14,482,770.
- (b) \$180,000.
- (c) \$515,000.

### 334. Public Housing

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (13/4/00)—

With reference to the 1999-2000 public housing capital works program—

- (1) What is the number of spot purchases (year to date)?
- (2) What is the anticipated total of spot purchases for 1999-2000?
- (3) What is the projected spot purchase program for 2000-01?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (15/5/00):

- (1) As at 31 March 2000, nine dwellings had been purchased.
- (2) It is anticipated that a total of 20 dwellings will be purchased in 1999-2000.
- (3) At this stage, there is no projected spot purchase program for 2000-01.

### 335. Supreme Court

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (13/4/00)—

With reference to long delays in delivering judgments in some civil cases in the Supreme Court which cause great hardship to litigants and as the 1998-99 annual report of the Supreme Court of Queensland shows that 19 per cent of civil cases were still awaiting disposal by the court 12 months after entry for trial—

- (1) How many cases before the court are still awaiting disposal after (a) one year, (b) two years and (c) three years?
- (2) What action is being taken to provide the court with resources (personnel and technology) to expedite the disposal of these cases?

**Mr FOLEY** (15/5/00):

(1) As at the April 2000 callover of the 84 civil cases in the Supreme Court which had been certified as ready for trial:

- (a) 2
- (b) none
- (c) none.

(2) \$1.5m was allocated to the Supreme Court and District Court Technology Upgrade Program in 1999/2000. Further, Supreme Court Judges have agreed to a set of timelines, called "Time Goals for Disposition of Cases" for the disposal of matters in the Supreme Court and these have been published on the Court web site.

### 336. Tilt Train

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (13/4/00)—

- (1) When will tilt train services to Cairns commence?
- (2) What are the proposed stops and timetables?
- (3) Will these services include sleeper accommodation?
- (4) How many services a week will be undertaken when services commence?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (15/5/00):

(1) It is programmed that Cairns tilt train services will commence from late 2002.

(2) The time table for the Cairns tilt train service has not yet been finalised by QR. The timetable and ancillary activities such as refuelling and maintenance facilities are being investigated.

(3) No. As previously announced, the Cairns tilt trains are initially designed as a one class, premium sitter service, consisting of five sitter cars (comparable to the Rockhampton electric tilt train business class), with a total of 180 passengers; one club car; and one baggage/staff car. The train will be powered by two diesel hydraulic power cars (one at either end), providing for push/pull operation.

The new tilt train will offer an alternative travel option for long distance rail passengers, while complementing other rail services to North

Queensland which continue to provide sleeper accommodation, such as the Queenslander, Sunlander and Spirit of the Tropics.

Passengers on the Cairns tilt train will enjoy a high standard of comfort, including provision of in-seat video and audio entertainment. Special provision is being made to accommodate people with disabilities.

(4) See answer to (2) above.

### 337. Department of Primary Industries

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (13/4/00)—

With reference to management staffing within his department—

- (1) How many management staff have ceased employment with his department in the last six months and what were their positions?
- (2) What were the reasons for the cessation of each officer's employment and have they been replaced; if not, why not?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (15/5/00):

(1) Nine (9) management staff have ceased employment since 1 October 1999. Details of the positions are included in the table prepared for the response to part 2 of the Question.

(2) Reasons for cessations and replacement details are included in the following table: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 338. Queensland Centre for Climate Applications

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (13/4/00)—

With reference to staffing within the Queensland Centre for Climate Applications (QCCA) (13/4/00)—

- (1) How many staff have ceased employment with the QCCA in the last six months?
- (2) What positions did they hold and when did they cease employment?
- (3) How many resigned and how many were dismissed or retrenched?
- (4) Will they be replaced; if so, when; if not, why not?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (15/5/00):

(1) Two permanent officers have resigned from employment with QCCA, DPI. Ten casual staff have ceased. The casual staff were employed to conduct short term projects and on completion of the required project, their employment ceased.

(2) The two permanent officers were employed as a Cropping Systems Analyst and a Climatologist and resigned on 19 November 1999 and 14 April 2000 respectively. I am advised that one of the casual staff who was employed as a Project Officer resigned as of 14 December 2000. The other nine casual staff were employed as graphic art assistants, project officers, extension officers, computer programmers, administration officers and receptionists and ceased on completion of their designated project.

(3) Three staff resigned including the two permanent officers and one casual staff. No staff were dismissed or retrenched.

(4) Yes. Currently the Cropping Systems Analyst position is filled on a casual basis, and the Climatologist position is currently being filled internally. It is intended to advertise and appoint to these permanent positions early in the next financial year. There is no intention to fill the casual positions unless a short-term need arises.

### 339. Dairy Industry, Competition Payments

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (13/4/00)—

With reference to the \$113m in competition payments the Government is to receive over the next two years, \$98m of which Treasurer David Hamill identified as being associated with dairy industry deregulation in July 1999—

- (1) Will the Government consider using a portion of those competition payments to assist farmers to form supply cooperatives to better market their milk to Queensland's three big processors and ensure they receive a viable price for their product; if not, why not?
- (2) Will the Government consider offering any further assistance from those payments to Queensland farmers to supplement the Federal Government's national dairy industry restructure package, particularly given that many farmers stand to lose up to and in excess of 50 per cent of their income; if not, why not?
- (3) Will the Government use those payments to compensate Queensland farmers for the loss of value of their market milk entitlements, which were worth up to \$300/litre but are now worth nothing following his decision to deregulate the dairy industry?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (15/5/00): The Honourable Member's assertion is incorrect. Queensland will receive no competition payments associated with dairy industry deregulation.

### 340. Regional Australia Summit

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (13/4/00)—

With reference to an outcome of the Regional Summit which has been the foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal Grants—

Will he detail the actions his department has taken to date to implement the recommendations of the Regional Summit?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (15/5/00): Prior to the Regional Australia Summit in October 1999 and again before the meeting on 29 March 2000, I provided the Honourable Tony McGrady MLA Minister for Mines and Energy, the Queensland Government's representative at the Summit, with a comprehensive briefing on issues concerning rural Queensland which were appropriate for consideration. As Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities, I am very supportive of the process and intent of the Summit and I welcome the

opportunity to implement those recommendations that are relevant to the objectives of my Department.

In this respect, recommendations relating to two of the three key strategy areas identified by the Summit are the core business of the Department of Primary Industries and are already being delivered through the Rural Industries Business Services group and the Office of Rural Communities. These key strategy areas are Community Empowerment, and Economic and Business Development in Regional Communities. It should be noted however, that the Regional Australia Summit is a Commonwealth Government initiative and it is therefore the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, not the State Government, to ensure its recommendations are implemented. I am advised that the Commonwealth Government has set up a Task Force to progress the implementation of some elements of the Summit's recommendations but the extent to which this occurs will be dependent upon the outcomes of the Commonwealth's Budget process.

Following the announcement on 29 March 2000 by the Hon John Anderson MP Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Transport and Regional Services and Leader of the National Party and Senator the Hon Rod Kemp Assistant Treasurer that Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal Public Fund had been created, information about the Fund has been made widely available throughout the Department. However, as it is a Commonwealth initiative, to date media announcements and publicity materials have been distributed by the offices of Mr Anderson and Mr Kemp. The Department of Primary Industries will assist with the distribution of publicity materials as requested.

### 341. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (13/4/00)—

With reference to the documents headed "Public Sector Apprenticeships and Traineeships—Apprentice/Trainee Report (Form A)—Organisation name: DETIR Core Department—For Period: July 1999 to December 1999" and "For Period: July 1998 to January 2000" and to the section which indicates "EEO Targets"—

- (1) Were all departments/agencies given EEO targets; if so, what were the targets given to each department/agency?
- (2) Were these targets to guide those responsible for the selection of apprentices/trainees and were they provided to those responsible officers; if not, why were these targets indicated as "Required Numbers"?

**Mr BRADY** (15/5/00):

- (1) Yes, 50% Women; 5% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; 5% People with a Disability; 5% people from a Non-English Speaking Background.
- (2) Yes.

### 342. Ambulance Service

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (13/4/00)—

With reference to the financial position of Queensland Ambulance Service regions—

- (1) What was the financial position of each region at 30 June 1999 as variance from Budget (ie surplus or deficit).
- (2) What was the financial position of each region at 30 March 2000 as variance from Budget (ie surplus or deficit).
- (3) If deficits have occurred, what measures have been put in place to stop this recurring?
- (4) What disciplinary action will be instigated to ensure Budget compliance?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (16/5/00):

(1) You will be aware that QAS provides operational ambulance services through seven regions and whilst each region has an expenditure budget, QAS has one annual Budget for the State which is administered centrally to ensure equity in service delivery across Queensland.

The financial position of QAS as at 30 June 1999 was as set down in the audited financial statements contained in the published annual report of the Queensland Ambulance Service.

(2) The financial position of QAS as at 30 March 2000 is an operating deficit of \$0.598M (unaudited).

(3) The following measures have been put in place to ensure that deficits are reduced in the lead up to the end of the financial year.

- (a) Expenditure by regions is continually monitored throughout the financial year. Most recently a meeting was held between the QAS Acting Commissioner, Regional Executive Directors and Director Business Services to explore ways to manage income and expenditure without detriment to the provision of ambulance services to the community.
- (b) High level support is being given to Regional Executive Directors to assist them to manage their budgets in an environment of best practice for service delivery.
- (c) Resources are being targeted to appropriate areas.
- (d) Research is being undertaken to identify factors that influence demand.
- (e) Workforce models have been adopted to meet growth and demand.

(4) All Regional Executive Directors have Executive Performance Agreements with the Commissioner, QAS. These are reviewed on an annual basis with interim reviews on a 6 monthly basis.

### 343. Narayen Research Station

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Premier (13/4/00)—

With reference to the Narayen Research Station west of Mundubbera—

- (1) What role has he and his department had in determining a viable future for this property?
- (2) Has he considered the submission made to him by the Eidsvold and Mundubbera Shire Councils and when will they receive a response to their submission?

- (3) What other groups or departments have made submissions about the future use of this property?
- (4) When will his Government make a decision regarding this property?
- (5) Will he consult local people and local communities regarding that decision?

**Mr BEATTIE** (15/5/00):

(1) The matter of further dealings with the Narayen Research Station has been referred to the Department of Natural Resources. The Department of Natural Resources will determine the most appropriate future use of the property.

(2) Several submissions including that of the Eidsvold and Mundubbera Shire Councils have been received in relation to the future usage of the property. All submissions will be appropriately considered.

(3) A Number of State Government agencies, including Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland and the Environmental Protection Agency, have indicated an interest in the property. An established cattle breeding society has also expressed an interest in the property, and adjoining owners have indicated an interest in leasing/purchasing the area for grazing. Approaches have also been made to utilise the compound area, dwellings, associated outbuildings and airstrip on a tenancy arrangement.

(4) My Government will determine the most appropriate usage of the property as soon as possible.

(5) The decision on future use of the property would be made in accordance with the current Government Land Management System policy and in consultation with relevant local community interest groups.

### 344. Public Art Agency

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (13/4/00)—

With reference to the Public Art Agency—

- (1) How much money has been spent by this agency since its establishment?
- (2) What amount has each Government department or agency contributed to (1) and what is the date of such contribution?
- (3) How many staff are employed in this agency?
- (4) What specific public building/capital works projects have had art installed, or commissioned by the Public Art Agency?
- (5) Will he list all items purchased and commissioned by the agency (including details of artist, cost/estimated cost of the art and location, or planned location, of the art)?

**Mr FOLEY** (15/5/00):

- (1) 1998-1999: \$267,245 (from September 1998)  
1999-2000: \$340,479.63 (to 31 March 2000)
- (2) 1998-1999 expenditure was met by Arts Queensland.



As at 13 April 2000, other Departments' contributions to the running costs of the Public Art Agency total \$23,472. Details of these contributions are provided in the attachment to this answer. The balance of the running costs in 1999-2000 (\$317,007.63) has been met by Arts Queensland. A significant portion of these costs will be reimbursed over time by other Government Departments and agencies.

1999-2000 expenditure represents a significant saving against forecast expenditure of \$780,000.

(3) 5 staff are currently employed.

(4-5) I refer to my answer to Question on Notice No. 9 at Estimates Committee B on 24 September 1999. Details of projects since that date are provided in the attachment to this answer. The Public Art Agency does not purchase or commission artworks on behalf of other Government agencies. The Agency provides policy advice and guidance on appropriate procurement processes and practices in line with the Art Built-in Policy and Guidelines.

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****221. Clermont Hospital**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (16/3/00)—

With reference to concerns brought to my attention of budget cuts to the MPHS Catering Division at the Clermont Hospital—

- (1) How many meals were catered for the month of February by the Clermont Hospital kitchen?
- (2) What was the budget allocated for catering by the Clermont Hospital kitchen for the month of February?

**Mrs EDMOND** (1/6/00): (Replacement for answer tabled on 17/4/00—see Hansard 16/5/00, p. 995)

Please find a replacement answer to Question on Notice No 221, which was tabled on 17 April 2000. The answer corrects an error in the number of meals catered for in the month of February by the Clermont Hospital kitchen. The answer should have been 1,605, not 1,415 as previously stated. The Zonal Manager has advised that the discrepancy was due to a clerical error.

- (1) Meals catered for the month of February by the Clermont Hospital kitchen were 1,605.
- (2) The non-labour budget allocation for catering for the month of February was \$2,227. Actual expenditure was \$3,472 for the month.

**345. Topaz Range Road, Eacham Shire**

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/5/00)—

With reference to his commitment to the users of Topaz Range in the Eacham Shire that he would seal 500 metres of the range every 12 months—

As he is 1 km behind schedule and by August/September he will be 1.5 km behind schedule, when can we expect to see this rectified?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/6/00): Mr S Nelson MLA, Member for Tablelands, is mistaken in his belief that I have ever given any commitment to seal 500 metres of the Topaz Range Road every 12 months. No such commitment has been given by either myself or by the Department of Main Roads.

In 1998, in response to discussions with local residents of Topaz Road, a 500 metre section of the existing gravel road was sealed as a 'trial'. Subsequently, this trial was deemed to be successful by both local residents and Main Roads' staff.

As discussed with some of your constituents at the Atherton Community Cabinet Meeting in July 1999, consideration will be given to funding additional sealing works on Topaz Road when future versions of the Roads Implementation Program are formulated.

In the meantime, Main Roads is unable to commit funds to seal additional sections of Topaz Range Road, at this time, due to more pressing priorities within Atherton and surrounding areas as well as elsewhere throughout the road network.

**346. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Advertising**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (16/5/00)—

With reference to Men's Rights Agency and men's groups around Queensland wishing to thank her for finally recognising that men suffer domestic violence too and in relation to an advertisement to that effect—

- (1) Why did the advertisement placed by the Department of Families Youth and Community Care (DFYCC) in The Courier Mail of 6 May, highlighting the true facts that anyone can be abused, males included, fail to comply with guidelines set down by the Advertising Standards Council in that it was not recognisable as an advertisement and did not disclose the source of the advertisement namely the DFYCC?
- (2) Who authorised the advertisement?
- (3) Why was it stopped and not just rectified to comply with the Advertising Standards Council guidelines?
- (4) Are more advertisements going to be placed and shown reflecting the true situation that all people, male and female, suffer from domestic violence from their partners?

**Ms BLIGH** (15/6/00):

1. My Department gave detailed placement instructions, which complied with the Australian Association of National Advertisers (AANA), to the Courier Mail via the Government master media agency AIS Media. The advertisement was incorrectly placed by the Courier Mail and subsequently rectified.

2. I authorised the advertisement as Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care.

3. The advertisement was originally planned as a single placement during Domestic Violence Prevention Week. It was in fact run a second time, at no cost to my Department, after being rectified by the Courier Mail.

4. The advertisement was run to support Domestic Violence Prevention Week 2000. I anticipate similar advertising will be employed in support of Domestic Violence Prevention Week in May 2001.

**347. Koalas, Moggill Hospital**

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (16/5/00)—

With reference to the Moggill Koala Hospital controlled by National Parks and Wildlife Service—

Is he confident that (a) the ablation of the third eye lids of koalas with Chlamydia, currently carried out by an unqualified employee, is, in all instances, carried out under the direct supervision of a qualified veterinarian, (b) the admission of S4 drugs such as anaesthetics and antibiotics is done so, on all occasions, under the direct supervision of a veterinarian, (c) the veterinarian from Yeronga,

employed one day a week, actually sees each koala before and during treatment and before it is discharged, (d) koalas discharged as fit to return to the wild, are in fact, capable of survival in the wild and (e) the department is observing the Veterinary Surgeons Act morally and physically?

**Mr WELFORD** (15/6/00):

(a) In only a small percentage of cases is the entire third eye lid ablated from kerato-conjunctivitis koalas. Most animals that undergo surgery have only bulk granulated tissue removed to promote the growth of new cells, and subsequently hasten recovery.

This procedure was pioneered and refined by Dr Tony Wood, the Moggill Koala Hospital consultant veterinarian, who has had over thirty years' experience in treating koalas. Dr Wood has set strict veterinary procedures and protocols for the operation of the Moggill Koala Hospital that are constantly reviewed and in all instances adhered to.

The Moggill Koala Hospital Ranger that performs this surgery has had ten years' experience with koalas. He has been trained in this procedure by Dr Wood, and has spent much time working closely with Dr Wood. He has developed extensive, specialised skills and is well respected as an experienced and suitably qualified technician in the field of koala rehabilitation.

To remove any doubt about the suitability of this practice I will be initiating an independent review of veterinary practices at the Moggill Hospital.

(b) Moggill Koala Hospital Rangers that administer anaesthetics and antibiotics, and other S4 drugs, have undergone extensive veterinary training and have been granted Drug Authorities under subsection 182 of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 by Queensland Health. These Authorities entitle them to obtain, store, be in possession of, use and administer a wide variety of drugs to capture, sedate, treat, anaesthetise and/or euthanise wildlife.

The restricted drugs are used and administered in accordance with the directions of the consultant veterinarian at the veterinary prescribed rate.

While this practice is consistent with all relevant authorities the review of veterinary practices referred to above will consider whether this practice is acceptable.

(c) Dr Wood has set strict admission and treatment protocols for the Moggill Koala Hospital which are adhered to at all times. The Moggill Koala Hospital Ranger, who is an extremely experienced technician in the field of koala rehabilitation, is suitably qualified to assess koalas for treatment. Those animals that are not suitable for rehabilitation are euthanised.

Dr Wood thoroughly assesses all cases during the course of their treatment and prior to release.

Dr Wood is contactable at any time via phone, facsimile and email. He visits the Moggill Koala Hospital on demand, at a minimum of once per week.

The independent review of veterinary practices will make recommendations concerning admission procedures and treatments at Moggill Koala Hospital.

(d) Koalas are only released from the Moggill Koala Hospital when they are fully rehabilitated, or if it is considered that the stress they would suffer by retaining them in captivity would be detrimental to their health and wellbeing.

(e) Yes.

#### 348. CITEC

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (16/5/00)—

With reference to CITEC charges for searches—

- (1) Are all shires charged at the same rate?
- (2) Is the Brisbane City Council charged less than the other shires in the State?
- (3) If there are differences, what are the differences and why do they exist?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (15/6/00): Charges for searches on CITEC CONFIRM consist of two fees—CITEC's delivery fee and the information provider's fee. CITEC only has responsibility for setting its delivery fee. Accordingly the response to the Member's questions in respect of the CITEC delivery fee are:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) N/A.

#### 349. Lockyer Electorate, Road Funding

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/5/00)—

With reference to the \$343m allocated to Queensland in the 2000 Federal Budget—

- (1) How much of these moneys has been allocated to the Electorate of Lockyer?
- (2) Of this amount, how much has been allocated to the Warrego Highway and to what projects in relation to the Warrego Highway?
- (3) How much of these moneys has been allocated to the Cunningham Highway and to what projects in relation to the Cunningham Highway?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/6/00):

(1) Firstly, let me advise that the break up of the Federal Government's funding for roads in Queensland for 2000-2001 is \$343 million. A breakdown is as follows:

National Highways and Roads of National Importance—\$259.409m

Black Spots—\$8.275m

Local Government Funding Assistance Grants (FAGs) identified for roads—\$76.138m

Total—\$343.822m

The Local Government Funding Assistance Grants are administered by the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport. Therefore, I suggest that any further information should be sought from the Honourable T Mackenroth MLA, the Minister for

Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport, respond.

The National Highway funding consists of allocations to Construction projects, Safety and Urgent Minor Works and Maintenance. At this stage, programs for Safety and Urgent Minor Works and Maintenance for the National Highways, together with the Black Spot program for 2000-01, are still in the process of being developed. Details of projects in these programs and allocations will be available following the approval of the Roads Implementation Program 2000-01 to 2004-2005 later this year.

(2) As explained, the allocations of Federal funding for Maintenance and Safety and Urgent Minor Works on the Warrego Highway are yet to be determined for 2000-2001. The Roads Implementation Program 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 shows the ongoing Toowoomba Range Corridor Study on the Warrego Highway in the Lockyer Electorate which has been allocated \$2 million in 2000-01.

(3) As explained, the allocations of Federal funding to Maintenance and Safety and Urgent Minor Works on the Cunningham Highway are yet to be finalised for 2000-01. The Roads Implementation Program 1999-2000 to 2003-04 lists the Ebenezer Creek Bridge on the Cunningham Highway, with an approved total cost of \$5.2 million, to be constructed next financial year.

### 350. Hervey Bay Police Station, Resources

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (16/5/00)—

With reference to the shortage of full-time police officers at the Hervey Bay Police Station—

- (1) Will he give serious consideration to increasing the police numbers in Hervey Bay?
- (2) What increase could we expect in this consideration?
- (3) When could we expect to see these additional police on the job?
- (4) Will he consider opening a police shop in Bay Central and supply enough officers to fully staff it rather than removing them from the Hervey Bay station which is already understaffed?

**Mr BARTON** (16/6/00):

(1) The Commissioner of Police is responsible for the allocation of the overall available police resources throughout the State.

(2) The Queensland Police Service constantly monitors the need for police numbers on a statewide basis. The service will be increasing the allocated strength of the Hervey Bay Police Division by an additional 2 officers from 36 to 38 in August this year. Further allocations will be considered by the Commissioner of Police as part of the normal process and distribution of the yearly increase in funded positions throughout the Service.

(3) See answer to (2) above.

(4) The Maryborough District Officer is currently conducting an evaluation concerning a proposal for a police shopfront in Bay Central. Police Shopfront positions are normally staffed by way of a separate allocation.

### 351. Mount Marrow State School

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (16/5/00)—

With reference to the Mount Marrow State School—

- (1) What is his department doing to increase the land area of the school?
- (2) Has his department been dealing with neighbours of the Mount Marrow State School to purchase any land; if so, at what stage are the negotiations?
- (3) Is his department, in the event of the purchase of any land, prepared to pay fair compensation or market value of the land?

**Mr WELFORD** (15/6/00):

(1) In June 1999, my Department of Natural Resources was requested to negotiate on behalf of the Department of Education to acquire approximately 7,000 square metres of land adjoining the Mount Marrow State School.

(2) In September 1999, my Department offered to purchase the land from the owner but the offer was not accepted. In February 2000, officers from my Department discussed the proposed acquisition on a without prejudice basis with the owner and legal representatives.

A settlement could not be reached but my Department undertook to seek the Department of Education's views on leasing the subject land as an alternative to purchase. The Department of Education concurred with this alternative and requested my Department to continue negotiations.

In April 2000, my Department wrote to the owner's legal representatives indicating the State's willingness to enter into a leasing arrangement. A response to this offer is still awaited.

(3) My Department is currently seeking to negotiate a fair commercial rent for a lease over the subject land. However, should it become necessary to resume the land, fair and reasonable compensation will be negotiated in accordance with the provisions of the Acquisition of Land Act 1967.

### 352. Cooroy Private Hospital

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Health (16/5/00)—

- (1) How much money, if any, has Queensland Health provided to the Cooroy Private Hospital since the 1998 State election?
- (2) If money has been provided by Queensland Health, what was the money intended to be used for?
- (3) Has any Commonwealth money been directed by Queensland Health to the Cooroy Private Hospital since the 1998 State election?

**Mrs EDMOND** (15/6/00): 1-3. No money, including Commonwealth funds, has been provided by Queensland Health to the Cooroy Private Hospital since the 1998 State election.

### 353. Smith Street, Sound Barriers

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/5/00)—

When can the people of Parkwood expect the sound barrier on Smith Street to be built?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (19/6/00): Provision for funding the construction of noise barriers along the section of Smith Street from Uplands Drive to Olsen Avenue has been made in the Roads Implementation Program 1999-2000 to 2003-04, which I released on 15 November 1999. Construction is programmed to commence towards the end of 2000 with completion estimated by February 2001.

### 354. Burleigh Heads National Park

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (16/5/00)—

With reference to the final management plan for Burleigh Heads National Park which has now been released and I note that one of the desired outcomes is that the management unit is allocated enough resources to successfully implement the plan (item 4.5) (16/5/00)—

Will he guarantee that adequate funding will be provided to the Gold Coast Management Unit to successfully implement the management plan?

**Mr WELFORD** (15/6/00): Since the finalisation of the Management Plan for Burleigh Head National Park, a number of positive steps have been taken to implement the recommendations of the Plan. By way of example:

A botanical survey of all noteworthy species has been completed.

The Park has been included in the research for the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Recovery Program. This follows the removal of the introduced Dutchmans Pipe plant from the park, which kills the larvae of the threatened butterfly.

A wildfire response plan has been completed and safety and directional signage has recently been upgraded in the park.

This Government spent nearly \$100,000 to ensure the Ocean View Circuit would remain open, except during periods of high risk for boulder fall.

In recognition of the Park's strong cultural significance, officers of the QPWS are currently negotiating joint management arrangements with the Kombumerri people, which will involve traditional owners in the day to day management of the park. Employment, training, tourism and other opportunities are likely to arise from these arrangements.

Burleigh Head National Park is one of the State's most visited parks. Its spectacular geology and lowland rainforest provides for the enjoyment and recreation of hundreds of thousands of locals and visitors each year.

In the short time since the Park's Management Plan has been finalised, many of the proposed actions, as outlined above, are being implemented. There is

every confidence that, over the 10 years of the Plan, all of the Plan's recommendations will be substantially completed.

### 355. Yeppoon Police Station

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (16/5/00)—

What progress has been made towards enlarging the Yeppoon Police Station so that police officers and administrative personnel can have better working conditions compared to the present cramped situation?

**Mr BARTON** (16/6/00): The future need to upgrade or replace the Yeppoon Police Station has been identified by the Assistant Commissioner, Central Region. Due to the impact of other Statewide priorities for Capital Works projects, it is unlikely this project will commence in the next five years.

A new Water Police facility has been constructed at Rosslyn Bay and the three water police officers have moved out of the Yeppoon Police Station.

A new property room has been erected near the station allowing for more room in the station.

A compactus unit has been relocated also allowing for more room in the station.

The former water police office has been used to provide for an additional interview room and locker space and the former property room has been used to provide a secure area for files and consumables.

The Yeppoon Station is considered adequate for the 20 staff currently occupying the station.

### 356. Feral Animals

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (16/5/00)—

- (1) What is the official status of feral deer as they pertain to the Rural Lands Protection Act and similarly what is the official status of feral goats under the same act?
- (2) How is ownership established and whose responsibilities are they as they pertain to the Rural Lands Protection Act?

**Mr WELFORD** (15/6/00):

- (1) Feral deer are not declared under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1985 (RLPA) and Regulations.

Feral goats are declared under the RLPA in the categories A2, A4 and A6. This means that feral goats are to be destroyed, and any introduction, keeping or selling of feral goats is to be subject to prescribed conditions and restrictions.

- (2) Ownership is not established under the RLPA which establishes responsibilities for control. Under sections 73, 76 and 80 of the RLPA, Government departments, local governments and the occupiers of private land respectively, are responsible for the control of declared pest animals on lands under their occupation or control.

The control of pest animals not declared under the RLPA is at the discretion of the landholder involved, unless the animal is declared under local government

local law or is subject to other legislation such as the Nature Conservation Act 1992. Deer are classed as "domestic animals" under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and, as such, are not subject to any restriction on keeping and do not have to be controlled. Like all wildlife, destruction of deer on protected areas, including National Parks, requires a permit.

### 357. Gaming Machines

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Treasurer (16/5/00)—

- (1) What has been the number of new poker machines approved from 1 July 1999 to 30 April 2000 (a) by region and (b) by electorate and what was the number of premises receiving a licence during this period for regions and electorates?
- (2) What was the number of (a) clubs and (b) hotels/taverns that received poker machine approvals for the first time during this period?

**Mr HAMILL** (13/6/00): (1 & 2): Data on gaming machine approvals is published by both the Queensland Gaming Commission and Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation as part of their annual reporting arrangements.

It should be noted that recent approvals have occurred in accordance with the regime established in 1997 by the Borbidge/Sheldon Government which provided for significantly greater increases in gaming machine numbers in Queensland communities.

The Beattie Government introduced a series of reforms to provide Queensland with the nation's most responsible gaming laws. These reforms include capping machine numbers, mandatory community consultation on proposals for any new sites and proposals to install additional machines, banning credit betting, banning machines from shopping centres and restaurants, and limiting note acceptors to \$20.

### 358. Borallon Correctional Centre

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (16/5/00)—

With reference to the calling of tenders for the management contract for Borallon Prison—

Will any person who has been a previous employee at the prison or shareholder in the existing management company play any part in the selection or recommendation process of this new contract?

**Mr BARTON** (16/6/00): Extensive processes have been implemented for the evaluation of tenders for the contract to manage and operate the Borallon Correctional Centre, to ensure the independence and confidentiality of all persons involved with the evaluation process.

The Tender Evaluation Committee will make recommendations to the Director-General, Department of Corrective Services and the Minister for Police and Corrective Services on the outcome of the tender evaluation process.

The Chair of the Tender Evaluation Committee, Mr Peter Severin, was employed by Corrections Corporation of Australia at a junior level at the Borallon Correctional Centre for a period of six months in 1990. Mr Severin had no involvement in the company at a managerial or corporate level during this period of employment, nor has he at any time after this.

Ms Anne Dutney, Deputy Director-General, Department of Corrective Services, has previously worked in a senior executive position with Corrections Corporation of Australia. Ms Dutney has been excluded from any activity which relates to the Borallon Correctional Centre contract tender evaluation.

Independent probity auditors, Dr Bob Grice and Mr Phil Henessey, KPMG Brisbane have been appointed to oversight all aspects of the tendering process and the tender evaluation. The probity auditors report directly to the Director-General of the department and not to the Tender Evaluation Committee.

The Director-General of the department is confident that all staff involved in the evaluation of the tenders are totally independent from the current operator of Borallon Correctional Centre and all other companies who have been invited to tender.

### 359. Emergency Services Portfolio, Capital Works

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Emergency Services and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 ROBERTSON (15/6/00):**

(1) The capital works projects that were included in the 1999/2000 Budget for the Department of Emergency Services (DES) have been detailed in Budget Paper No. 5. This information has also been provided by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) in response to Question on Notice No. 326, and by the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) in response to Question on Notice No. 327.

(2) I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Questions on Notice Nos. 326 and 327 wherein reference to Budget Paper No. 5 has been made.

(3) The attached tables (Refer Attachment A) details the location of each project, a brief description of the project, the expenditure on the project to 30 April 2000 and the expected completion date of each project.

(4) Refer Attachment A.

(5) As at 30 April 2000, DES had spent \$11,167,738 on the capital works program for 1999/2000. This figure includes the following expenditure across the Portfolio:

Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—	\$7,173,151
Queensland Ambulance Service—	\$3,640,587
Department of Emergency Services—	\$354,000
<b>TOTAL—</b>	<b>\$11,167,738</b>

This amount is related to the budgeted capital works program for 1999/2000 and should not be confused with the Total Project Expenditure for the projects (as outlined in (3) and (4) above). Some of these projects incurred expenditure in the previous financial year.

(6) Each of the projects contained in Budget Paper No. 5 and referred to in previous Questions on Notice No. 326 and 327 will be undertaken and completed.

(7) DES is committed to each of these capital works projects.

(8) Each of the projects included in the capital works program for DES has been commenced prior to 30 April 2000 with the exception of Home Hill Station which is in the final stages of tender negotiation.

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

### 360. Primary Industries Department, Institutes

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (16/5/00)—

With reference to the Primary Industry Institutes which were instigated to enhance a range of activities within a variety of primary industries—

- (1) Will he report on the success of each of these institutes and how they have benefited the particular industry they represent?

- (2) What will be the future direction with the institutes?

- (3) Will there be any change; if so, how will a better response be provided for services to primary producers in Queensland?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (14/6/00):**

(1) The Institute model has recently been reviewed and details of the success of this model of management in DPI appear in the review report (Report on an Evaluation of DPI's Five Internal Institutes). The major benefits have been:

Tight industry focus, statewide focus and clear priorities;

Improved staff morale and team spirit with the concrete demonstration of Government's ongoing investment in R&D;

Increased focus on business and commercial knowledge both in terms of the focus for clients and in the management of the Business Unit in DPI; and

Some shifts in resources to higher priority areas.

(2) Institutes and their Boards will operate as Business Units within the Agency for Food and Fibre Sciences.

(3) The focus on 'food and fibre' within the Agency for Food and Fibre Sciences will bring to the services provided:

Advice grounded in the commercial realities of the supply chain(s) the client is targeting;

Facilitation of horizontal and vertical alliances that improve the flow of information to producers on specifications for high value products and group negotiating power and entry to new markets;

More strategic research focusing on smart technologies that will keep the food and fibre industries in Queensland world competitive; and

An increase in the proportion of higher value and value added products in domestic and overseas markets.

### 361. Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (16/5/00)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No 183 and again I refer him to 1999 budget documents which stated "Under current funding arrangements, the Department's Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund (SRBF) received a guaranteed 23% of gaming machine revenue. This arrangement continues to result in significant funding increases (\$34m in 1994-95 to a potential \$65m in 1999-2000) and limits the Government flexibility to determine the mix of outputs it wishes to purchase"—

- (1) What was 23 per cent of gaming machine revenue in 1999-2000?

- (2) What was 23 per cent of gaming machine revenue in 1998-99?

- (3) Was the difference \$50,000 as claimed in the answer provided on 12 April 2000?
- (4) What is 23 per cent of estimated gaming machine revenue for 2000-2001?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (20/6/00):

- (1) \$66.7M (based on 1999-2000 Budgeted revenue of \$ 290M). It should be noted that pending the outcome of the Gaming Machine Review, funding to the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund (SRBF) in 1999-2000 was capped at \$49.5M.
- (2) \$49.45M.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The estimates will be disclosed in the forthcoming budget.

### 362. Vessel Monitoring System

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/5/00)—

With reference to concerns expressed by commercial boat owners regarding marine safety devices—

Will he outline steps he has taken to ensure the reliability of equipment required by Government for vessel tracking but "sold" to fishermen as also enhancing safety for fishermen in distress?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/6/00): The Vessel Monitoring System was introduced as a resource management tool to give authorities charged with the enforcement of provisions of the Fisheries Act 1994 the capability to monitor the activities of commercial fishing ships for compliance with this legislation. The International Marine Satellite communications system and the functionality of this system includes the ability to transmit distress alerts to search and rescue authorities.

The development and implementation of the Vessel Monitoring System was an initiative of the Queensland Fish Management Authority. As the Fish Management Authority falls outside my portfolio responsibilities it is appropriate that any questions relating to the integrity of Vessel Monitoring System's distress alert capabilities be directed to the responsible Minister.

### 363. State Library; Museum

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (16/5/00)—

With reference to his 1999-2000 Budget commitment to provide additional facilities for the State Library of Queensland and the Queensland Museum—

- (1) Will he again confirm the selected site?
- (2) Is he still committed to construction of this facility; if so, given that 10 months of this financial year has already passed, has a decision been made on the location and scope of this facility?
- (3) Given that only two months remain before the end of the financial year, will this facility be constructed by 30 June 2000?

- (4) 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)?
- (5) What is the expected cost of this facility?

**Mr FOLEY** (15/6/00): I refer to the public announcements in relation to the construction of a Gallery of Modern Art, extension of the State Library and development of further Museum facilities in collaboration with the Smithsonian.

The State Library and Museum were seeking additional facilities which were proposed to be provided away from their existing sites. It is now preferred that some of those facilities be provided on site.

The estimated cost of providing all of the facilities off site was approximately \$19m.

### 364. Public Works and Housing Portfolio, Consultancies

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (16/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (15/6/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken over the 1999/2000 financial year in their annual reports. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information that will be included in these annual reports.

If the Honourable Member seeks information about a particular consultancy, I invite him to ask a more specific question.



**365. Premier's Portfolio, Consultancies**

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Premier (16/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr BEATTIE** (15/6/00): (1-12) The Honourable Member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies that they have undertaken over the 1999-2000 financial year in their annual reports, which they are required to provide to me by 31 October 2000. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information that is to be included in these annual reports.

**366. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Women's Policy and Fair Trading Portfolio, Consultancies**

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (16/5/00)—

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/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?

- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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 SPENCE** (15/6/00): Information regarding consultancies engaged by agencies within my portfolio will be included in the 1999-2000 Annual Reports provided to the Parliament by 14 November 2000. Accordingly, I refer the Honourable Member to the information which is to be included in these Annual Reports.

**367. Tourism and Racing Portfolio, Consultancies**

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (16/5/00)—

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/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mrs ROSE** (15/6/00): Details of consultancies are included in the annual reports of the Department of Tourism and Racing and its Agencies.

**368. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio, Consultancies**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (16/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr BARTON** (16/6/00): 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 2000. 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.

### 369. Education Portfolio, Consultancies

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (16/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr WELLS** (15/6/00): The honourable member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about consultancies they have undertaken over the 1999-2000 financial year in their annual reports. I refer the honourable member to the information that is to be included in these annual reports.

### 370. Treasury Portfolio, Consultancies

**Dr WATSON** asked the Treasurer (16/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr HAMILL** (13/6/00): The information sought by the Honourable Member is contained in the annual reports of the Department and respective agencies. If the Honourable Member has a more specific question, I would be happy to provide him with the appropriate response.

### 371. Environment, Heritage and Natural Resources Portfolio, Consultancies

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (16/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
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- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr WELFORD** (15/6/00): This information is available in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agency annual reports.

### **372. Primary Industries and Rural Communities, Consultancies**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (16/5/00)—  
With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (14/6/00): The Honourable member is advised that the agencies within my portfolio are required to include information about the consultancies they have undertaken each financial year in their annual reports, which they are required to provide to me by 31 October each year.

The Honourable member has sought details for 1999-2000 Financial year, which is not as yet completed.

Accordingly, I would refer the Honourable member to seek the information after the Departments 1999-2000 Annual Report has been tabled.

### **373. Emergency Services Portfolio, Consultancies**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
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- (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?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (15/6/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the agencies within my portfolio report on consultancies in their annual reports. As such, I refer the Honourable Member to the information contained in these annual reports.

### **374. Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport Portfolio, Consultancies**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (16/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (15/6/00): It should be noted that in relation to Sport and Recreation Queensland this response contains details of only those consultancies engaged since I assumed responsibility for the Sport portfolio on 16 December 1999.

In addition, as the Member would be aware certain consultancies have been commissioned to undertake planning processes and advise the Government in relation to the potential redevelopment of Lang Park as a major Stadium. Depending on Government decisions on this project there may be further work progressed in the context of any redevelopment. Details in respect to these consultancies is regarded as commercial in confidence, the disclosure of which could potentially prejudice subsequent negotiations in terms of future consultancies.

(Consultancy details may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 375. Health Portfolio, Consultancies

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Health (16/5/00)—

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/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mrs EDMOND** (15/6/00): Details on the use of consultants is published in the Queensland Health Annual Report to Parliament.

### 376. State Development and Trade Portfolio, Consultancies

**Mr GOSS** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (16/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr ELDER** (30/6/00):

- (1) See attached Table.

- (2) See attached Table.

With respect to the consultancies dealing with the reviews of meat processors eligibility for assistance under the WorkCover Insurance Rebate Scheme, the identity of organisations reviewed has been omitted. This information is confidential and its release will be likely to negatively impact on the organisations concerned. Each consultancy was for the review of a single organisation.

- (3) See attached Table.

- (4) The Director-General, Department of State Development.

- (5) See attached Table.

- (6) See attached Table.

- (7) Total costs for 1999-2000 for each consultancy will comprise actual expenditure to date (see answer to 6) plus any invoices tendered and approved against milestones in June 2000.

(8) The need or otherwise for a report varies according to the nature of the consultancy work sought and the date of any such report depends on the milestones within each consultancy. It has not been possible to provide specific responses against individual consultancies in the timeframe available

(9) The need or otherwise for a report varies according to the nature of the consultancy work sought and the date of any such report depends on the milestones within each consultancy. It has not been possible to provide specific responses against individual consultancies in the timeframe available.

(10) Public availability of reports will depend on a variety of considerations including commercial-in-confidence, purpose of consultancy work undertaken, public benefit etc.

(11) Public availability of reports will depend on a variety of considerations including commercial-in-confidence, purpose of consultancy work undertaken, public benefit etc

(12) See attached Table.

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

### 377. Transport and Main Roads Portfolio, Consultancies

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/6/00): 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 will also be provided in the Annual Reports for 1999-2000.

### 378. Sunshine Coast Arts and Exhibition Centre

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (16/5/00)—

- (1) Why was the Maroochy Shire Council led to believe its submission for a \$47m Sunshine Coast Arts and Exhibition Centre would receive almost 100 per cent funding from the State Government?
- (2) What are the reasons for the Government now rejecting this submission?
- (3) Why can the Government find \$100m to build a convention centre on the Gold Coast in a deal with a private company but cannot find any funding for the Maroochy Shire Council's bid for an arts and exhibition centre on the Sunshine Coast?

**Mr ELDER** (15/6/00): The Government is not aware of any formal submission having been made for such funding, and therefore it is wrong to suggest that the Government has rejected the submission.

My Department of State Development has provided funding of \$154,000 for the conduct of a feasibility study into the development of such a centre and this study indicates the prospect of its viability.

The Government therefore supports in principle a project of this type, however any contribution to the cost of development will be subject to the priorities of the Government and the availability of funds.

The Government's support for the Convention Centre on the Gold Coast is in response to strong local support and a demonstrated need for such a centre. The feasibility study conducted for the Sunshine Coast did identify that the construction of a convention centre on the Sunshine Coast was not a viable proposition without major private investment.

### 379. Goninan; Queensland Rail

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/5/00)—

With reference to the announcement by Goninan North Queensland that it is cutting its workforce by half and that a major factor is the decision by Queensland Rail to defer a contract for the construction of 200 rail wagons—

- (1) What is the reason for Queensland Rail deciding to defer construction of these wagons?
- (2) Has the decision by Queensland Rail not to tender for the Blackwater contract impacted upon this decision?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/6/00):

- (1) Queensland Rail (QR) had no plans to purchase any additional coal wagons following the completion of existing contracts. No rail wagon contracts have been deferred. Should QR determine that additional wagons are required, Goninan will be given the

opportunity to tender for that work. Recent contracts awarded to Goninan include:

120 VSH class wagons: \$10 million—completed 24/9/98

220 VSA class wagons: \$20.4 million—completed 5/10/99

150 VSA class wagons: \$14 million—under construction

(2) The decision not to participate in the "Expression of Interest" process has not impacted on the decisions regarding wagon purchases.

### 380. Mines and Energy Department, Exploration Permits

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (16/5/00)—

- (1) How many applications for exploration permits has his department received since he took office?
- (2) What proportion of those applications relate to land tenures that are subject to native title claims?
- (3) What proportion relate to land tenures where native title has been extinguished?
- (4) How many exploration permits in each category (a) have been granted, (b) have been formally rejected and (c) are still awaiting determination?

Mr McGRADY (15/6/00):

(1) 784 applications for exploration permits for minerals and coal have been received since I took office on 1 July 1998.

(2) My department's records include outstanding applications when I took office on 1 July 1998. These records show there are currently 1197 applications held by my department. Of the total number of outstanding applications, 99.3% are partly or wholly over land tenures that are subject to native title.

(3) Only 0.7% of the total number of applications are entirely over land where native title has been extinguished.

(4)(a) In the period 1 July 1998 to 15 May 2000, 124 permits have been granted over land where native title has been confirmed by statute to be extinguished. Most of these grants are partial grants. That is, any land subject to native title has been excluded from the grant. No exploration permits have been granted over land tenures subject to native title.

(b) 3 applications have been formally rejected, either because fees were not paid or because the land applied for was not available under the provisions of the Mineral Resources Act 1989. None of these applications was assessed for native title impact.

(c) 1197 applications are still awaiting determination, whereas 824 applications were outstanding as at 30 June 1998 from the previous administration.

### 381. Industrial Relations Taskforce

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/5/00)—

With reference to Attachment E in his Estimates Brief detailing the \$892,578.65 cost of his Industrial Relations Taskforce—

- (1) To whom were the taskforce sitting fees paid and how much of the total of \$44,460 did each receive?
- (2) How many free lunches and morning teas did the taskforce receive for the \$5,714 expended and did this total include alcohol?
- (3) Why was two and a half times as much spent on motor vehicles than what had been budgeted and to whom were vehicles provided?
- (4) Why were printing/photocopying costs three times higher than budgeted?
- (5) Why were general administration costs four times higher than budgeted?
- (6) How much did the taskforce spend on hiring plants?
- (7) What was the nature of the professional development, to whom was it provided and to whom was the \$6,148 paid?
- (8) What was the nature of the legal expenses, to whom was it provided and to whom was the \$9,758 paid?
- (9) What was the nature of the furniture and fittings, to whom was it provided and to whom was the \$1,044 paid?

Mr BRADY (15/6/00):

(1) Sitting Fees for Taskforce members were paid to the following organisations/individuals:

Joseph Ludwig—\$1,080

Australian Industry Group (Ingrid Asbury)—\$6,960

Robin Franklin—\$7,020

Professor Ron McCallum—\$4,980

Queensland Teachers Union (John Battams)—\$6,960

Shop, Distributive & Allied Employees' Association (Chris Ketter)—\$1,800

Australian Liquor Hospitality Miscellaneous Workers Union (Don Brown)—\$7,260

Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Judith Himstedt)—\$8,220

A further amount of \$180 appeared in the ledgers at the time that Attachment E in the Estimates brief was prepared. This amount was incorrectly charged to the Taskforce. It was for payment to a member of VETEC's Accreditation Council.

(2) \$5714 was spent on catering and venue hire costs for a series of 8 public consultation meetings held throughout Queensland. Included is expenditure on 24 morning and afternoon teas and lunches for IR Taskforce meetings. No alcohol was included in this total.

(3) Initial budget allowed for one vehicle for 9 months, which was the original length of the project.

This was the vehicle provided to the Assistant Director, Industrial Relations Secretariat for a period of 9 months (home garaging only). Two other vehicles were provided as part of the project. One to the Director of the Industrial Relations Secretariat as part of the officer's SES package for a period of 12 months and the second provided to the Chair of the Industrial Relations Taskforce for a period of 14 weeks during which the Chair worked full time for the Taskforce.

(4) Initial printing and photocopying budget provided for the printing of one report by the Taskforce. However, the tripartite Taskforce decided to produce an issues paper and final report which were both distributed widely as part of an extensive consultation process.

(5) Increased general administration costs can be attributed mainly to:

the Industrial Relations Secretariat operated three months longer than was budgeted for, until the new legislation was passed;

increased stationery, postage and freight costs, partially attributed to the need to mail out two reports instead of the one budgeted for;

the number of taskforce meetings exceeded those budgeted for; and

the need to purchase computer equipment for departmental staff employed in the Industrial Relations Secretariat.

(6) \$1356.93 was spent on plant hire. As the office accommodation was cramped and the officers were working extremely long hours, it was decided that plants would facilitate a better working environment.

(7) The nature of the professional development included:

\$1260 paid to the department's Organisational Learning Services for training courses attended by four departmental staff employed in the Industrial Relations Secretariat.

Organisational Learning Services was also paid \$3300 for the facilitation of three workshops by the Industrial Relations Taskforce. Attendees at these three issues workshops are listed at Attachment E of the Taskforce's Report.

\$398.40 paid to one departmental officer employed in the Industrial Relations Secretariat to cover HECS and student fees under the Study and Research Assistance Scheme (SARAS). The scheme offers financial support and leave assistance to employees for a course of study or research that relates to DETIRs needs.

\$1190 paid to the Industrial Relations Society for four departmental officers employed in the Industrial Relations Secretariat to attend a Society seminar and convention.

(8) Legal advice was provided to Government on the draft Industrial Relations Act 1999. Payments were made to Crown Law (\$2433), Freehill, Hollingdale and Page (\$4400) and Professor Ron McCallum (\$2925).

(9) General office furniture (shelves, keyboard mechanism, table and chair) for the Secretariat staff which was paid to Interlink, Joy Hunt Office Supplies and Shepherd's Office Furniture.

### **382. Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport Portfolio, Capital Works**

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (16/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

(1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?

(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 the 1999-2000 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 MACKENROTH** (19/6/00): It should be noted this response refers only to Capital Works undertaken by the Department. It does not include capital works undertaken by local governments on the basis of grants and subsidies made available through the Department's local government funding programs.

The answers to questions (1-4) and (8) for each of the Department's capital works projects is provided below. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

For questions (5-7), my response is:

(5) \$42.515M

(6) None. All projects will be completed.

(7) For those projects not yet commenced or completed, deferral of project funding from 1999-2000 to 2000-2001 will be sought as part of the 2000-01 budget process.

**383. Cooroy Private Hospital**

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Health (17/5/00)—

With reference to the recent closure of the Cooroy Private Hospital where many people who were employed by the hospital have had their employment terminated and as I understand a claim by many of the hospital's former employees will be lodged with the recently established Employee Entitlements Support Scheme—

What will she, as Minister for Health, do to assist these former employees in receiving support through the Employee Entitlements Support Scheme?

**Mrs EDMOND** (16/6/00): The Employee Entitlements Support Scheme is operated by the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business.

**384. Tallebudgera Recreation Camp**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (17/5/00)—

- (1) Has he made an application to Treasury or directly to the Treasurer for a special allocation of funding for the redevelopment of the Tallebudgera Recreation Camp?
- (2) Is the redevelopment of Tallebudgera planned to start in 2000-2001?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (20/6/00):

- (1) No. A draft expression of interest for options for the redevelopment of Tallebudgera Recreation Centre is currently being prepared.
- (2) No.

**385. Domestic Violence Information**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/5/00)—

With reference to her response to Question on Notice No 272 regarding how many people stay in women's refuges for one night, two nights, four nights, seven nights, fourteen nights, one month, two months, three months, six months, or nine months and more and her reply that this information is not available under the Support Accommodation Assistance Program—

As this information must be recorded somewhere even if not under the Support Accommodation Assistance Program, where is this information recorded and will she provide the information previously asked in Question No. 272?

**Ms BLIGH** (16/6/00): As I have discussed in my previous responses to questions on this topic, data on the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program is collected by the National Data Collection Agency. The reports of the National Data Collection Agency are publicly available from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

**386. Mackay Hospital, Pain Clinic**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Health (17/5/00)—

With reference to the imminent closure of the pain clinic at the Mackay Base Hospital due to financial restrictions being placed on this clinic by the Mackay District Executive—

- (1) Is she aware of this imminent closure?
- (2) Why has her department allowed this district to impose such financial restrictions that has caused the specialist pain medicine doctor to resign?
- (3) If the clinic closes, what assistance will her department provide to those regional patients who now have to travel many hundreds of kilometres to receive relief from their pain?
- (4) Will she intercede on behalf of these patients and direct the Mackay district to ensure the viability of this clinic?

**Mrs EDMOND** (16/6/00):

- (1) Pain Clinic services are continuing at Mackay Base Hospital despite the resignation of the visiting medical officer from Rockhampton.
- (2) The District has a pain and management service which has improved over the years with the involvement of Allied Health staff. As the implantation of spinal columns stimulators cannot be carried out at Mackay Base Hospital, patients requiring this procedure are transferred to another hospital such as Rockhampton Base Hospital and are eligible for assistance under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme.
- (3) See (2) above.
- (4) See (2) above.

**387. Australian Meat Holdings, Dinmore**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/5/00)—

With reference to the Australian Meat Holdings Dinmore meatworks and serious matters impacting upon the lives of the people in the adjacent suburbs—

- (1) What action is his department taking in respect of the large amounts of untreated waste water from these works pouring into the Bremer River?
- (2) What action is his department taking to prevent the noise nuisance emanating from these works?
- (3) What action is his department taking in respect of the dreadful smell emanating from these works?
- (4) Is he aware that lighting installed at this meatworks is intruding upon the lives of people residing in the Borallon Point, Karalee suburbs?

**Mr WELFORD** (19/6/00):

- (1) I am not sure where the Honourable Member for Ipswich West has received his information about large amounts of untreated wastewater pouring into the Bremer River because it is totally incorrect. Australian Meat Holdings (AMH) wastewater is



treated to secondary standard prior to its release into the Bremer River.

(2) My Environmental Protection Agency required AMH to take affirmative action to reduce noise emissions in response to noise complaints from nearby residents. AMH has submitted to my Agency a voluntary draft Environmental Management Program to address noise and has already spent over \$1 million in noise attenuation. Notwithstanding this, further reductions are required and officers of my Agency will ensure that it occurs.

(3) My Agency, through AMH's environmental licence conditions, required the company to prepare and submit a report concerning the emission of odours from its operation. As a result of this report, and negotiations with officers of my Agency, AMH has undertaken various plant upgrade and improved management of anaerobic ponds culminating in reduced odour emissions. In the near future, AMH also propose to expend an estimated \$20 million to install a new by-products facility and associated best practice odour control technology. When complete, this facility is expected to significantly reduce odour emissions from its operation.

(4) As far as light is concerned, I wish to advise the Honourable Member for Ipswich West that AMH has submitted a voluntary draft Environmental Management Program to my Agency to address lighting issues. Relevant experts have already been on the AMH site and implemented measures to reduce light spill from the facility.

### 388. Deception Bay-Bribie Island Road

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/5/00)—

With reference to the notification of a future State-controlled road, Deception Bay-Bribie Island Road (Registration No. FSCR 25-125-1A) which was declared on 20 December 1994 and as affected residents are entitled to know the likely impact of the proposed road and as the IRTP 2007 Vision document provides no reference to the aforementioned road—

- (1) When will the necessary Impact Assessment Statement (IAS) commence?
- (2) What compensation will be made available to long-term residents, whose property values and sale opportunities have already been detrimentally affected as a direct result?
- (3) When will compensation be made available to long-term residents, whose property values and sale opportunities have already been detrimentally affected as a direct result?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/6/00):

(1) An Impact Assessment Study will be undertaken as part of the road design when funding becomes available. There is no funding for the Deception Bay-Bribie Island Road on the current 5-year Roads Implementation Program.

(2) Notification of the Deception Bay-Bribie Island Road as a future State-controlled road has not been published in the Government Gazette, and there is no obligation for the State to acquire land for this road.

However, as the Notification was given to Caboolture Shire Council, long-term residents, who consider that their property values and sale opportunities are detrimentally affected, may apply to have their property purchased by the Department of Main Roads. All applications will be sympathetically considered in accordance with Main Roads' policy "Land Acquisition—Hardship Purchase and Other Consideration.

(3) If an application for compensation complies with Main Roads' policy, the department is able to purchase the property as soon as agreement can be reached on the purchase price.

### 389. Regional Forest Agreement

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/5/00)—

With reference to his proposed amendment to the Conservation Act 1992 to transfer 425,000 hectares of State forest and timber reserve identified under the Regional Forest Agreement to conservation reserve—

- (1) How many grazing leases will be affected by this transfer?
- (2) What compensation arrangements have been developed for these leaseholders?
- (3) How were the management principles established?
- (4) Did any public consultation take place?
- (5) Considering the recent criticism of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service by the Local Government Association, will his Government work closely with councils and interest groups to open up these new conservation areas for recreational uses?

**Mr WELFORD** (19/6/00):

(1) No grazing leases will be affected as no change to grazing rights has occurred. The transfer of land merely puts into place the Beattie Government's historic South East Queensland Forest Agreement to cease logging in high conservation areas.

Grazing leases will continue unchanged while they remain in the new "forest reserve" tenure. Extensive consultation will occur before any transfer to a protected area. After transfer to resource reserves or conservation parks, grazing in accordance with a management plan can still occur indefinitely, as occurs elsewhere in the state. Leases in sensitive areas of outstanding conservation value will be reissued under the Nature Conservation Act and grazing allowed to continue for the unexpired term of their lease.

(2) Compensation will not be an issue as the grazing leases will be permitted to continue for their full term. In many cases leases will be renewed in resource reserves and in conservation parks.

(3) The management principles for protected areas were established in the Nature Conservation Act 1992 when the Act was assented to on 22 May 1992. Proposed management principles for a new interim holding tenure and one new class of protected area are presently the subject of public consultation as

part of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2000.

(4) See (3).

(5) There is and will continue to be consultation with local governments and interest groups, particularly in relation to recreational activities more associated with the transfer from forest reserve to protected area.

### 390. Queensland Health, Funding

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Health (17/5/00)—

Has Treasury ordered Queensland Health to pay back unexpended funds?

**Mrs EDMOND** (16/6/00): Treasury has not ordered Queensland Health to pay back unexpended funds.

### 391. Gold Coast Hospital

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Health (17/5/00)—

Why did an 81 year-old Gold Coast woman, booked as an intermediate patient for a hip joint replacement through the Gold Coast Hospital, have her operation cancelled and told that the free prosthesis that she was entitled to as an aged pensioner, was not available?

**Mrs EDMOND** (16/6/00): The Gold Coast Hospital has reviewed its records in regard to prosthetic surgery operation bookings and cancellations for the last three months. I am advised that the hospital is unable to identify any patients in receipt of an operation booking date which was cancelled in the circumstances stated.

### 392. Gympie Hospital, Oncology Unit

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Health (17/5/00)—

What is the 1999-2000 funding allocation to the Gympie Hospital's Oncology Unit?

**Mrs EDMOND** (16/6/00): The Gympie Hospital's chemotherapy service is funded from the Gympie Health Service District's operating budget.

The District allocated a budget of \$156,000 for the operation of the chemotherapy service for the financial year 1999/2000.

### 393. Queensland Health, Director-General

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (17/5/00)—

When is the Director-General's contract due to expire and will there be a nationwide advertising campaign?

**Mrs EDMOND** (16/6/00): As the Premier is the Minister responsible for the employment of Directors-General, this question should have been directed to him.

However, I can assure the Member that the provisions from the employment contract signed by the then Premier, Mr Borbidge, still apply.

### 394. Queensland Health, Oral Health Degree

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Health (17/5/00)—

Where are Queensland Health's negotiations currently at in regard to the establishment of a new oral health degree to train prosthetists and dental technicians and what funding as well as other assistance will Queensland Health provide in connection with this degree course?

**Mrs EDMOND** (16/6/00): Although supportive of initiatives to enhance the training and educational opportunities for dental technicians and dental prosthetists, Queensland Health is not the lead agency in relation to tertiary education in dental technology and dental prosthetics.

Queensland Health, as a major service provider, is however vitally interested in ensuring service quality and delivery opportunities are maximised for eligible clients by the proposed training programs.

I understand that in principle agreement has been secured between Griffith University and Southbank Institute of TAFE in relation to a graduate program in dental technology commencing in 2001. A postgraduate course in dental prosthetics is also planned together with a bridging program for registered dental technicians.

A collaborative working relationship between the dental industry, professional associations and tertiary education sector is essential to produce optimal outcomes for students, the industry and the public.

Queensland Health is working in collaboration with Griffith University, Southbank TAFE and interested dental organisations to facilitate the development of an educational program which delivers benefits for both Queenslanders and industry.

Further planning and development work will be necessary to progress the content of the course, and its manner of delivery and funding. Queensland Health will positively assist in this planning and implementation process.

### 395. Nambour Hospital, Waiting Lists

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Health (17/5/00)—

With reference to the Nambour Hospital—

Will she explain why it is taking 52 weeks for patients to receive an appointment to see an eye specialist and 10 months for an appointment to see an orthopaedic surgeon?

**Mrs EDMOND** (16/6/00): Nambour General Hospital follows the Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatient Clinic Waiting lists developed by Queensland Health.

Category 1: Appointment desirable within 30 days  
Category 2: Appointment desirable within 90 days  
Category 3: Appointment not required within 90 days.

Nambour General Hospital is meeting the Category 1 and 2 time frames for Ophthalmology and Orthopaedic clinics in more than 90% of cases.

Patients are advised that if at any time their condition changes, they should contact their General Practitioner/Specialist to reassess the urgency category.

**396. SES Volunteers**

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/5/00)—

With reference to the air shipment of additional overalls for SES volunteers during a recent flood period in North Queensland—

- (1) How could this air shipment of overalls be made immediately, after an on-the-spot direction from him, when pleas from SES volunteer had been fobbed off by the department for almost 12 months?
- (2) Why were SES volunteers told by the department and the then Minister that no overalls were available because of the priority being given to providing uniforms for defence personnel going to Timor?
- (3) Why was an earlier commitment made by the then Minister for the issue of a second pair of overalls to SES volunteer in the north totally ignored by the department while senior departmental officers trotted out a series of pathetic excuses for not providing the much-needed overalls?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (21/6/00):

(1) The air shipment of overalls was made following advice from the Counter Disaster & Rescue Services District Manager Cairns to the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) that the volunteers were having problems keeping their overalls dry due to the longevity of the operations. A quantity of second hand overalls left over from the Charleville floods in 1991 were stored by Logistic Services for issue in emergency situations. Arrangements were made to fly 108 pairs by commercial air due to the impending closure of the Cairns airport from Cyclone Steve.

(2) Initially, bulk SES Overall purchases could not be made as a new Standing Offer Arrangement for the purchase of overalls was being put in place. The major supplier of fabric for overalls (National Textiles) was placed in receivership in January 2000 and Defence contracts for Timor became a higher priority over any other departmental contracts.

(3) I am not aware of any commitment by the previous Minister to provide 2 pairs of overalls, however this Government is committed to providing SES volunteers with the personal protective equipment they need to carry out their important role.

In 1999/2000 my Department committed \$190,000 to the purchase of SES Personal Protective Equipment which includes overalls, gloves, boots, safety glasses and helmets.

Further funding for the SES will also be considered as part of the forthcoming Budget process.

**397. Tourism, Sport and Racing Department, Funding**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Treasurer (17/5/00)—

With reference to answers provided to Questions on Notice No's 162 (answered on 14 April 2000) and 182 (answered on 12 April 2000) (17/5/00)—

- (1) Where did Treasury identify the remaining 18 per cent of savings totalling \$21.7m?
- (2) If \$7.7m of the identified savings was a re-allocation of funding within the Sport and Recreation Division, what projects earmarked for funding were scrapped or delayed and what was their total estimated value?

**Mr HAMILL** (14/6/00):

(1) The savings totalling \$21.7m were identified in the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing (DTSR) 1999-2000 Budget as:

\$7.7m sport and recreation savings identified by DTSR.

\$10m for the Ballymore redevelopment

\$4m administered funds from IndyCar Grand Prix uncommitted cash balances.

(2) No projects earmarked for funding were scrapped or delayed in order to provide the \$7.7m identified savings.

**398. Lang Park Redevelopment**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/5/00)—

With reference to the proposed redevelopment of Lang Park and, in particular, to plans to service the area by light rail—

- (1) Will light rail service the facility?
- (2) What route will be taken?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/6/00): (1 & 2) Light rail has been planned as part of the transport strategy for Lang Park. The light rail link to Milton would complement the role of other modes, such as buses and heavy rail, in the overall transport strategy for Lang Park. However, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has also considered a scenario should the construction of the light rail link to Milton not be delivered in time for the proposed stadium opening in 2003. An alternative transport strategy has been included in the EIS to cover this contingency which places a greater emphasis on the role of other modes such as buses and heavy rail.

**399. Police Service, Capsicum Spray**

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (17/5/00)—

Will he detail the training schedule for capsicum spray usage by police officers and the target date by which the Queensland Police Service will be fully trained in the use and supplied with the spray equipment?

**Mr BARTON** (16/6/00): The Queensland Police Service has been funded to provide OC spray to police as part of its 'Project Lighthouse' use of force initiatives. Other initiatives of this Project have included the introduction of the Glock pistol; new generation hinged handcuffs and batons; and biannual Police Operational Skills Training for all police up to the rank of Inspector.

The training in the use of OC spray and its issue to operational commenced in May 2000 and will continue until the end of December 2000. It is

expected that all operational members of the Service will be trained in the use of OC spray by this time.

Adequate supplies of OC spray have been purchased and supplied to all police regions to ensure officers have operational access to this new non-lethal force option as they become trained.

#### 400. Wacol Tick Fever Vaccine

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/5/00)—

With reference to a meeting of the newly formed Crows Nest Shire Deer Management Group after which a request was made for more research into the possible use of blood from tick resistant cattle in the Wacol Tick Fever Vaccine—

Will he investigate the use of such blood and will he clarify suggestions from the meeting on the use of blood from tick resistant cattle into cattle which carry ticks, with a view to building a resistance in these more susceptible types?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (14/6/00):

(1) The Wacol Tick Fever Vaccine is designed to prevent the disease tick fever and has no effect on ticks themselves. Research has indicated that the resistance shown by some animals to ticks is not transmissible with blood.

(2) I am advised a vaccine developed by CSIRO is available commercially for use against ticks. Known as TickGARD, it consists of an antigen present in ticks and its use stimulates the development of short-term resistance. The nature of this vaccine does not allow its inclusion in the tick fever vaccine.

(3) I am advised the following practical methods can be used to increase tick resistance in susceptible cattle—

Introduce *Bos indicus* (tick resistant) genes into the herd. The tick resistance in the herd will increase as the level of *Bos indicus* blood increases.

Cull the known tick carriers within a herd. It is widely accepted that approximately 15% of cattle will carry up to 50% of the ticks within a herd. Tick resistance is heritable and culling of cattle with heavy tick burdens will gradually increase the level of natural resistance within a herd even without the introduction of *Bos indicus* genes.

Use TickGARD vaccine. However, if eradication is required, a strategic treatment program that also involves chemicals will be required. Information on strategic treatment programs is available from Stock Inspectors with the Department of Primary Industries.

#### 401. QE II Hospital, Polio Clinic

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Health (17/5/00)—

When will she publicly table the report on the trial clinic run at QE II Hospital during 1999, for post polio sufferers?

**Mrs EDMOND** (16/6/00): A process evaluation was conducted by the staff of the trial clinic and a

copy of the report can be obtained through the District Office, QE II Health Service District.

#### 402. Mines and Energy Portfolio, Consultancies

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (17/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr McGRADY** (16/6/00): 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.

#### 403. Environment, Heritage and Natural Resources Portfolio, Capital Works

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Natural Resources and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?
  - (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 the 1999-2000 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 WELFORD** (19/6/00):

(1-6) Refer to the tables attached.

(7) Yes, if not completed within the financial year. However, savings secured through management of a particular project may be reassigned to other projects as required.

(8) All projects have commenced. Projects not completed tend to require a longer construction phase. Completion is estimated to occur as shown in the attached table.

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

#### **404. Primary Industries and Rural Communities Portfolio, Capital Works**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Primary Industries and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 PALASZCZUK** (14/6/00):

(1) See Attachment A.

(2) See Attachment A.

(3) See Attachment A.

(4) See Attachment A.

(5) See Attachment A.

(6) All projects listed are being undertaken and it is intended to complete them all.

(7) If for any reason any of the listed projects are not completed during 1999-2000, appropriate funds will be made available for their completion in 2000-2001.

(8) At this stage, the only project that is not likely to be completed during 1999-2000 is the replacement of the air conditioning system at Toowoomba (listed under Mechanical Items). This should be completed by November 2000.

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

#### **405. Tourism and Racing Portfolio, Capital Works**

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (17/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Tourism and Racing and her other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 she expect commencement or completion to occur?

**Mrs ROSE** (15/6/00):

(1) The original budget for 1999-2000 for capital works projects by the Department of Tourism and Racing and Tourism Queensland (affiliated Statutory Body) included the following—

Project Name, Location—1999-2000 Original Budget  
Department of Tourism and Racing

Liquor Licensing Database, Brisbane—\$392,000

Plant & Equipment, Brisbane—\$12,000

Total—\$404,000

Tourism Queensland

Plant & Equipment, various—\$878,000

Total—\$878,000

(2) The following projects have been approved and undertaken for the Department of Tourism and Racing—

Liquor Licensing Database Project

The Liquor Licensing Division currently operates a "Challenge M" database system which was implemented in 1986. Since its implementation, the Liquor Act 1992 has changed significantly, necessitating continual and ongoing enhancements of the Liquor Licensing System.

In 1998 a decision was made to replace the aging system with a new Liquor Licensing facility.

Plant & Equipment Acquisitions

Minor "Plant and Equipment" acquisitions were budgeted for the current financial year for the replacement of obsolete plant and equipment.

The following projects have been approved and undertaken for Tourism Queensland—

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

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

(4) The Liquor Licensing Database project went "live" on 5 June 2000. Details of expenditure to 24 May 2000 follow—

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

(5) The combined total of the department and Tourism Queensland is \$886,590.

(6)

Project Name, Location—YTD Actuals as at 24 May 2000

Tourism Queensland, National Offices

Computer Software (HRM—System), Brisbane—Substituted for higher priority projects

Computer Software (Retail Tourism Databases), Brisbane—Substituted for higher priority projects

(7) In regards to Tourism Queensland, no funds will be carried over to the next financial year. The new Capital Expenditure Budget for 2000/2001 will supersede the current financial year budget.

(8) Nil. All projects identified above will be completed by 30 June 2000.

#### **406. Public Works and Housing Portfolio, Capital Works**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (17/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Public Works and Department of Housing and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

(1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?

(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 the 1999-2000 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 SCHWARTEN** (19/6/00): The information requested will be detailed in the forthcoming State Budget Papers. The Honourable Member would be aware that the information sought would require a vast amount of time and research by officers in the Departments of Public Works and Housing. This would be an expensive and an inappropriate waste of taxpayers' funds that should be directed towards programs providing more job opportunities for our young people and quality housing services for people in need.

#### 407. State Development and Trade Portfolio, Capital Works

**Mr SLACK** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (17/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of State Development and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 ELDER** (30/6/00):

- (1) Refer to attached table.
- (2) Refer to attached table.
- (3) Refer to attached table.
- (4) Actual expenditure against each project has been consistent with the capital approval given. It has not

been possible to provide specific details for each project in the timeframe available.

- (5) Refer to attached table.
  - (6) Refer to attached table.
  - (7) As funding for all the listed capital works projects are funded from special allocations, they will be rolled over to 2000/01 and will be spent for the purposes for which they were approved.
  - (8) Refer to attached table.
- (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 408. Transport and Main Roads Portfolio, Capital Works

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Transport and the Department of Main Roads and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 BREDHAUER** (19/6/00): The capital works funds expended by the Department of Main Roads and Department of Transport and other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999 will be contained in the forthcoming budget.

#### 409. Police and Corrective Services Portfolio, Capital Works

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (17/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Police and the Queensland Corrective Services Commission and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 BARTON** (16/6/00):

1. In relation to the Queensland Police Service, the following information is provided—

- (1) Appendix 1 lists the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 Budget (attached).
- (2) Appendix 1 lists the description and details of the work budgeted and approved to be undertaken in each of the projects listed above in (1).
- (3) Appendix 1 lists the amount of money that has actually been expended on each of the projects listed above in (1). Reporting of expenditure is compiled on a monthly basis. The indicated amounts show expenditure as at the last reporting period.
- (4) Appendix 1 lists the description and details of the work actually undertaken in each of the projects listed above in (3).

(5) As at 30 April 2000, \$23,357,226 has been expended on Queensland Police Service Capital Works projects in the 1999-2000 financial year, including expenditure on subprograms such as minor works, small stations, watchhouse upgrade and land acquisition.

(6) All projects listed are operationally required and will be progressively provided as funding becomes available.

(7) Funding will be provided for projects listed in (1) subject to the content of the 2000/01 budget.

(8) The completion of these projects is subject to available funding on future Queensland Police Service Capital Works Programs.

In relation to the Department of Corrective Services, the following information is provided—

(1) The capital projects included in the 1999-2000 Budget are as published in Budget Paper No. 5 and are as follows:

Project Name, Location—	Budget 1999/2000
Expansion, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre—	\$3,784,000
Expansion, Borallon Correctional Centre—	\$1,250,000
New Centre, Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre—	\$1,500,000
New Centre, Capricornia Correctional Centre—	\$29,877,000
Expansion, Lotus Glen Correctional Centre—	\$13,557,000
Maximum security unit, Sir David Longland Correctional Centre—	\$6,000,000
New Centre, Maryborough Correctional Centre—	\$14,000,000
Expansion, Palen Creek Correctional Centre—	\$500,000
Response to Escapes, Various Correctional Centres—	\$2,589,000
Expansion, Rockhampton Correctional Centre—	\$900,000
Expansion of Secure Male Accommodation, Townsville Correctional Centre—	\$2,971,000
Expansion of Secure Female Accommodation, Townsville Correctional Centre—	\$500,000
Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades, Various Correctional Centres—	\$4,500,000
New Centre, Wolston Correctional Centre—	\$1,500,000
Expansion, Woodford Correctional Centre—	\$30,000,000
Minor Works, Various Correctional Centres—	\$366,000
Plant and Equipment, Various Correctional Centres—	\$2,896,000

2. Project—Description

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre Expansion—Provision of 312 new cells, 20 bed Maximum Security Unit, programs areas, central archives building and service area upgrade



Borallon Correctional Centre Expansion—Provision of 153 cells, industry and programs area expansions and service area upgrade

Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre—Completion of a 270 bed new correctional centre

Capricornia Correctional Centre—Construction of a new replacement 400 bed Correctional Centre including a 10 bed maximum security unit

Lotus Glen Correctional Centre Expansion—Provision of 108 new cells, programs and industry expansions and a new staff mess facility

Sir David Longland Correctional Centre Maximum Security Unit—Construction of a 20 bed facility to accommodate maximum security prisoners complete with self contained programs, administration, prisoner processing, detention unit and visits areas

Maryborough Correctional Centre, New Centre—Construction of a new 500 bed Correctional Centre

Palen Creek Correctional Centre Expansion—Completion of a 120 bed expansion of the existing Correctional Centre including programs area

Response to Escapes at Various Correctional Centre throughout the State—Completion of security upgrades of Correctional Centre commenced in 1998/99 FY including perimeter upgrades, security system upgrades, cell block strengthening and upgrading

Rockhampton Correctional Centre Expansion—Completion of a 96 bed expansion of the existing Rockhampton Correctional Centre including program and staff areas to provide a basis for a farm complex after the construction of the new Capricornia Correctional Centre

Townsville Correctional Centre Male Expansion—Completion of a 96 bed male residential style accommodation expansion of the existing centre including programs, kitchen and staff areas

Townsville Correctional Centre Female Expansion—Completion of a 24 bed female residential style accommodation expansion of the existing centre

Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades—The upgrading of existing waste water treatment plants at Darling Downs Correctional Centre, Palen Creek Correctional Centre, Numinbah Correctional Centre and Lotus Glen Correctional Centre to the standard required by the most recent iteration of the Environmental Protection Act

Wolston Correctional Centre—Completion of a 600 bed new correctional centre

Woodford Correctional Centre Expansion—Construction of an additional 400 cells, industry, programs, visits, kitchen, prisoner reception area expansions and services upgrades

Minor Works—Various smaller projects across all correctional centres

Plant and Equipment—Provision of various items of plant and equipment at all centres throughout the State

Plant and Equipment—Provision of various items of plant and equipment at all centres throughout the State

### 3. Project—Expenditure at end of April 2000

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre Expansion—\$3,110,687

Borallon Correctional Centre Expansion—\$1,564,027

Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre—included in Wolston Correctional Centre expenditure

Capricornia Correctional Centre—\$9,081,628

Lotus Glen Correctional Centre Expansion—\$9,173,495

Sir David Longland Correctional Centre Maximum Security Unit—\$1,900,574

Maryborough Correctional Centre—\$4,792,453

Palen Creek Correctional Centre Expansion—\$640,554

Response to Escapes—\$879,254

Rockhampton Correctional Centre Expansion—\$919,427

Townsville Correctional Centre Male Expansion—\$2,615,224

Townsville Correctional Centre Female Expansion—\$195,560

Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades—\$4,068,210

Wolston Correctional Centre—\$242,964

Woodford Correctional Centre Expansion—\$19,508,233

Minor Works—\$1,452,971

Plant and Equipment—\$386,228

4. The work undertaken is materially the same as budgeted and approved.

5. To the end of April 2000, \$60,531,480 has been spent on capital works projects including plant and equipment purchases.

6. All projects listed in the response to Question 1 are being undertaken.

7. Where cost savings have been achieved in a particular project, surplus funds will be applied to other approved capital works projects if required.

8. Not applicable.

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

### 410. Education Portfolio, Capital Works

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (17/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Education and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 BEATTIE** (15/6/00):

(1-5) Refer to information in the attached table and Attachments A and B. Of my portfolio agencies the Land and Resources Tribunal, Panel of Misconduct Tribunal Members, and Criminal Justice Commission are not included. The budgets of the Land and Resources Tribunal and Panel of Misconduct Tribunal Members are part of the portfolio of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts. Questions relating to the Criminal Justice Commission should be directed to the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee.

(6) All projects will be delivered as planned.

(7) Yes. In regard to the South Bank Masterplan, responsibility and funding for the construction of the pedestrian bridge has been transferred to the Department of State Development.

(8) As listed in the attached table and Attachments A and B.

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

**Mr WELLS** (16/6/00): Information regarding Capital Works expenditure would take an inordinate amount of administrative time and effort to collate in this form. The information the Honourable Member requested is available in Budget Paper No 5, and at the end of the financial year in the department's annual reports. The Honourable Member would also be aware that the Leader of the Opposition has an FOI application with the department seeking similar information.

#### 411. Premier's Portfolio, Capital Works

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Premier (17/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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)?

#### 412. Treasury Portfolio, Capital Works

**Dr WATSON** asked the Treasurer (17/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Treasury Department and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 HAMILL** (14/6/00): See attachment. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 413. Health Portfolio, Capital Works

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Health (17/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Health and her other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 she expect commencement or completion to occur?

**Mrs EDMOND** (16/6/00): (1-5) Progress and expenditure of each Queensland Health capital project is as set out in Attachment A.

(6-8) All capital works projects will be undertaken and completed. All projects that have funding allocated and not completed at the end of financial year will have the balance of funds reallocated for the following year.

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

#### 414. Sunshine Coast Convention Centre

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Premier (17/5/00)—

With reference to an article in the Sunshine Coast Daily of 17 May in which the Maroochy Shire Mayor, Alison Kerr-Jones claims he made a pre-election promise that the Government would help fund a Sunshine Coast Convention Centre and given the State Government's decision to grant \$100m of taxpayers' money to a Gold Coast Convention Centre—

How does he explain breaking his promise for a Sunshine Coast facility?

**Mr BEATTIE** (15/6/00): My Government has not broken any pre-election promise concerning the Sunshine Coast Convention Centre.

#### 415. Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (17/5/00)—

With reference to the merger of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra—

What are the full details of this merger, including (a) the proposed structure of the merger and composition of the orchestra, (b) when the merger will take effect, (c) who is coordinating the merger, (d) whether any jobs will be lost, including type of job (musician/administrative), (e) the cost of the merger and how this money will be spent and (f) the proposed management and board structure for the new organisation?

**Mr FOLEY** (15/6/00): I refer to the discussion paper and final report released by the Major Performing Arts Inquiry. The details are to be worked out by the new entity and Arts Queensland is working with the orchestras and Commonwealth on transitional and governance issues.

#### 416. Integrated Development Assessment System

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (17/5/00)—

- (1) Is he aware of the increasing delays in development approval time frames under the Integrated Planning Act?
- (2) What action has he taken to assist local government to overcome these costly delays to the community?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (15/6/00):

(1) The Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA) introduced major reform to Queensland's planning and development approval systems through the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS). IDAS is currently operating under transitional arrangements as development assessment provisions in other legislation are progressively integrated into the system.

Due to the current transitional nature of the operation of IDAS, I am aware some applications are not yet able to experience the full advantages of IDAS. This occurs when proposed development applications involve a range of legislation, some of which is not yet integrated into IDAS. The completion of the consequential amendment program will see the time and cost savings of IDAS realised.

(2) To ensure the effective implementation of the IPA, my Department is providing ongoing assistance to local government. This is a priority for my Department and additional staff and other resources are dedicated to this task. My Department is:

conducting statewide IPA and IDAS training and workshops designed specifically for local government, particularly administration officers, technical officers and elected representatives;

conducting statewide IPA and IDAS training and workshops for state agencies and consultants who are involved with local government in the assessment of development applications;

providing explanatory notes, implementation notes, brochures, guidelines, standard application forms, standard letters and notices and other documentation to assist local government in the transition from one legislative environment to another and to ensure consistency in implementation across the State; and

monitoring the performance of IDAS and taking action to correct problems either through target training, distribution of advice or legislative refinement as necessary.

Additionally, I commissioned an operational review of the IPA last year. The submissions received from local governments and other stakeholders in this review process addressed various operational problems and issues, and have been used to inform the current training and workshop programs being offered by my Department.

#### **417. Child Protection Information Section, Staff**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/5/00)—

With reference to the Child Protection Register—

- (1) What is the staffing establishment of this unit, by classification?
- (2) What are the actual numbers employed in the unit at 1 May 2000 by classification?
- (3) What is the comparison between the number of staff employed now in this unit and the number employed at 1 July 1998?

**Ms BLIGH** (16/6/00):

The Honourable Member has requested information about a Child Protection Register. Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland does not have a unit called the Child Protection Register. The questions have been answered as though they refer to the Child Protection Information Section (CPIS).

(1) Staff establishment is an outdated concept and was abolished as part of the changes to the Public Service Act passed by the Coalition Government in 1996. Staff numbers in functional areas are dependent on budget allocation which is reviewed on an annual basis, having regard to priorities and the strategic and business plans of an agency. See 2 for current staff allocation for CPIS.

- (2) Manager—AO7 x 1  
Resource Officer—PO3 x 1  
Resource Officer (Part-time)—PO3 x 0.6  
Senior Training and Implementation  
Coordinator—AO5 x 1  
Senior Administration Officers—AO4s x 3  
Training Officer—AO4 x 1  
Administration Officers—AO3 x 11  
Administration Officers—AO3 x 1.6  
Administrative Officers—AO2 x 2  
Total Positions: 22.2

(3) The number of staff employed in the CPIS at 1 July 1998 was 18. The number of staff employed in the CPIS at 1 May 2000 is 22.2.

#### **418. Fraser Island Facilities**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/5/00)—

In view of continuous State shortfalls in funding for the maintenance and expansion of facilities at Fraser Island and in view of major concerns expressed by Fraser Island Inc, what actions are in hand by him to improve the poor funding and general conditions that presently exist at Fraser Island?

**Mr WELFORD** (19/6/00): Funding for Fraser Island management comes from three major sources:

1. Fees are collected for permits and for daily passengers carried on commercial tours under the Recreation Areas Management Act 1988. These fees are reinvested in the management of the Fraser Island Recreation Area.
2. The Commonwealth Government provides project specific grants for the management of the Fraser Island World Heritage Area.
3. The State Government provides funds from its normal budgetary sources for the management of Fraser Island.

In terms of this third funding source, the allocations for funding are part of the overall Queensland

Government budgetary process. The needs of Fraser Island will be considered in the context of the overall funding priorities. However, I will be making strong representations for extra funding for Queensland's National Parks, including Fraser Island. As the budget is still in preparation I am not in a position to indicate final funding for the coming financial year.

#### 419. FOI, Member for Clayfield

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/5/00)—

With reference to the following statement, included in an E-mail dated 23 July 1999 at 11:12 am on the subject "WBIT Report" which was provided to me, through Freedom of Information (FOI) and relates to an investigation of management issues at Wide Bay Institute of TAFE, "3. The letter to Santo Santoro. This has changed in light of Santo's FOI request. I have re-written his letter from our Minister. (...) has seen this letter. I have placed all correspondence in with the report in the file on your desk. I would imagine that the letter to Santo is the most urgent at this point to avoid his FOI request going through"—

- (1) Will he please advise whether the re-written letter referred to, was the one subsequently sent to me, by him, relating to my FOI request?
- (2) Why would any departmental officer, particularly anyone not assigned to the Freedom of Information Unit, regard it as urgent to avoid any Freedom of Information request going through?

**Mr BRADY** (16/6/00):

(1) The rewritten letter referred to was the response subsequently sent. The rewritten letter, signed on 18 August, was changed to invite Mr Santoro to read the report.

(2) I have been assured that there was no intention by any Departmental Officer to hinder or circumvent this or any FOI application.

I am advised that the draft Ministerial response to Mr Santoro was amended to ensure the queries contained in his FOI request would be addressed in the Ministerial response to him dated 18 August 1999.

#### 420. Hervey Bay-Maryborough Road Upgrade

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/5/00)—

With reference to the comments made in the Fraser Coast Chronicle by the then Transport Minister, David Hamill, some seven years ago where he stated the Hervey Bay/Maryborough Road would be upgraded to a four lane road between Hervey Bay and Maryborough in the five year plan—

- (1) As this project is now two years overdue, will he advise me when the constituents of Hervey Bay electorate and Maryborough electorate and the thousands of tourists on which we depend, will see construction of these roadworks commence?

- (2) When will we see some urgent action towards maintenance on this disgraceful section of road as there has been a continual stream of controversy over the lack of maintenance carried out on this important roadway?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (20/6/00):

(1) Departmental guidelines suggest that duplication to four lanes is warranted when volumes reach 9,000 to 14,000 vehicles per day.

Current daily traffic volumes on the rural section of the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road are in the order of 6,000 vehicles per day.

The construction of overtaking lanes provides an interim stage in the life of a roadway between two and four lanes.

Overtaking lanes increase the capacity of the roadway by providing overtaking opportunities and thereby reduce driver frustration and improve the efficiency of vehicular movement along the roadway.

Seven overtaking lanes have been constructed on the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road over the past seven years. Four are located in the northbound direction, towards Hervey Bay, and three in the southbound direction.

Desirable spacing for overtaking lanes is in the range 6 to 10 kilometres and this has been more than satisfied.

The last two overtaking lanes were completed approximately six months ago and are part of a government commitment to provide four new overtaking lanes.

(2) The Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road is maintained on behalf of Main Roads by the local governments of Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

Routine maintenance is regularly carried out by the local governments such that the road is kept in a safe condition.

Major pavement repair works are undertaken when required and the extent of works is governed by the availability of funding.

Substantial pavement repair works were carried out recently in the vicinity of Scanlan Street and Moes Road. However, pavement repair works which are needed for safety reasons, are carried out as a matter of urgency.

#### 421. Ipswich, Transport of Students with Disabilities

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/5/00)—

With reference to the recent anomalies regarding the transport of disabled school children in the Ipswich region and the Cabinet decision to correct this problem—

- (1) Has the problem been corrected by Ministerial direction aimed only at the Ipswich region?
- (2) Does he intend to correct these anomalies that exist between the Education Department and the Transport Department by amendment to the Transport Act/Regulations; if not, what directions will he issue to his regional officers

to prevent such occurrences happening in the future?

- (3) With regard to the recent changes to the Transport Act that has given rise to these deficiencies, will he now consider other changes for other children in the school community to rectify problems such as cross over of school bus contract areas, that have caused much anguish to both parents and students, particularly in the rural areas?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (19/6/00): (1-3) The question is based on a false premise. Recently difficulties arose in relation to the application of the School Transport Assistance Scheme guidelines to some students with disabilities in the Ipswich area. Those difficulties have now been resolved. No legislative change was required to fix the problem.

#### 422. Australian Meat Holdings, Dinmore

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (18/5/00)—

With reference to the Australian Meat Holdings meatworks at Dinmore—

- (1) What is the average monthly kill for these abattoirs?
- (2) What has been the increase in the kill rate in the last two years?
- (3) What is the meat production per month in tonnes?
- (4) What is the by-product tonnage per month?
- (5) What is the tallow tonnage per month?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (14/6/00): The issues that you have raised in questions 1 to 5 are "commercial in confidence" and I would advise that you contact Australian Meat Holdings directly to obtain the answers to your questions.

#### 423. QLink Freight Depots

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/5/00)—

With reference to QLink freight depots situated between Maryborough and Cairns—

- (1) Will any stations be downgraded through the loss of QLink freight depots?
- (2) Will he list all stations that will be affected by the loss of QLink depots?
- (3) How many jobs, if any, would be lost at the stations affected?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (20/6/00): (1-3) QLink's operations, like the rest of Queensland Rail (QR), continue to be reviewed and refined to ensure it best meets the needs of customers, given the volume and nature of freight, and revenue generated.

QLink has been successful in increasing revenue from approximately \$14 million in 1991/1992 to a forecast of \$46 million this financial year, 1999/2000. However, while revenue has shown good growth, the business still needs to improve its level of profitability.

#### 424. Cycling and Rail Travel Integration

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/5/00)—

With reference to the IRTP 2007 Vision document which supposedly focuses on the need to reduce car dependency and promote the use of public transport, cycling and walking as sustainable travel alternatives—

- (1) Why has no reference been given to the integration of cycling and rail travel?
- (2) As not all commuters reside or work within a comfortable walking distance from their closest railway station, what plans are in place to provide additional bicycle lockers at railway stations and at what locations will they be provided, when will they be provided and how many will be provided?
- (3) How does the Citytrain policy currently accommodate those wishing to combine (bicycle) ride and rail at peak times?
- (4) Why doesn't Citytrain trial a ride and rail concept, eg one carriage made available for cyclists travelling at a slightly increased ticket price?
- (5) In the IRTP 'Cycle South East' document in the Executive Summary under 4 Safety, it speaks of ensuring safe routes to schools—how is he, together with the Caboolture Shire Council, ensuring the safety of school children cycling from Ningi and Pebble Beach to Bribie Island schools on an incomplete bikeway and over the Bribie Island Bridge about to be made untrafficable by his proposed erection of balustrading on the walkway?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (19/6/00):

- (1) The draft Vision 2007 is supportive of combining rail travel and cycling as part of the wider transport network vision for south-east Queensland. In fact, the draft IRTP 2007 Vision (technical paper) makes a number of references to the integration of cycling and public transport, including rail travel.

Section 5.2.2 states that cycling needs to be an integral part of all transport projects and should be considered in all rail upgrades and rail investigations as well as other transport projects.

- (2) Queensland Rail received \$60,000 funding from Queensland Transport to purchase 120 lockers (60 units) over a three year period from 1997/98 until 1999/2000.

In 1999 a review of locker allocations at stations was undertaken and following this, a redistribution of lockers took place to better equip stations with the highest demand.

Priority for funding of future lockers will be based on demand for lockers and other transport priorities.

- (3) Due to the high patronage on most peak period services, bicycles are currently not accommodated on Citytrain services. The primary purpose of Queensland Rail's (QR's) bicycle policy is to ensure the comfort and safety of commuters, while providing opportunities for bicycle access to trains where feasible, for example in off-peak times.

Queensland Rail is committed to pursuing programs that encourage safe cycling for all ages and to facilitate the use of trains for cyclists, where practicable. The introduction of bicycle lockers at Citytrain stations is one initiative assisting train travel by cyclists.

The current policy is a balanced approach that provides opportunities for cyclists without inconveniencing the majority of commuters. The train Guard may use his discretion to allow passengers with bicycles on any lightly loaded peak service. He also has the authority to allow 'counter flow' travel of passengers with bicycles in the morning peak, as trains departing the city are generally lightly loaded. A similar situation applies for the afternoon peak, however in both instances, travel must be outside the Central Business District.

(4) The primary issue is the safety of passengers on all Citytrain services, as outlined above. As patronage on many peak hour services is at capacity, the presence of bicycles could compromise the safety of passengers, particularly when entering and exiting trains.

(5) The Department of Main Roads and the Caboolture Shire Council regularly discuss the provision of cycling facilities in the context of consultation over the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme.

#### 425. Koalas, Moggill Hospital

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/5/00)—

With reference to the Moggill Koala Hospital—

- (1) What is the (a) annual total budget for this hospital, (b) number and annual cost of permanent staff—professionally trained and untrained, (c) number and annual cost of part time staff—professional and lay, (d) number of koalas treated annually, (e) number of positive laboratory tests for Chlamydia recorded per annum, (f) number of koalas which die or are euthanised annually within the hospital, (g) number of koalas which are released to the wild annually and (h) number of koalas which are released to the wild which survive?
- (2) Is any attempt made to monitor and record mortalities after release?
- (3) What plans are in place to improve the performance of this hospital, which receives koalas collected and sent to the hospital by wildlife carers—a process which involves a great deal of their time?

**Mr WELFORD** (19/6/00):

- (1) (a) For 1999/2000—Labour \$160,600; Non-labour \$47,000.
- (b) Two permanent staff (Rangers) which in 1999/2000 cost \$79,300 (all figures include 'on costs' such as superannuation).
- (c) Five casual staff (Rangers locating and collecting foliage, as well as providing general operational support to the hospital), which in 1999/2000 cost \$47,300.

One consultant veterinarian, Dr Tony Wood, which in 1999/2000 cost \$14,000.

50% of duties of a full-time supervising Ranger which in 1999/2000 cost \$26,800.

20% of duties of a full-time Ranger which in 1999/2000 cost \$7,200.

The daily operation of the Moggill Koala Hospital is supported (on a 7 day a week basis) by the 70-strong volunteer group, the Moggill Koala Hospital Association. Around 10 volunteers per day are rostered on to assist with the general care and nursing of the koalas undergoing treatment at the hospital.

In addition, 51 orphaned koalas were admitted into care in 1999. These are cared for by trained and licensed carers under the general supervision of the hospital staff and Dr Wood.

- (d) The number of koalas treated annually at the Moggill Koala Hospital has steadily increased since its establishment. In 1999, 1223 koalas were transported to the hospital. Of these, 416 were dead on arrival.

Councils also cooperate by notifying QPWS when dead koalas are found on the road or disposed of in rubbish bins. Dead koalas are collected and taken to Moggill Koala Hospital so that information can be gathered on the causes of death, and the impacts on the total population. The bodies are supplied to koala researchers.

In 1999, 397 koalas were treated.

- (e) Studies led by Dr Frank Carrick (University of Queensland) and Dr Peter Timms (Queensland University of Technology) indicate that 90% of all wild koalas are infected by Chlamydia. Of the 90% infected by Chlamydia, only 9% show clinical signs of the disease—the remainder are otherwise healthy.

Therefore, routine testing of Chlamydia is not performed.

Dr Timms and Dr Carrick are both honorary consultants and knowledge leaders in their fields who regularly attend the Moggill Koala Hospital.

- (f) In 1999, 373 koalas were immediately euthanised on admission due to the extent of their injuries or advanced disease and wasting; 37 died or were euthanised within four days of admission; and 89 died or were euthanised after that period.
- (g) In 1999, of the 397 koalas treated at the hospital, 308 were released to the wild.
- (h) All koalas are released in optimal condition, therefore it is assumed that all have an excellent chance of survival upon return to the wild.

(2) With over ten years' experience in the field of koala rehabilitation, the Moggill Koala Hospital provides the best possible treatment to ensure animals have the best possible chance on release.

Further, some koalas of interest are radio-collared upon release in order to monitor their progress and condition.

Most koalas that are treated at the hospital are returned to urban or peri-urban areas from which they came, so there is a high likelihood of detection if an animal has not survived release.

All koalas released by the hospital are identified by two metal eartags and a passive transponder (microchip), and their treatment, release details and any readmittance information is recorded on an extensive database.

(3) The Moggill Koala Hospital is constantly monitoring its success, and under guidance from consultant veterinarian Dr Tony Wood, it continually trials new drugs and treatments to ensure the highest possible rehabilitation rate.

In the near future, a group of specialist wildlife veterinarians are to be invited to review the effectiveness of the hospital.

A forum, including professional veterinary surgeons and wildlife carers, is to be held in early July 2000. QPWS will present information on current and future koala conservation activities, and allow for relevant members of the community to be acknowledged for their contribution, and raise any queries regarding the hospital operations.

Wildlife carers that assist in rescuing koalas are given basic training and equipment from the QPWS.

#### 426. Legal Aid, Staff

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (18/5/00)—

With reference to the fact that salaries of Legal Aid Staff which have fallen approximately 5 per cent behind core Public Service rates, leading to a situation where Legal Aid Staff earn \$2,000 to \$3,000 per annum less than their counterparts in Crown Law or the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions on identical classifications and as the cost to the State of Queensland to remedy this inequity would be only \$503,000 per annum—

What steps are being taken either to include Legal Aid Queensland within the core, or to provide the necessary funding to ensure pay equity?

**Mr FOLEY** (19/6/00): The difference in wage rates occurred during the term of the previous government in which Mr Springborg was a Minister. Legal Aid Queensland made its own agreement with its staff after delays in uncertainty over its future and funding as a result of the actions of the Queensland and Commonwealth governments. In its budgets for 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99, Mr Springborg's government provided only a total of \$251,000 for cost escalation.

Legal Aid Queensland is currently negotiating with its staff. To date, this government has provided an additional \$5.8m per annum in funding to Legal Aid Queensland. Mr Springborg can assist Legal Aid Queensland and its staff by urging the Commonwealth to pay its proportionate share of negotiated wage increases.

#### 427. Lake Broadwater Conservation Park

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/5/00)—

With reference to the revocation of part of Lake Broadwater Conservation Park, which received approval from Governor in Council on 26 November 1998 and as the Wambo Shire Council has written on more than one occasion requesting the revocation be presented to Parliament for debate and in their latest letter of 16 May 2000, they reveal four telephone calls to Mr McLeod of his office on this matter which have never been returned—

Will he, as a matter of urgency, put this notice of revocation before the House so the approval can become a reality at last?

**Mr WELFORD** (19/6/00): I have previously assured Wambo Shire Council that this proposal will be acted upon as soon as the opportunity arises in the Government's busy Parliamentary timetable. This situation has not changed.

Revocations could hardly be considered a priority whilst additions to the Protected Area Estate are still occurring. Nonetheless, I anticipate this proposal, together with a number of other proposed revocations, will be tabled in the near future.

#### 428. Cultural Heritage; Indigenous Consultants

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/5/00)—

With reference to Question on Notice No 235 of 11 April 2000, where I asked the Premier where in Queensland Legislation does it provide aboriginal groups to claim fees for walk throughs and observing works such as the construction of a boat ramp and facilities at Wunjunga in the Burdekin and to the Premier's reply which stated there are no grounds for this under Queensland legislation and "The selection of Indigenous consultants and their rates of remuneration are matters which are agreed by commercial arrangement between the proponents of a development and the consultants employed to advise and assist them." If that is the case, then the proponents of the Wunjunga boat ramp is Queensland Transport and therefore the responsibility of fees to be paid to the tribal groups and their archaeological consultants falls under his department, thus it is his responsibility to come to a commercial arrangement with these groups and their advisers—

Is he and his department currently undertaking this commercial arrangement for the benefit of this boat ramp proceeding as he is quoted as saying in the Home Hill Observer of 7 October 1999 that funding for this boat ramp at Wunjunga has been made available?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (19/6/00): The establishment of a new boating facility at Wunjunga is a joint undertaking between Queensland Transport and Burdekin Shire Council, with Council responsible for all the necessary land based infrastructure including access road, car park and associated facilities. Queensland Transport is responsible for funding the



water based components of this facility and funding is still available for the construction of the boat ramp. As part of the approval process required for the boat ramp, Queensland Transport commissioned a cultural heritage survey which included the road and car park to help Council progress this project. Traditional owners requested that a stringent monitoring program be undertaken for all development works associated with the road and car park construction.

Consequently, Council is the proponent for the road and car park construction and it is Council's responsibility to negotiate any commercial arrangement required with the traditional owner groups for the construction of this infrastructure.

#### 429. Kingaroy Dental Clinic, Waiting Lists

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Health (18/5/00)—

With reference to the current waiting lists for dental appointments at the Kingaroy Dental Clinic—

- (1) What is the current qualified staffing level of the clinic?
- (2) What is the current average waiting time for patients?
- (3) What measures are in place to increase the qualified staffing level at the clinic; if none, when will consideration be given to increasing the qualified staffing level?
- (4) What was the separate dollar value of funding allocated for qualified staff at the Kingaroy Dental Clinic for 1998-99 and 1999-2000.
- (5) How many patients were treated in the last financial year at the clinic?

**Mrs EDMOND** (19/6/00):

- (1) The current approved staffing level of the clinic is three dentists. The School Dental Service has 3.4 dental therapists.
- (2) The current waiting times for general care and full dentures are not within service standards. There has been a long history of recruitment and retention problems at Kingaroy which defies attempts to reduce waiting times and meet service standards.
- (3) An additional dentist has been employed and will commence duties in July 2000. A further budget allowance has been made to employ an additional dentist and an additional technician on a part-time temporary basis to reduce the denture waiting list.
- (4) Funding for the Kingaroy Dental Clinic in the 1999/2000 financial year increased almost 10% from the 1998/1999 allocation.
- (5) In the last financial year there were 3236 completed courses of care were provided representing a 14% increase on the previous year.

This increase in activity and throughput is consistent with trends throughout Queensland despite increasing demand on Queensland Health Oral Health Services. This Government is committed to maintaining the Oral Health Program, which is the biggest and best in Australia despite the withdrawal of Commonwealth funding. I have joined with the Australian Dental Association and other States/Territories in lobbying the Commonwealth

Government for the reintroduction of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program. This matter is on the agenda for discussion at the next Australian Health Ministers Conference in July 2000.

#### 430. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Domestic Violence Programs

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (18/5/00)—

With reference to The Courier Mail report of 12 May 2000 that Queensland taxpayers are expected to pay out more than \$60m for victims of violence in the State's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities—

- (1) How is this money being spent?
- (2) What programs are in use to ensure violence in Aboriginal communities is being reduced?
- (3) Where is this money coming from?
- (4) What is the total allocation of payments being spent on victims of violence for all of Queensland?
- (5) What guarantees are there that these payments will not end up in the consumption and purchase of more alcohol in these communities?
- (6) Will she hold an inquiry?

**Ms SPENCE** (20/6/00):

1. The \$60 million figure contained in the Courier Mail was based on a Brisbane solicitor's estimate of the number of people who may be eligible to claim compensation as victims of crime. There is no evidence to support the assumptions of the number of potential claimants, nor of the possible amount of compensation. Claims for ex gratia payments are assessed on an individual basis.
2. As to what programs are in place to reduce violence in Aboriginal communities, I have forwarded to your office a copy of the Queensland Government's Response to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence Report: The First Step. This document, is an audit of programs related to the reduction of family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
3. If the Member's question of where is the money coming from refers to the alleged \$60 million, no such allocation has been made.
4. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General has advised that expenditure on secondary victims of crime and direct compensation is expected to be between \$14.5 and \$15 million this financial year for the whole community in Queensland.
5. If such payments were paid to Indigenous victims of crime, I can assure the House that this Government is not in the business of dictating how individuals manage their personal finances.
6. As to the question of an inquiry, I fail to see what the Honourable Member wishes to inquire about. Surely he is not suggesting that the Government hold an inquiry into an alleged possibility that some Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders may be

entitled, as any other Queenslander, to seek compensation as a victim of crime, under the appropriate legislation.

#### **431. Families, Youth and Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, Consultancies**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (18/5/00)—

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/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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 Blich** (21/6/00): With reference to Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland, Disability Services Queensland and the Children's Commission—

For each Question (1) to (12) above:

Refer Attachment (A) for Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland

Refer Attachment (B) for Disability Services Queensland

No consultancies have been recorded to date for the Children's Commission for the year 1999-00.

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

#### **432. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, Consultancies**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr BRADY** (19/6/00): The Department maintains a register of consultancies for each financial year. The information sought is contained in the attached table as follows:

- (1) The consultant and principal consultant engaged is contained in columns 2 and 3 of attached table. (Attachment 1)
- (2) Column 1 of attached table details the purpose of each consultancy. For each consultancy the terms of reference are set out in a standard consultancy contract signed by both parties which also includes the specific details of each consultancy project. These documents may be available under the Freedom of Information Act 1992.
- (3) The dates of engagement and completion for each consultancy are listed in columns 5 and 6 of attached table.
- (4) The relevant DETIR approving officer is listed in column 4 of attached table.
- (5) Hourly costs are not readily available. Daily costs are contained in Column 8 of attached table. Total estimated costs are in column 9.
- (6) Column 10 of attached table details actual payments to the end of April 2000.
- (7) Column 9 of attached table details the total estimated cost of the contract regardless of the commencement date of the contract. Some contracts may have commenced prior to 1 July 1999.
- (8 & 9) All consultancies are required to present a written report on completion.
- Column 7 of attached table details when reports have been received.
- (10 & 11) Reports may be available under Freedom of Information legislation subject to the constraints imposed by that Legislation.

(12) Funding details for each consultancy has been grouped according to the relevant output area.

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

#### **433. Justice and The Arts Portfolio, Consultancies**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (18/5/00)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy/advisory/or other similar role since 1 July 1999?
- (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 1999-2000 to date?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1999-2000?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will present of 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?

**Mr FOLEY** (19/6/00): I refer to my answers to Question on Notice No. 2065/99, Question on Notice No. 1148/99 and Attachment 1 which contains updated information for my portfolio.

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

#### **434. Police Service, Resource Management**

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/5/00)—

With reference to the many police districts that are in financial trouble—

Are operational police suffering because district superintendents have, as part of their employment contracts, personal responsibility for financial overruns which reflect on their management ability and affects their continuity/security of employment?

**Mr BARTON** (16/6/00): The proposition contained within the question is false.

There are no employment contracts in the Queensland Police Service below the level of Assistant Commissioner. Managers in the Queensland Police Service have the same level of

accountability as their peers in other public sector bodies to efficiently and effectively manage the resources under their control.

The Queensland Police Service would take appropriate management action in the event that a manager did not manage resources properly. The options available to the Commissioner, should this occur, are the same as those available to the Chief Executive Officer of any public sector agency (including counselling and management guidance through to a reprimand, a transfer to alternative duties or other disciplinary action depending on the circumstances of the case). The more severe sanctions would only be considered in the case of an officer whose work performance was significantly below the required standard over a sustained period.

#### **435. Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander Policy, Women's Policy and Fair Trading Portfolios, Capital Works**

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (18/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and her other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 she expect commencement or completion to occur?

**Ms SPENCE (20/6/00):** Except for the Normanton Resources Centre, all projects are well progressed given the constraints listed in the attached table. Please refer to the attached table.

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

#### **436. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, Capital Works**

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 (19/6/00):**

(1-4) are as per the attached table.

(5) \$48,410,000 as at 30 April 2000.

(6) Nil

(7) There is a commitment to complete each project on the plan.

(8) There are no significant delays in planned commencements or completions for 1999-2000.

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

#### **437. Families, Youth, Community Care and Disability Services Portfolio, Capital Works**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (18/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and her other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 she expect commencement or completion to occur?

**Ms BLIGH (21/6/00):**

(1) See attached table

(2) See attached table

(3) See attached table

(4) See attached table

(5) Actual year to date capital works expenditure (as at 30 April 2000) for Families, Youth and Community Care, Disability Services Queensland and Childrens Commission against the 1999-2000 budget is \$19,558,986.

(6) There are no budgeted and approved capital works projects which will not be undertaken.

(7) The remaining unexpended capital funding will either be expended before 30 June 2000 or will be carried forward to 2000-2001 as they are committed for those purposes.

(8) There are no projects listed at (7). Details of all projects are listed in the attached table.

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

#### 438. Mines and Energy Portfolio, Capital Works

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (18/5/00)—

With reference to the capital works funds expended by the Department of Mines and Energy and his other portfolio agencies since 1 July 1999—

- (1) What was the budget for each capital works project approved for inclusion in the 1999-2000 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 his portfolio agencies and department spent on capital works in 1999-2000?
- (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 the 1999-2000 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 McGRADY** (20/6/00):

(1) I refer the Honourable Member to Budget Paper No. 5 wherein reference to 1999-2000 budgeted capital work, including a description of projects, is outlined.

(2) Refer (1) above.

(3) The attached tables (Refer Attachment A) details the location of each project, a brief description of the project and the expenditure on the project to 30 April 2000.

(4) Refer Attachment A.

(5) As at 30 April 2000, DME has spent \$9.903M on the capital works program for 1999/2000. Included in this amount is \$.498M spent on the acquisition of dwellings at Dinmore that were affected by

subsidence. This was not provided for in the 1999-2000 Budget estimates.

(6) Each of the projects contained in Budget Paper No. 5 will be undertaken and completed.

(7) DME is committed to each of these capital works projects.

(8) Each of the projects included in the capital works program for DME has been commenced prior to 30 April 2000.

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

#### 439. Southport Police Station, Resources

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/5/00)—

With reference to police who inform me they are not able to respond to calls by the Southport community because there appears to be only one car for all this area during night shifts and as this is very far short of the five cars the police say are the minimum number to cover this area at night—

When can the Southport Police Station expect an increase in much needed car numbers to bring this station up to an acceptable level of response?

**Mr BARTON** (16/6/00): The Southport Police division operates on a minimum of one patrol per shift (two officers), 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Patrol levels are increased on Friday and Saturday nights with an extra patrol covering the 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. or 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. periods.

Foot patrols are delivered to the Southport Central Business District by officers attached to the Southport Australia Fair Police Beat Shopfront. The foot patrols are maintained every day of the week during recognised business trading hours and also outside those hours to meet night time policing demands in this area.

The Southport Police division receives regular patrols by officers attached to the Gold Coast District Traffic Branch, the Gold Coast District Operations Support Group and the Gold Coast Criminal Investigation Branch.

This Government is committed to increasing the number of operational police officers at Southport. On 6 May 2000, six additional first year Constables were positioned at Southport and the position of Officer in Charge, Australia Fair Police Beat Shopfront was filled. A further four Constables and two Sergeants will commence duties at Southport on 17 June 2000. The additional police officers will provide opportunities to deploy additional patrols into peak policing periods.

#### 440. Dairy Farmers Stadium, Townsville

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (18/5/00)—

With reference to the redevelopment of Dairy Farmers Stadium in Townsville—

- (1) What has been the State Government's contribution to this project in 1998-99 and to date in 1999-2000?

- (2) Has the project been completed?
- (3) What has been the total cost of the redevelopment?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (15/6/00):

(1) The State Government approved \$7.5 million in financial assistance towards the costs associated with Stage 3 of the redevelopment of Dairy Farmers Stadium. This contribution has been:

1998-99—\$3.5 million

1999-2000 (to date)—\$4.0 million

- (2) Yes. The project achieved practical completion on 26 March 1999.
- (3) The total cost of the redevelopment is \$26 million.

#### 441. Bus Operators' Contracts

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/5/00)—

With reference to contracts entered into by Queensland Transport with bus operators under the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act—

- (1) How many contracts are currently on issue to commercial operators?
- (2) What is the period of these contracts?
- (3) Have any interim contracts been awarded; if so, why has it been necessary to issue interim or reduced period contracts?
- (4) Does the reduced period of these contracts impact upon the long-term provision of viable transport services?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (19/6/00):

(1) To date 35 contracts have been issued to commercial operators under the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994.

(2) These contracts are for a term of five years with the first eight of those issued falling due between June and October 2000. Due to time constraints, the need to conduct public consultation and the need to negotiate with operators, it is envisaged that these first eight contracts will be reissued as temporary contracts. This will enable the end of term review to be carried out and the issue of second generation contracts for those affected, to be completed by 30 November 2000.

(3) To date, 23 temporary contracts have been issued which commenced on 8 November 1999 for a term of 12 months, with provision for monthly extensions for a further 12 month period. These temporary contracts were issued in order to maintain the status quo with respect to service levels and funding, pending the issue of a five year term service contract. This was necessitated by the expiration of the savings and transitional provision of the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994.

(4) It is not considered that the issuing of these temporary contracts will impact unfavourably upon the long term provision of viable transport services.

#### 442. Heritage Trails Network

**Mr COOPER** asked the Premier (18/5/00)—

With reference to my question to him on 17 May regarding the Queensland Heritage Trails Network

and his response in which he claims that "The Heritage Trails project is one of the most significant for the bush since the 1950s." "My Government is totally committed to these heritage trails." And in light of these statements—

- (1) Why have key appointments to the Heritage Trail project team been delayed for nearly six months?
- (2) Why have project officers that have previously worked on the project, been sent back to their departments, leaving vacant positions?
- (3) Why is the project under-spent by close to \$20m—\$20m that could be spent in rural and regional Queensland to create jobs?
- (4) What will he do to correct the obvious maladministration of this vital project, that he is responsible for?

**Mr BEATTIE** (19/6/00):

(1) The key appointments to the Queensland Heritage Trails Network project team have followed the standard appointment processes adopted by my Department. The vacant positions were advertised in the Queensland Government Gazette, The Courier Mail, The Australian and on the Departmental Job Vacancy website and closed on 7 February 2000. The ten vacant positions attracted an applicant pool of 350 both from within and external to the public service. Given the significant interest in the positions and the need to ensure a rigorous selection process, the timeframe is not considered excessive. All selections were concluded by 26 April 2000.

(2) No positions have been left vacant as a result of secondments of officers being finalised.

(3) The delay by the Commonwealth Government in advising the final projects to be included in the Network until October 1999, meant that project partners could not be formally advised of funding until after this date. As a result, detailed planning of projects with project partners could not be commenced until after this time. All projects are scheduled to be delivered during 2001 and 2002, consistent with the expected funding from the Commonwealth Government.

(4) The Queensland Heritage Trails Network is a joint initiative of the Commonwealth and State Governments and local communities throughout Queensland. All projects are being managed by local Steering Committees in a true partnership approach. With the detailed planning now under way by these Committees, I am confident that all projects will be delivered within the timeframe established by the Commonwealth Government.

#### 443. Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (18/5/00)—

With reference to his decision to withdraw the statutory status of many primary industry bodies—

- (1) Is there an ongoing commitment to financial support for the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations (BSES)?
- (2) Will the support be more or less than in his last Budget?

- (3) Is he aware of considerable demands being placed on the BSES breeding program for new varieties to be developed to combat a range of problems the industry now faces?
- (4) What programs are the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) going to be involved in pertaining to sugar related issues?
- (5) What program will relate to in kind contribution to BSES?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (14/6/00):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The DPI Budget will be announced in July.
- (3) Yes and I am also aware from the BSES budget proposal that BSES is managing those demands.
- (4) The Department is running and will continue to run the following programs that assist the sugar industry and the communities it supports:

Strategic Planning, Policy Advice;  
 The Development and Implementation of Industry Legislation;  
 The Sugar Solutions Project in the Wet Tropics;  
 The Yield Decline Joint Venture (conducted with other research providers);  
 Farm Financial Counselling;  
 Futureprofit;  
 FarmBis;  
 Rural Partnerships;  
 Building Rural Leaders;  
 Women in Rural Industries Programs;  
 Climate Forecasting Services;  
 Services on Diversification Options;  
 Pest and Disease Management;  
 Services in Chemical Use and Chemical Residue Control and  
 The Office of Rural Communities will continue the Queensland Government Agent Program.

- (5) None of the DPI programs are in-kind contribution to BSES, although the Department is at times involved in collaborative work with other providers, including BSES.

#### **444. State Development Department, Tourism Development Team**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (18/5/00)—

Will he explain the functions and purpose of the Department of State Development and Trade Tourism Project Group operating from premises at 80 Albert Street, Brisbane, occupied by the private sector concerns Brumfield Bird and Sandford and The Consultancy Bureau, particularly in relation to (a) the relationship between the DSDT Tourism Project Group and the Department of Tourism and/or Tourism Queensland. (b) on what basis it occupies space within the premises of Brumfield Bird and Sandford and The Consultancy Bureau at Level 9, 80 Albert Street, (c) the grade, designation and name of

the public service officer who manages or heads the DSDT Tourism Project Group, (d) the grade, designation and name of the public service officer to whom he/she reports, (e) when the DSDT Tourism Project Group was established, (f) when it commenced work within the premises of Brumfield Bird and Sandford and The Consultancy Bureau, (g) when the unit is scheduled to complete its work and (h) what work the DSDT Tourism Project Group is actively engaged in at 18 May 2000?

**Mr ELDER** (22/6/00): The Tourism Development Team is one of the industry-specific Taskforces established within Department of State Development—this particular Taskforce has been established to undertake a whole of government approach to enhancing and growing the tourism industry. The Team identifies and develops initiatives which lead to the provision of new tourism infrastructure, industry opportunities and activities, creation of new jobs and increased expenditure in Queensland by tourists and other visitors. The Team works with proposed tourism projects to coordinate and facilitate approvals processes.

Answers to specific points are as follows:

(a) In taking a whole of government approach to growing the tourism industry, the Tourism Development Team works closely with Department of Tourism and Racing and with Tourism Queensland. However, both the Department of Tourism and Racing and Tourism Queensland acknowledge that they do not have the coordination powers to facilitate tourism projects. Indeed, Tourism Queensland disbanded its former Project Development area following the formation of the Tourism Development Team.

(b) The Tourism Development Team does not occupy space within the premises of Brumfield Bird and Sandford and The Consultancy Bureau. It occupies office space which is leased by the Department of State Development on the 9th Floor of 80 Albert Street.

(c) The public service officer who heads the Team is Mrs Jan Bimrose, SES3, Department of State Development—her current designation is Head, Tourism Development Team.

(d) Mrs Bimrose reports to the Director General, Mr Ross Rolfe.

(e) The Tourism Development Team was established in February 1999.

(f) It does not work within the premises of Brumfield Bird and Sandford and The Consultancy Bureau.

(g) The Team is scheduled to finish its work in June 2002.

(h) At 18 May, the Team was actively engaged in: coordination and facilitation of the approvals processes of Cairns Cityport project, Abel Point Marina Extension project, Port of Airlie project, and Eastpoint Mackay project; facilitation of the Environmental Impact Assessment process for Naturelink; assistance in seeking funding for Monte Christo (Curtis Island), Footprints theme park, and Seatrek theme park; working with other agencies to grow tourism opportunities alongside the State's protected areas; organising a workshop to explore

tourism opportunities in Outback Queensland (held 16/17 June); and chairing the Steering Committee responsible for the construction of the Airlie Beach lagoon (with the Coordinator General as Construction Authority for the lagoon project).

#### 445. Charleville School of Distance Education

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Education (18/5/00)—

With reference to the Charleville School of Distance Education which is in the midst of a telephone trial where students receive their core lessons by telephone instead of the antiquated HF radio which trial is due to finish at the end of 2000 and as the trial is proving very successful and it is clearly evident that enhanced effective teaching and learning is resulting in comparison to the HF radio delivery mode and the flow on effects to the wider community and the rural and regional families could be enormous from the extension and continuation of the trial—

Will the telephone lessons at Charleville School of Distance Education continue on a permanent basis after the completion of the trial?

**Mr WELLS** (19/6/00): The initial 1998-99 telephone teaching trial provided the opportunity to obtain information on the effectiveness of on-air lessons when the Telstra phone system is used for teaching.

The present full-scale trial is providing comprehensive information on the complete teaching and learning process as well as any subsequent costs for the school's operations.

An independent evaluation team has already visited the school and several properties, and has surveyed parents. Initial response to the use of telephones, as opposed to HF radio, has been uniformly favourable from parents, teachers and students.

Obviously continuation of the program is contingent on it proving successful over the rest of the trial.

#### 446. Longreach State Emergency Services

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (18/5/00)—

With reference to the situation in the Longreach State Emergency Services (SES) District which is the only one of 12 SES districts without a full-time training officer—

- (1) How much longer are the SES volunteers in the Longreach district going to be treated like second-rate citizens by being discriminated against in the area of training?
- (2) Given that the then Minister and the department were "looking into it" 12 months ago, are the people of Longreach and district going to have to put up with the mirror treatment for another 12 months?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (21/6/00):

(1) Under the previous Coalition Government, the number of SES Training Officers across Queensland was clearly inadequate. SES Volunteer training for the entire State was undertaken by six Regional

Training Officers and one ATSI Training Officer. In the Rockhampton Region, the Training Officer provided support to Rockhampton, Mackay and Longreach districts. This Government recognised that more Training Officers were needed to relieve the massive workload placed on existing staff by the previous Coalition Government. The Beattie Labor Government has since provided additional Training Officer positions in Mackay, Mount Isa, Gympie, Beenleigh and Roma, bringing the total number of Training Officers across the state to 12, including one ATSI Training Officer. The level of general staff support has also been increased under this Government to include a District Support Officer in Longreach. SES training in the Longreach District is currently provided by District staff from Rockhampton, Mount Isa and Roma as well as the SES Volunteer District Support Units.

(2) Unlike the Coalition, this Government recognises the importance of providing a high level of training to SES volunteers who perform such a crucial role in the community. Additional staff to support SES operations and training within the CDRS Districts, as well as the employment of additional ATSI Training staff, will be given further consideration as part of the budget process.

#### 447. Cape York Development Companies

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Premier (18/5/00)—

With reference to any money paid by his Government to Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd, Cape York Building Pty Ltd or Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd—

- (1) What amount of money has been paid to each of these companies or their directors (listed by company, or director and date of payment)?
- (2) What was the purpose of each payment and when was the work performed?
- (3) If these companies performed a consultancy, what was the purpose of the consultancy and who were the people involved in the consultancy?

**Mr BEATTIE** (19/6/00): The Government has made appropriate payments towards Cape York Development covering costs of a cultural information booklet, the development of a community plan, a market assessment and other planning and feasibility studies.

#### 448. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Auditor-General's Report

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/5/00)—

With reference to the Auditor-General's Report No 4 1999-2000, Page 73 which states under section (e) Supporting Documentation "Audit was not able to verify that all expenses within the sample were duly authorised or complied with the requirements of the State Purchasing Policy, as some supporting documentation was unable to be produced for audit scrutiny"—



What was the general nature of these expenses which could not be adequately documented and explained by the department?

**Mr BRADY** (19/6/00): Queensland Audit Office has advised that it looked at a sample of 17 consultancies by matching expenditure in the general ledger to supporting documents ie the consultancy agreements. There was one instance where supporting documents for a payment of \$10,512.63 to Tooher Gale and Associates in the amount for a 1996/97 consultancy were requested but were not made available for inspection.

The contract AIMS 003 The Review of TAFE Queensland's Asset Information Management System Requirements was let via open tender in 1996/97 with Tooher Gale and Associates being the successful tenderer. The contract was executed in the form of a consultancy agreement and the work was carried out to the Department's satisfaction. Queensland Audit Office noted that the payment in question had been properly authorised.

#### 449. HITT and HITT Plus Schemes

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/5/00)—

With reference to the HITT and HITT Plus Schemes—

How many dwellings have been constructed and how many apprentices have been engaged under the HITT Scheme for 1999-2000 (year to date)?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (19/6/00): I am advised that as at 25 May 2000, 148 dwellings have commenced construction or upgrade under the HITT and HITT Plus schemes for 1999-2000.

Although the Department does not directly employ apprentices under the HITT scheme, as at 25 May 2000 the equivalent of approximately 85 first year apprentices have been engaged.

In addition, the latest information from the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, as at 31 March 2000, indicated that 63 first year apprentices have worked on HITT Plus projects. It is important to note that first year apprentices will continue to be employed on HITT Plus projects until all projects are complete. Therefore, the full benefit for the employment of apprentices on 1999-2000 HITT Plus projects will not be realised until all projects have been completed.

#### 450. Public Housing, Duplexes

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/5/00)—

With reference to the public housing program for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date) for duplexes (by bedroom count) (18/5/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (19/6/00):

(1) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the average cost of duplexes by bedroom count and financial year.

(2) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the highest cost of duplexes by bedroom count and financial year.

(3) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the lowest cost of duplexes by bedroom count and financial year.

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

#### 451. Public Housing, Seniors

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/5/00)—

With reference to the public housing program for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date) for seniors units (by bedroom count) (18/5/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (19/6/00):

(1) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the average cost of seniors units by bedroom count and financial year.

(2) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the highest cost of seniors units by bedroom count and financial year.

(3) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the lowest cost of seniors units by bedroom count and financial year.

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

#### 452. Public Housing, Apartments

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/5/00)—

With reference to the public housing program for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date) for attached apartments (by bedroom count) (18/5/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (19/6/00):

(1) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the average cost for attached housing and apartments by bedroom count and financial year.

(2) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the highest cost for attached housing and apartments by bedroom count and financial year.

(3) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the lowest cost for attached housing and apartments by bedroom count and financial year.

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

#### 453. Public Housing, Detached Houses

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/5/00)—

With reference to the public housing program for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date) for detached houses (by bedroom count) (18/5/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (19/6/00):

(1) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the average cost for detached houses (includes dual occupancy and detached cluster housing) by bedroom count and financial year.

(2) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the highest cost for detached houses (includes dual occupancy and detached cluster housing) by bedroom count and financial year.

(3) See Attachment A for figures provided by the Department of Housing for the lowest cost for detached houses (includes dual occupancy and detached cluster housing) by bedroom count and financial year.

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

#### 454. Building Services Authority, Expenditure

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (18/5/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Building Services Authority and its board—

What was the expenditure on the following (a) sponsorship, (b) hospitality and (c) publications for 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date and budgeted)?

**Ms SPENCE** (20/6/00): The Building Services Authority has provided me with the following information. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 455. Goprint

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/5/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No 94 regarding CSO payments to GoPrint—

Will he itemise the major identified items for which the CSO is being paid and the anticipated cost per annum of each item?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (19/6/00): GOPRINT's primary purpose is to support Government through the provision of Reserved Services. Reserved Services include the printing and distribution of Queensland Legislation, Queensland Government Gazettes, State Budget Papers, and other official Government products.

To provide these services, GOPRINT requires a large and costly infrastructure, the cost of which cannot be fully recovered through the current pricing arrangement for Reserved Services, while ensuring accessibility to the public. GOPRINT backfills the excess capacity by competing with the private sector for commercial government work.

As this CSO is for the difference between the costs of operating the business and the revenues derived, it is not possible to identify individual items which the CSO covers.

#### 456. Schools, Maintenance Expenditure

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/5/00)—

With reference to the special maintenance funding program for public schools throughout Queensland which have again been the subject of numerous press releases by him in recent times—

Will he now provide (a) the output source of the funding for this program, (b) the total expenditure and total number of projects of this program and (c) the total expenditure and total number of projects of this program for each State electorate for 1999-2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (19/6/00): The funding was sourced from the Building Procurement and Asset Management funds. Total expenditure to date is \$2.16M on 153 projects, identified by the Department of Public Works, and based on approaches to my office from local members throughout the State. As at May 18 the program has not been finalised.

#### 457. Public Housing, Construction

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/5/00)—

With reference to the revised public, community and ATSI housing construction programs for 1999-2000 mentioned in his response to Question on Notice No 145—

What are the revised number of commencements for each program?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (19/6/00): The revised number of commencements for 1999-2000 provided by the Department of Housing is 77 for Community Housing and 67 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing. I am advised that as at 1 March 2000, the number of scheduled public rental commencements for 1999-2000 remained at 700. However, due to prevailing market conditions within

the building and construction industry and the forecast downturn in the industry after 1 July 2000, I have approved the deferral of 200 public rental dwelling commencements into the 2000-2001 financial year. As a result, 500 public rental dwellings are now scheduled for commencement in the 1999-2000 financial year.

#### 458. Maryborough, Foster Care

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (30/5/00)—

With reference to a serious concern which has been raised whereby officers of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DFYCC) Maryborough have been accused of acting in a criminal manner by instructing a foster carer to falsely claim care payments for a three year old girl who is a ward of the State, and that the foster carer has been directed to receive the foster care payments into her banking account, then withdraw the payment from that account and hand that payment over in cash to an unregistered carer and that allegations laid by the foster carer of sexual abuse of a three year old girl foster child have gone unheeded and that the child has now been examined by a doctor after contracting thrush and further, that it was not requested of DFYCC to give permission for this medical examination as a previous request for a medical examination was refused and it was feared that a request on this occasion would have been refused—

- (1) Will she order an immediate investigation into the allegations that her officers have been a party to, and directed a series of criminal acts in relation to, false claims for foster care payments?
- (2) Will she immediately, this day, order the removal of the three year old girl, a ward of the State, from the present circumstances?
- (3) Will she order the placement of this three year old girl and another six year old girl, also suspected of being sexually abused and who lives in the same residence, into the care of a registered foster carer for the protection and welfare of these two young girls?
- (4) Will she instruct her Brisbane officers to contact the foster carer and advise that foster carer to cease receiving the carer payments in these circumstances?
- (5) Will she now take responsibility for the physical welfare of the foster carer who has previously been violently assaulted by a relative of this three year old ward of the State?
- (6) Will she guarantee the foster carer that every reasonable step will be taken to protect her from retaliation, abuse and physical assault?
- (7) Will she order all of the DFYCC Maryborough officers named in the allegations, which are laid out in a sworn Statutory Declaration, to immediately cease contact with the foster carer until after these matters are completely investigated and dealt with?

**Ms BLIGH** (30/6/00):

(1) The allegations made are very serious. The Director-General has referred this matter to the Department's Misconduct Prevention Unit and the Criminal Justice Commission. Any further information should be forwarded to the Director-General.

(2-6) The questions raised by the Honourable member involve complex family matters. I am advised that the allegations raised have been assessed and are unsubstantiated. I can assure the Honourable member that the safety of children is the paramount concern in all such cases. I can further assure the Honourable member that foster carers are highly valued providers of alternate care for children and all efforts are made to support them in their task. The Department will continue to work with this family.

(7) I am unaware of the document to which the Honourable Member refers. See response to (1).

#### 459. Transport and Main Roads Departments, Voluntary Early Retirements

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/5/00)—

With reference to the technical stream, the engine trades stream, the operations stream, administration and management stream, civil infrastructure stream, professional stream, and train crew stream for the period 1 July 1999 to 30 April 2000—

- (1) How many workers in each of the above classifications applied for voluntary early retirement?
- (2) How many workers from each of the above classifications were granted voluntary early retirement?
- (3) How many will be replaced by new staff?
- (4) How many of these positions will disappear?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (30/6/00):

(1) Under the Queensland Rail Voluntary Separation Package workers do not apply for voluntary separation packages.

(2) In the period 1 July 1999 to 30 April 2000, 128 voluntary early retirements were granted by Queensland Rail.

(3 & 4) Voluntary early retirements are only granted where a position is genuinely redundant.

#### 460. Ecosystems, South-east Queensland

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (30/5/00)—

With reference to the Vegetation Management Act 1999 and to his draft regional ecosystem maps in which his department has identified various ecosystems of concern on freehold lands in the south-east region—

- (1) How many hectares are contained in the remnant endangered ecosystems (pink areas) in this area and how many hectares have been identified as dominant species?
- (2) How many hectares are contained in the remnant of concern regional ecosystems

(brown areas) in this area and how many hectares have been identified as dominant species?

- (3) How many hectares are contained in the remnant not of concern regional ecosystems (green areas)?
- (4) How many hectares in the above are contained in the Lockyer electorate per local government area, i.e. Beaudesert, Boonah, Laidley, Gatton and Ipswich?
- (5) On proclamation of the Act, will vegetation management plans be required for all the above areas, i.e. pink, brown and green, if a land owner wants to remove any trees from these areas?

**Mr WELFORD** (29/6/00):

(1) Within the south-east bioregion (which extends from the New South Wales border to Gladstone) there are approximately 2.4% of the bioregion identified as containing remnant "endangered" regional ecosystems as of 1997.

(2) Within the south-east bioregion there are approximately 7.0% of the bioregion identified as containing remnant "of concern" regional ecosystems (as of 1997).

(3) Within the south-east bioregion there are approximately 30% of the bioregion identified as containing remnant "not of concern" regional ecosystems (as of 1997).

(4) The figures (as of 1997) for the Lockyer electorate, by local government area as follows:

Remnant "endangered" regional ecosystems:

Beaudesert Shire—191 ha  
 Esk Shire—259 ha  
 Gatton Shire—3,593 ha  
 Ipswich City—665 ha  
 Laidley Shire—833 ha  
 Total for Electorate—5,541 ha

Remnant "of concern" regional ecosystems:

Beaudesert Shire—1,871 ha  
 Esk Shire—232 ha  
 Gatton Shire—6,292 ha  
 Ipswich City—3,715 ha  
 Laidley Shire—3,501 ha  
 Total for Electorate—15,611 ha

Remnant "not of concern" regional ecosystems:

Beaudesert Shire—7,091 ha  
 Esk Shire—4,326 ha  
 Gatton Shire—66,255 ha  
 Ipswich City—8,105 ha  
 Laidley Shire—15,571 ha  
 Total for Electorate—101,348 ha

No part of the Boonah Shire is located within the Lockyer electorate

(5) Following proclamation of the Vegetation Management Act 1999, any landholder who makes an application for clearing will be required to include a property vegetation management plan. Such plans are required to ensure that the applications are assessed using all available information.

#### 461. Walloon-Rosewood Road

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/5/00)—

With reference to the terrible condition of the Walloon to Rosewood Road—

When can the people of this area expect to have this road upgraded, in particular, the section of some 500 metres outside the front of the Walloon State School which is causing school disruption due to the intrusive noise from passing traffic?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (30/6/00): A considerable portion of the road traffic noise is as a result of the poor condition of the road pavement and the rough and uneven surface. Main Roads is addressing this problem by reconstructing an 800 metre section from the Walloon roundabout towards Rosewood.

Tender documentation is being prepared, and tenders will be called on 28 June 2000.

Construction is expected to commence in September 2000 and be completed by the end of the year.

#### 462. Bribie Island, Public Housing

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/5/00)—

With reference to the growing Murri population on Bribie Island and the Bribie Island and District Aboriginal Corporation (BIADAC) who have recently written to me highlighting the fact that this population is now around 400—

- (1) How many Housing Department homes are there on Bribie Island?
- (2) How many Housing Department homes on Bribie Island have been specifically targeted for Murri people?
- (3) How many of these homes are actually occupied by Murri people?
- (4) How many of these homes were actually rented to Murri people from Bribie Island who were on the waiting list and waiting for a home, rather than Murri people from other areas?
- (5) How many Murri people does the Housing Department have on a waiting list for a home on Bribie Island?
- (6) How many complaints has the department received from Murri people in relation to applications for homes, some made over five (5) years ago, that the department has no record of?
- (7) How does he intend to address the needs of the growing Murri population on Bribie Island for adequate departmental housing?
- (8) Is he now willing to meet with President Julie Morris and representatives of BIADAC to discuss their growing needs on Bribie Island?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/7/00):

(1) As at 31 May 2000, the Department of Housing has three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing properties and 239 public rental dwellings (consisting of Rental General Stock and seniors' stock) on Bribie Island. The public rental dwellings

are not specifically targeted at Indigenous members of the community, but they may apply for these dwellings, in addition to those offered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing.

(2) All of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing properties on Bribie Island have been allocated to Indigenous people.

(3) As at 31 May 2000, Indigenous tenants occupy all three of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing properties on Bribie Island, and of the total of 236 public rental tenancies on Bribie Island (residing in Rental General Stock and seniors' dwellings), one tenancy was identified as Indigenous. It must be noted however, that Indigenous clients applying for mainstream public housing have the choice as to whether they wish to identify themselves as Indigenous.

(4) The three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing properties on Bribie Island have been rented out to tenants who were not from the area, but were the next applicants in line to be offered accommodation, in accordance with policy.

(5) As at 31 May 2000, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing had eleven applicants on the waitlist for Bribie Island. There were a total of 180 applications for public rental housing (Rental General Stock and seniors' dwellings). Of these, seven were identified as Indigenous. As previously stated however, Indigenous clients applying for mainstream public housing have the choice as to whether they wish to identify themselves as Indigenous.

(6) A meeting was held on Bribie Island at the request of the Indigenous community on 4 November 1999 and was attended by the Program Officer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing, Brisbane South Queensland Area Office. The Program Officer discussed all departmental housing options available to Indigenous people within the district, advising that applicants should apply for both public rental housing and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing. At this meeting the Program Officer provided approximately 50 rental application forms to be distributed for use among the local Indigenous community. Complaints related to public housing applications are not kept in a register. Many complaints are verbal, whether over the telephone or in person, and resolved by Area Office staff. Written complaints are stored on an applicant's file once the matter has been investigated, however, there is no register to summarise details of complaints made. Where a complaint has been made to the Minister's office, records are retained.

(7) At the meeting of 4 November 1999, the Program Officer also provided advice regarding the process that is implemented to identify areas of high need and the subsequent development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Capital Works Programs. The process includes community consultation and statistical information, which includes the number of applications for a particular area. The demand for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing on Bribie Island has been consistently lower than the high demand within the Caboolture region. This has been attributed to hospital, transport and educational services being

more accessible within the Caboolture region. Planned constructions for public rental housing on Bribie Island are at Attachment A. Please note that these dwellings are not specifically targeted to Indigenous clients.

(8) As with all requests for appointments, I consider each on its merits and my current program.

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

#### 463. Organ Donation

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Health (30/5/00)—

With reference to driver's licence application forms which have been altered to include organ donor information that can now be passed from Queensland Transport to Queensland Health and onto a national database and as the next important step is for potential donors who are not driver's licence holders to be able to make their wishes known—

When will she make available an information kit, with self-addressed stamped envelope, available at suitable outlets such as surgeries, pharmacies, hospitals, Medicare centres, etc?

**Mrs EDMOND** (29/6/00): The national organ and tissue donation body, Australians Donate, which is funded by the Commonwealth and the States and Territories, (including Queensland) is presently exploring with the Commonwealth the options for funding a national registry of intending donors.

Included in those negotiations is provision of an information pack to be distributed throughout Australia, together with the opportunity to register an intention to donate upon their death.

#### 464. Malanda High School, Tenders

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/5/00)—

(1) Is it correct that, in the tendering process for the upgrade to the Malanda High School manual arts block, a Malanda business was not given the tender for electrical services when there was only a \$300 difference in price between its tender and a company off the Tablelands; if so, how does it stand with the Government's commitment to regional needs and the Government's assurance that, where practical, local companies would win contracts?

(2) What can be done to ensure that local contractors can get work in their home towns?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/7/00):

(1) The contract for the electrical component of the upgrade to the Malanda State High School Manual Arts Block was awarded to Babinda Electrics. Babinda Electrics is a Cairns based company and employs staff that live in the Tablelands area. Employees that live in Malanda will be working on this project. I am advised that the tender process was adhered to and was in accordance with the existing State Purchasing Policy.

(2) The new State Purchasing Policy gives greater flexibility to departments and agencies to use local

suppliers. It devolves buying power to the regions and will allow departments and agencies to shop around locally before considering going elsewhere. Government priorities, especially regional development, are now reflected in the new State Purchasing Policy. It means a better deal for regional business operators who will have better access to government markets. Under the new policy a range of factors, not just the lowest price, must be taken into account when considering value for money. These factors include the contribution a particular purchase or contract may make to local employment and regional development. All these changes add up to more opportunities for regional business operators seeking government contracts.

#### 465. Mudgeeraba and Nerang Police Stations, Resources

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (30/5/00)—

What is the current level, at 1 May 2000, at Mudgeeraba and Nerang Police Stations of (a) authorised strength and ranks, (b) current vacancies, (c) total number of vehicles and types allocated and (d) monthly overtime available and used?

**Mr BARTON** (29/6/00):

(a) Mudgeeraba Station has an approved strength of twenty-two (22) officers:- One (1) Senior Sergeant, Three (3) Sergeants, Six (6) Senior Constables, Twelve (12) Constables.

Nerang Station has an approved strength of twenty-one (21) officers:- One (1) Senior Sergeant, Three (3) Sergeants, Five (5) Senior Constables, Twelve (12) Constables.

(b) Vacancies: Mudgeeraba has a current vacancy for one (1) Constable position and Nerang has a current vacancy for one (1) Senior Constable position.

(c) Vehicles allocated to Mudgeeraba Station: Two sedans, a bus and a Four wheel drive Divisional van which is allocated on a share basis with Nerang Station. Vehicles allocated to Nerang Station: Two (2) sedans, plus a further sedan allocated and waiting supply. A Four wheel drive Divisional van which is allocated on a share basis with Mudgeeraba Station.

(d) Overtime: Nerang Station has an annual overtime allocation of 360 hours, and as at 19 May 2000 has used 349 hours of that allocation.

Mudgeeraba Station has an annual overtime allocation of 406 hours, and as at 19 May 2000 has used 363 hours of that allocation.

The Officer In Charge of each station is responsible for the monthly allocation of the overtime and management of the overtime allocation.

#### 466. Maryborough, Foster Care

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (30/5/00)—

With reference to a serious concern which has been raised whereby officers of the Department of

Families, Youth and Community Care (DFYCC), Maryborough have been accused of acting in a criminal manner by instructing a foster carer to falsely claim care payments for a three year old girl who is a ward of the State and that foster carer has been directed to receive the foster care payments into her banking account, then withdraw the payment from that account and hand that payment over in cash to an unregistered carer, and further that the foster carer has produced the cash payment to witnesses prior to handing it over to an unregistered foster carer as instructed by DFYCC staff—

(1) Will she confirm that it was senior officers of the Maryborough office of DFYCC who laid allegations of fraud and misappropriation against a Hervey Bay community service organisation in May 1999?

(2) Will she confirm that a Housing Department internal audit, later supplied to DFYCC, found that those allegations of fraud and misappropriation were found to be false and that the community service organisation was congratulated on its financial management by the Housing Department's manager of internal audit?

**Ms BLIGH** (30/6/00):

(1) A number of allegations of fraud and misappropriation have been made against a Hervey Bay service, by people associated with the service, to the Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland. Officers of my Department were obliged to raise these allegations with the service.

(2) I am advised that the Department of Housing's internal auditor undertook a limited financial audit. In relation to the findings of that inquiry, the Honourable member should direct his question to the Minister for Public Works and Housing.

#### 467. Eumundi Bypass

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/5/00)—

With reference to a Question on Notice in December 1999, regarding the current status of the proposed Eumundi Bypass in which I asked when construction was expected to commence and to his reply on 22 December, in part, "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" and as we are now about to enter the next financial year—

Is construction about to commence on this by-pass road; if not, why not?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (30/6/00): Construction will commence after the annual rodeo held at the Eumundi Show and Rodeo Grounds. Main Roads agreed to a request from the local organisation responsible for the rodeo not to commence construction until after that event.

#### 468. Logan Electorate, Capital Works

**Mr MICKEL** asked the Minister for Education (30/5/00)—

- (1) How much has been spent on capital works in the Logan electorate from 1 July 1999 to 30 April 2000?
- (2) Which schools received funding and how much did each school receive?

**Mr WELLS** (3/7/00): The Honourable Member is referred to Budget Paper Number 5 Capital Statement that details those projects with an estimated expenditure of \$250,000 or greater.

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. The department informs me that it would be misleading to provide a list of projects that have not yet proceeded to tender stage.

#### 469. Hymenachne

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (30/5/00)—

With reference to the contents of his department's publication titled Consultation Draft National Strategy for the management of Hymenachne and the lack of action Queensland Governments have taken since the release of this invasive aquatic weed and as it is apparent that the resolutions I tabled on 18 May 2000 will not be acted upon in the near future, if at all, and this being the case, I am sure he will agree that our community, our wetlands and international stakeholders who have signed off on treaties such as the Ramsar Convention deserve immediate action to halt the destruction of our natural aquatic environment. The practical solution, not only for the control of Hymenachne but all exotic water weed species, is that the State Government consider providing an aquatic weed harvester valued at approximately \$200,000 to the Burdekin region. Maintenance of wetlands following the use of this equipment will ensure that chemical control in sensitive areas is kept to an absolute minimum and as funding for this equipment can be sourced from the National Heritage Trust's budget for \$25,000,000 that has been set aside for Weeds of National Significance—

Is he prepared to fund this aquatic weed harvester to stop the spread of Hymenachne which has already become an environmental disaster within the Burdekin region?

**Mr WELFORD** (29/6/00): The use of an aquatic plant harvester is an expensive and temporary measure that is likely to fragment the plant's stolons (stems) and cause more rapid proliferation. Hymenachne spreads from broken fragments as well as seeds. In addition, most hymenachne grows in very shallow areas and narrow ditches where a harvester would be unable to gain access or float in free water. A harvester will remove the top of the plants and is not considered to be an effective solution for a plant that is capable of very rapid regrowth from underground stems.

#### 470. Woorabinda Aboriginal Centre

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (30/5/00)—

With reference to my visit to the Woorabinda Aboriginal Centre on 23 May, where it was pointed out that there is need for the social worker, whose funding runs out in about September, to continue the excellent work he performs at the school with regard to attendance and behaviour management and as this school is really making wonderful steps forward under the guidance of Sue Ellen Carlton and her helpers—

Will she take up with the appropriate people the need for the funding so that this person can continue this excellent work?

**Ms SPENCE** (29/6/00): I thank the Member for Keppel for his question on continued funding for a social worker at the Woorabinda State Primary School.

I am aware that the Woorabinda State Primary School is receiving funding assistance from the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) under a Pilot Program.

A Positive Schooling Project under this Pilot Program, the Woorabinda initiative commenced on 31 January 2000 and is due for completion on 6 October 2000.

The Project addresses the attendance and retention of children at school by developing the children's social skills and self-esteem, thereby dealing with a significant truancy problem.

It is about fostering students and parents commitment and pride in the school and their community.

DEETYA will review the Project in July 2000 and evaluate achievements attained and its effectiveness.

I would like to commend the Principal of the Woorabinda State Primary School, Ms Sue-Ellen Carlton and DEETYA on their positive initiative to assist the parents and students to achieve their educational goals.

Staff from the Rockhampton Regional Office of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development will liaise with the Woorabinda State School, Education Queensland and DEETYA with a view to participating in the review of this project and, in addition, investigating its potential for implementation in other areas in Central Queensland.

#### 471. Dairy Industry

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (30/5/00)—

Will he represent the dairy industry at Cabinet and apply pressure for the Queensland Government to apply the \$98m benefit from NCP to assist the dairy industry cope with the looming crisis in the Queensland dairy industry?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (28/6/00): I refer the Honourable member to my two previous replies to very similar questions on notice (Nos 230 and 339) from the Shadow Minister for Primary Industries the Hon M Rowell.

Queensland will receive no competition payments associated with dairy industry deregulation, consequently there is not and has never been any \$98 million payment.

#### **472. Primary Industries Department Call Centres**

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (30/5/00)—

- (1) Will he inform the Parliament regarding the operations of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Call Centres?
- (2) Have the people employed been involved in DPI activities previously?
- (3) What is their level of skill?
- (4) In the event of an employee having limited knowledge of the request made, what is the procedure to provide an adequate response?
- (5) What is the cost of operating the call centre?
- (6) Has a survey been carried out with client satisfaction; if so, what were the results?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (28/6/00):

(1) The DPI Call Centre provides access to DPI's information, products and services for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Queensland. Since the Call Centre opened in July 1997, the volume of calls has increased by 437%. The total calls taken is currently over 240,000.

The Call Centre is open from 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and messages can be left after hours which will be returned the following day. The Call Centre can also be contacted via Web and a reply will be sent within two working days. To better service the primary producers, the Call Centre remains open on Brisbane Show Day and between Christmas and New Year.

The Call Centre offers extensive assistance to Queensland clients on a diverse range of calls. They do annual brands returns over the telephone, fax, post or email information to a client or transfer the call to a specialist in their local area.

The Call Centre has a Key Performance Indicator of eighty per cent of calls to be answered within twenty-five seconds. Currently Call Centre staff are answering 86% of calls within twenty-five seconds.

Over the past three years, the Call Centre has successfully won contracts and provided Call Centre services for the Department of Mines and Energy, the Department of Natural Resources and Queensland Farmers Federation.

The DPI Call Centre has introduced an Advanced Performance Management Program, which measures the productivity and quality of service provided by each officer. This program ensures a guaranteed level of service is provided by the Call Centre at all times and keeps customer service at a standard of excellence.

(2) Of the ten full-time employees in the Call Centre, five have been employed in the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for over ten years. Another two were previously working in other Government Departments, being CITEC and Legal Aid. The remaining three have had extensive Call Centre experience in commercial environments. All have been appointed on merit and underwent an intense interview process before being employed in the DPI Call Centre.

(3) It takes six weeks of intense training before Information Officers are skilled enough to answer DPI calls. This induction period involves visits to research stations, briefings by business groups, and one-on-one double jacking (listening via a headset) to inbound calls.

They constantly undergo both soft skills training and product training to ensure they are kept up-to-date with all current information, products and services within every business group.

Information Officers in the Call Centre provide information from existing resources, they cannot provide advice. If advice is required they transfer the call to the appropriate specialist in that area.

Some of the training they have undertaken recently is below:

**SOFT TRAINING**—Achieving Excellence within Call Centre; Assertion Skills; Effective Teams; Dealing with Difficult Customer Situations; Managing Team Dynamics; Time Management; Client Service Excellence; Managing Client Behaviour; Stress Management; Performance Management, Productivity/Quality; Call Monitoring; Coaching; Knowledge and Skill Job Mastery; Productivity and Quality; Management Training on Caller Wait Time, Service Level and Abandonment Rate.

**PRODUCT TRAINING**—Infopest Product Knowledge; Stock Movement; Fisheries, Rules and Regulations; Plant Movement; Building Rural Leaders; Futureprofit; Forestry; Termites; Vegetation Management; Dairy Deregulation.

(4) The DPI Call Centre Information Officers can only provide information, not advice. Service Level Agreements (SLAs) exist between the Call Centre and every business group in DPI. SLAs ensure that a nominated contact referral (specialist) is assigned for each call subject within every business group.

If we cannot provide information to the customer directly from our resources, we transfer the call to the nominated specialist. For further endorsement, our call logging system allows us to email the specialist directly from our call record, should they not be available to return the call.

In turn, the specialist has an agreed amount of time to respond and they must email the Information Officer in the Call Centre back to let them know they have returned the client's call and resolved the query. This process guarantees the customer a return call and eliminates the risk of unresolved calls.

(5) The cost of operating the Call Centre is approximately \$700,000 a year. Salaries are approximately \$566,000 and the remainder is allocated for telephony costs (\$9,000-\$13,000 per



month), maintenance of software, training, postage and system updates.

(6) Five per cent of all DPI clients are surveyed daily from calls taken at least two weeks prior to ensure clients contacted have had time to receive information requested. Questions are asked such as the value of the information the client received, the friendliness and professionalism of the operators, and the likelihood of using the Call Centre services again.

Survey results from the past six months indicate that:

97% would continue to use the Call Centre's services;

97% rated the courtesy and friendliness of the Call Centre staff very good to excellent;

96% said the level of professionalism of Call Centre staff was very good to excellent.

#### 473. HITT and HITT Plus Schemes

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/5/00)—

With reference to the HITT and HITT Plus Schemes—

By each individual group, what is the quantum and percentage of the training levy paid by Housing Queensland to these groups for work undertaken in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date)?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/7/00): See Attachment A for the quantum and percentage of training component, or training levy, allocated to each group training company under the HITT and HITT Plus schemes in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (year to date).

It is important to note that there are two parts to each HITT project, one being the commercial component and the other the training component. The training component allocated to each group training company is based on a percentage of the commercial component and can therefore vary significantly, depending on the type and nature of projects available for allocation to each group training company.

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

#### 474. John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (30/5/00)—

With reference to allegations, at the Forde Inquiry into the abuse of children in Queensland institutions, that a former employee of the department was involved in handcuffing a youth to a fence at the John Oxley Detention Centre—

(1) Was the girl, while in the care of the State, a victim of an improper relationship with an employee at the centre; if so, did the department draw this matter to the attention of the Forde Inquiry?

(2) At the time of handcuffing, had the girl chained to the fence overnight only recently returned to John Oxley after spending three months in psychiatric care in Wolston Park Hospital?

(3) Had the youth worker concerned been recommended for disciplinary action because of that improper relationship?

**Ms BLIGH** (30/6/00):

(1) Yes. Further, details of this matter were provided in full to:

Messrs Morris and Howard for their investigation in 1996 (see pp 30-32 of the Report of An Investigation into Allegations by Mr Kevin Lindeberg and Allegations by Mr Gordon Harris and Mr John Reynolds)

The Criminal Justice Commission in 1998 for its investigation into the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

The Forde Commission of Inquiry in 1998-99

(2) Yes.

(3) Yes. See (1).

#### 475. Dairy Industry

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (30/5/00)—

(1) What protection is he putting in place regarding the dairy farmers who, due to deregulation, will now face total financial ruin?

(2) Is he going to use all the \$98m coming to Queensland from the Federal Government's NCP finance package that was set up to specifically compensate all Queensland dairy farmers?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (28/6/00): I refer the Honourable member to my three previous replies to very similar questions on notice (No's. 230, 339 and 471) from the Shadow Minister for Primary Industries the Hon M Rowell and Mr Elliott.

Queensland will receive no competition payments associated with dairy industry deregulation, consequently there is not and has never been any \$98 million payment.

As I advised in my second reading speech for the recently introduced Dairy Amendment Bill, every effort will be made, within existing programs and resources to assist farmers with the deregulation process. At my initiative, State and the Commonwealth Agriculture Ministers will be establishing a high level taskforce to monitor and evaluate regional impacts of dairy deregulation and make recommendations if existing programs are deficient. A group has been established at the State level with industry and government participation to feed into this process.

#### 476. Access Queensland

**Mr LAMING** asked the Premier (30/5/00)—

How much was originally budgeted for 1999-2000 and how much has his Government spent to date on establishing the "Access Queensland" name and web site domain and now that he is aware that a company dedicated to promoting Queensland primary industry produce to London has been registered under this name since 27 November 1998, will he now withdraw from using their name in any form unless agreed to by the company?

**Mr BEATTIE** (28/6/00): My Government has an active project initiative entitled "Access Queensland". This project is in the early development phase and discussions with regard to its longer term external identity are continuing.

#### 477. RNA Exhibition Ground, Upgrade

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (30/5/00)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 206 concerning the proposed development of a 7000 seat indoor sports stadium at the RNA exhibition ground—

- (1) Was the Chairman of the Brisbane Urban Renewal Taskforce, Mr Trevor Reddacliff, misquoted when it was reported in the media that the proposed multi-million dollar upgrade of the RNA was a product of talks between the State Government and the Brisbane City Council?
- (2) Did any such talks take place between the State Government and the Brisbane City Council and was his department involved?
- (3) When will a decision be made on the proposed indoor sports stadium?
- (4) Are any other sites being considered for an indoor sports stadium similar to the one proposed for the RNA?
- (5) What stage have talks with the owner of the Brisbane Bullets reached in connection with the provision of an indoor sports stadium?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (29/6/00):

- (1) I cannot comment on whether Mr Reddacliff was misquoted in the media.
- (2) I refer the Member to the answer I tabled to Question on Notice Number 206.
- (3) My Department is currently undertaking a review of the need for an Indoor Stadium in Brisbane.
- (4) There are other sites proposed by various groups for a similar indoor arena.
- (5) The owner of the Brisbane Bullets has been made aware of the Indoor Arena review.

#### 478. Education House, Refurbishment

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Education (30/5/00)—

With reference to the refurbishment and accommodation changes in Education House—

- (1) How much has been spent refurbishing or altering accommodation on Floor 22, what was the scope of this work and what are the reasons for this expenditure?
- (2) How much has been spent refurbishing or altering accommodation on the remaining floors, what was the scope of this work and what are the reasons for this expenditure?

**Mr WELLS** (3/7/00):

- (1) Minor work only has been completed in the ministerial office on Floor 22 in 1999-2000. Power

points, computer connections and other wiring were provided to cater for the Parliamentary Secretary and two staff as well as the provision of two ergonomic chairs. In total \$2678.

In the Office of the Director-General the department informs me that work stations for the five administrative support officers located in this work area, relocating and updating computer and telephone lines and professional fees was \$16,922.

(2) The department informs me that refurbishment has been carried out on other floors as a part of a plan to reduce the overall amount of office space. To the end of May 2000 \$2.7m has been expended (in line with government policy and a space audit conducted by QPM Property Management in November 1998). This will achieve a saving in recurrent expenditure by Education Queensland, by the relinquishment of three and a half floors of Education House. The department informs me that the rental savings generated by the relinquishment of three and a half floors of Education House will ensure that this project is cost neutral.

#### 479. Education Department, Director-General

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Education (30/5/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Government funded trips his Director-General, Mr Moran, has made to Victoria since 18 September 1999—

- (1) What was the date of each trip?
- (2) What was the cost of each trip?
- (3) What was the purpose of each trip?
- (4) Which Victorian Government officials and bureaucrats did Mr Moran meet on each trip?
- (5) With whom else did Mr Moran meet?
- (6) What was the cost of entertaining each person listed in (4) and (5)?
- (7) Which other departmental officers accompanied Mr Moran on these trips?

**Mr WELLS** (3/7/00): The office of the Director-General has provided details of travel of the Director-General (Mr Terry Moran). I refer the Honourable Member to attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 480. Nambour Hospital

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Health (30/5/00)—

With reference to the many people who are employed to assist in the delivery of health services at the Nambour General Hospital—

- (1) How have the employment statistics at the Nambour General Hospital changed, if at all, since the date of the last State election?
- (2) In particular (a) how many people have full-time employment and where are they employed in comparison to at the date of the last State election, (b) how many people have part-time employment and where are they employed in comparison to at the date of the last State

election, (c) how many people have casual employment and where are they employed in comparison to at the date of the last State election and (d) are there any other people employed to assist in the delivery of health services at the Nambour General Hospital who are not identified in any of the above categories; if so, what do they do and how many people are in this category?

- (3) In relation to the part of this question which relates to full-time employment, how many people, if any, are employed on a contract basis and (a) what duties do these contracts cover, (b) what is the duration of these contracts of employment and (c) what is the process of review undertaken before any person's employment contract is extended or renewed?

**Mrs EDMOND (29/6/00):**

(1 & 2) Employment comparisons are only available on a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) basis. FTE figures include all paid leave (eg sick leave, recreation leave, and overtime). There were 768.91 FTE employees at May 2000 compared with 760.94 FTE at the date of the last State election. There has been an increase in part-time employees over this period from 218.5 FTE at July 98 to 234.8 at May 2000. Casual employees declined marginally from 102.54 at July 1998 to 94.88 at May 2000. There are three employees currently paid on contract for the provision of clinical services on a sessional basis. Two of these provide services to the Day Procedure Unit and one provides dental services.

(3) There are no full-time staff employed at Nambour General Hospital on a contract basis.

#### **481. Kuranda State Emergency Service**

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (30/5/00)—

With reference to recent reports of damage to the Kuranda State Emergency Service building, amenities block and equipment—

- (1) What was the cause and the extent of the damage?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of repair and replacement of buildings and equipment?
- (3) Who will meet those costs, when will funding be made available and when will reparation occur?

**Mr ROBERTSON (29/6/00):**

(1) The damage to the building was caused when a vehicle belonging to the Queensland Ambulance Service rolled down an embankment and came to rest against the SES building. The damage to the SES building appears to be limited to external and internal sheeting and part of the internal steel frame which was bent. There was no damage to equipment.

(2) The estimated cost of repair is approximately \$1000.

(3) The Mareeba Shire Council will undertake the repairs to the building when the insurance claim is finalised. It is understood that the QAS vehicle is insured with RACQ Insurance and that Mareeba

Shire Council will be seeking a refund for the cost of repairs from RACQ Insurance.

#### **482. Miriam Vale Shire, Forest and Timber Reserve**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (30/5/00)—

With reference to correspondence in which Director of Policy and Operations, Des Boyland, advises a third party of the Government's intentions to transfer 425,000 hectares of State forest and timber reserve, including the Eurimbula Corridor, to conservation reserve—

- (1) Why is it that the affected local government authority, Miriam Vale Shire Council, has yet to be advised (either formally or verbally) of the State Government's decision on the future of the relevant land parcel in their shire?
- (2) How will this decision affect the proposed road reserve, to facilitate long-term town planning for access between the Agnes Water area through Turkey Beach to Gladstone, which has been part of council's town plan since 1986, and which has already been surveyed with the approval of Environment Department officers?
- (3) How will this proposal affect council negotiations over the proposed excision of four hectares of Deepwater National Park land to ensure feasibility of this corridor?
- (4) Has his department fully considered the need for a corridor/reserve for future infrastructure needs, i.e. tourism and population growth, road traffic, water pipes, etc. and to ensure State development is not strangled by lack of foresight and long-term planning?
- (5) What is the status of TR102 and TR166?

**Mr WELFORD (29/6/00):**

(1) Under the Queensland Government Plan, a two-step process is proposed whereby former non-plantation State Forests and Timber Reserves within the Queensland Plan are to be placed, on an interim basis, in a new tenure under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 called Forest Reserve. During the five-year Forest Reserve tenure period, assessments will be undertaken on each of the State Forest and Timber Reserves to enable the appropriate protected area category to be finalised. All Local Governments will be consulted during this period.

(2) The Eurimbula Timber Reserve has been a long term National Park proposal, which may be expedited under the Queensland Government Plan. The proposed service and utilities corridor would be excluded from the gazettal area.

(3) If the Timber Reserve is ultimately dedicated as National Park under the Queensland Government Plan, a revocation proposal would be required to justify the excision of protected area lands against the significance of their conservation values. Protected areas within Miriam Vale Shire Council's jurisdiction have been subject to a high level of incursions in the past, with a net loss to the conservation estate as a result.

(4) My Environmental Protection Agency has continually sought to be involved in long term planning and development issues affecting the region's future requirements.

(5) Both Timber Reserves have been assessed as containing high conservation values under the Queensland Government Plan. The forest reserves will be progressively transferred to the appropriate protected area category following the determination of conservation values and current land use, after consultation with stakeholder groups. The lands will continue to be managed by the Department of Primary Industries until a decision on the most appropriate protected area tenure has been made.

#### 483. Bus Subsidy, South-west Queensland

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/5/00)—

With reference to the subsidy presently paid by the Queensland Government in relation to certain essential bus services which operate to south-west Queensland—

- (1) Is he aware that if these subsidised services were discontinued, many people in remote Queensland would be isolated from all transport?
- (2) Are these subsidies to be withdrawn by the Beattie Labor Government?
- (3) Will he give an assurance that these subsidies will continue?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (30/6/00): (1, 2 & 3) This Government is aware of the importance of long-distance bus services to residents of outback western Queensland and it is our intention to continue to provide funding to support these services during the 2000/2001 financial year.

#### 484. Watchhouses

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (30/5/00)—

Will he detail (a) the number of watchhouses in use in Queensland, (b) the location of these watchhouses, (c) the average cost of running a watchhouse per year and (d) what new watchhouses will be built in 2000-2001?

**Mr BARTON** (29/6/00):

(a) The Queensland Police Service currently has 201 commissioned detention facilities. Of these, 62 are classified as watchhouse (suitable for detention beyond 24 hours) and 139 are classified as holding cells (suitable for detention for up to 24 hours).

(b) The 62 watchhouses are located at: Aurukun, Ayr, Bamaga, Brisbane City, Beenleigh, Bowen, Bundaberg, Caboolture, Cairns, Charleville, Charters Towers, Cleveland, Cooktown, Coolangatta, Cunnamulla, Dalby, Doomadgee, Emerald, Gatton, Gladstone, Goondiwindi, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Holland Park, Inala, Innisfail, Ipswich, Kingaroy, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Longreach, Mackay, Mareeba, Maroochydore, Maryborough, Moranbah, Mornington Island, Mossman, Mount. Isa, Murgon, Noosa Heads, Normanton, Palm Island, Petrie,

Pormpuraaw, Proserpine, Redcliffe, Rockhampton, Roma, Sandgate, Southport, Stanthorpe, St. George, Thursday Island, Toowoomba, Townsville, Warwick, Weipa, Whitsunday, Woorabinda, Wynnum, and Yarrabah

(c) Watchhouses across Queensland vary in size and functional activity. In some instances they form part of the local police station structure, whilst in larger centres they are represented as stand alone establishments. It is extremely difficult therefore to offer an average running cost per year.

In some instances the costs of running are contained within the Divisional/District budgets. It should also be noted that costs may fluctuate between establishments based on the size, location, staffing and activity of the individual watchhouse.

(d) This information will be contained in the 2000-01 Budget documents when they are released.

#### 485. WorkCover, Regional Services

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement to the Parliament of 14 March 2000 regarding so-called boosts to WorkCover Queensland service levels in regional Queensland and the great concern to interested parties that he chooses to identify only one service level indicator as evidence that service levels in regional WorkCover branches have improved when anybody with experience in the insurance industry would know that decision time on claims can be reduced by simply making decisions without adequate investigation—

- (1) Does he agree that there are other important indicators which should be analysed as well?
- (2) Will he provide advice to the House on the statistics regarding average claims costs and duration of statutory claims?
- (3) Will he provide statistics which compare statutory claims payments for the year to date with statutory payments for the same time in the previous two years?

**Mr BRADY** (29/6/00):

(1) There are a number of indicators which should and are being analysed and monitored by WorkCover, especially to measure the effectiveness of WorkCover's service levels.

(2) Comparative total claims costs—

Average cost of finalised time lost claim:  
1997/1998—\$4,282; 1998/1999—\$4,297;  
1999/2000\*—\$4,304.

Average duration of finalised time lost claim:  
1997/1998—29.3; 1998/1999—27.3;  
1999/2000\*—27.3.

\* YTD to 31.5.00

The slight increase in average statutory claim cost has kept well below the increase in the average weekly earnings over the same period.

After the realisation of the current strategy to finalise older claims, durations are expected to reduce further.

- (3) Year to end May—Cost  
 1997/98—\$142M  
 1998/99—\$152M  
 1999/00—\$169M

Reasons for the increase in claim payments, notably in the past year, include increases in:

- medical and rehabilitation payments to assist in returning injured workers to work sooner;
- additional lump sums for injured workers with serious injuries; and
- weekly compensation due to an increase in average weekly earnings.

#### 486. Private Training Providers

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

With reference to the two user choice compliance audits released so far through Freedom of Information releases and information processes—

- (1) As he has had much to say about any shortcomings by private training providers, what does he have to say about an institute where trainees have had to wait up to 9 months for their training plans or training record books which are supposed to be prepared and issued during the trainee's probationary period?
- (2) What has he done in relation to the audit report which has major segments censored out on the grounds that public knowledge of these censored segments would tarnish the reputation of the particular institute and negatively affect the reputation of other TAFE institutes?

**Mr BRADY** (29/6/00):

(1) It is not appropriate or acceptable for any provider, whether public or private to keep trainees waiting up to 9 months for their training plans or training record books. Where such matters have been identified during user choice compliance audits the Department has taken action to ensure that the trainee is provided with everything needed to complete the training program.

(2) The audit report referred to by Mr Santoro resulted in the TAFE Institute being suspended from delivering the training program that was audited until all issues raised were addressed and rectified to the satisfaction of the Director-General of my Department. The TAFE Institute Director developed an intensive action plan, which documented the methods of rectifying all breaches identified. In addition a weekly update was provided and a complete review of the Institute's delivery of structured training was conducted.

#### 487. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Vehicle Resources

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

Will he list the number of officers of his department who are currently provided with vehicles that carry

private (i.e. non-Government) number plates, their title, official classification (eg SES2, SO1, AO7) and make and value of vehicle supplied (names of individual officers are not required)?

**Mr BRADY** (29/6/00): Yes. Relevant information is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 488. Southbank TAFE Institute, Coorparoo Campus

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

With reference to frequent significant public comments and a financial commitment to maintain and expand the TAFE facility at Coorparoo, including the Queen Alexandra Home made by the current Member for Greenslopes and members of the current Cabinet prior to the 1998 election—

Will he provide an up-to-date status report in relation to this facility?

**Mr BRADY** (29/6/00): The Coorparoo TAFE campus and Queen Alexandra Home are surplus to Southbank Institute's requirements and were identified by the Institute for disposal. Negotiations with Education Queensland for the sale of the properties should be finalised early in the new financial year.

On completion of the acquisition Education Queensland intends to refurbish the facility prior to use.

#### 489. Apprentices

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

With reference to Table 1, page 16 of "Apprenticeships and Traineeships: Queensland Trends" by his departmental officer, Dr Larry Smith—

In relation to public sector apprentices employed up until 1 March this year, under his Government's employment initiative, will he provide the percentage distribution by age, using Dr Smith's criteria?

**Mr BRADY** (29/6/00): It is not possible at this time to provide the data in the format requested because of the nature of the construction of the database for Public Sector Apprenticeships. Modifications to the database to retrieve the information of the sort requested should be completed in the second half of this year and could be supplied at that time if still required.

#### 490. Private Training Provider, Audit

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

Will he explain why a departmental audit team from the Gold Coast office conducted an Australian Recognition Framework (ARF) audit of a private training provider in mid-December 1999 when a similar audit team from the Mount Gravatt office, having conducted a similar ARF audit in October 1999, had provided the training provider with certification up until March 2003?

**Mr BRADY** (29/6/00): The ARF compliance audit undertaken in October 1999 focused on the vocational training areas of Business and General Education and Training. Late in 1999, the Department received an application from the training provider to extend the scope of its registration in the vocational training area of Information Technology. This application obliged the Department to conduct an audit, in December 1999 of the training provider's capacity to deliver training in this vocational training area. Such an audit is a standard procedure prior to an extension of scope.

#### 491. Brisbane TAFE Institute, Oxford Park Campus

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 541 of 26 August 1998 in which he gives an assurance that the Brisbane Institute of TAFE will maintain a training presence at the TAFE facility at Oxford Park in 1999 and beyond—

- (1) What training programs have been conducted at the Oxford Park facility in the current semester?
- (2) What training programs are planned for the facility in semester 2 this year?

**Mr BRADY** (29/6/00):

(1) Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE currently delivers training at Oxford Park by arrangement with Brisbane Institute of TAFE. The program being conducted in Semester I is Certificate III in Agriculture which is one of the nationally endorsed programs. The competencies delivered to both full-time and part-time students at Oxford Park include:

- AG1100EO—Operate equipment
- AG2100EO—Operate ride on vehicles
- AG2102EO—Operate tractors
- AG2133EM—Perform routine maintenance
- AG4131EM—Maintain farm improvements
- AG2521DY—Carry out basic fencing ops
- AG2522DY—Carry out basic irrigation routines
- AG3532DY—Establish crops and pastures
- AG3536BC—Prepare cattle for competition
- AG3526DY—Implement sustainable land use
- AG2700HB—Carry out daily horse routines
- AG3705HB—Carry out basic hoof care procedures
- RUHHRT222A—Operate and maintain chainsaws

Student numbers vary from 8 to 20 per day

(2) The same training programs from Certificate III in Agriculture are planned for Semester II.

#### 492. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 2030 of 7 December 1999—

Will he indicate the number of overseas travel reports which were outstanding as of 1 May 2000, together with the date each officer had returned to Queensland at the conclusion of his/her trip?

**Mr BRADY** (29/6/00): There were 2 outstanding travel reports as of 1 May 2000.

Return dates for these two officers were: 16 March 2000; 25 March 2000

Both reports have now been submitted.

#### 493. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

- (1) Will he table the letters mentioned in his responses to Questions on Notice of 10 March 1999 and 14 April 1999 and referred to on page 73 of the Auditor-General's Report Number 4 of 1999-2000?
- (2) Will he ensure that these letters are dated and if they are not, will he provide a statement indicating when they were signed and exchanged?

**Mr BRADY** (29/6/00): The correct process for seeking such documentation is pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

#### 494. Community Jobs Plan

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 262—

In compiling the statistical table which forms part of his response, what is the definition of "employment" used by his department (specifically, is it full-time, permanent employment)?

**Mr BRADY** (29/6/00): For the purpose of statistical reporting, employment is defined as either full time (in excess of 20 hours per week), or part time (less than 20 hours per week).

#### 495. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Consultancies

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

- (1) Will he table the consultancy performance report for all consultancies over \$10,000 which have been entered into by his department since he assumed office?
- (2) Where such reports (required under Part C, Section 7 and Appendix F of the Queensland Government's Purchasing Policy) have not been completed, will he indicate (a) the total cost of the relevant consultancy and (b) the reason the required report has not been completed?

**Mr BRADY** (29/6/00): (1 & 2) A detailed analysis is currently being undertaken. As a result, an answer to the question cannot be provided in the time available.

A response to the question will be provided as soon as possible.

#### 496. Vegetation Management Legislation

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Premier (30/5/00)—

With reference to the Government's Community Cabinet Meeting in Roma and after continuous opposition and protests against aspects of the Vegetation Management Legislation, he made verbal commitments to the people assembled that he would withdraw certain aspects of the legislation before it comes into force—

- (1) What are the areas of the legislation that will be withdrawn?
- (2) When will the Government's amendments be presented to Parliament?
- (3) Will he guarantee to all concerned that these amendments will be passed through the House before the implementation of the Bill?

**Mr BEATTIE** (28/6/00):

(1) As I have indicated in the past, unless the Commonwealth Government makes available significant funding for financial assistance to affected landholders, the Vegetation Management Act 1999 will be amended to remove the blanket protection for 'of concern' regional ecosystems.

(2) In the absence of significant Commonwealth funding, amendments will be presented to Parliament before the end of this year.

(3) In the absence of significant Commonwealth funding, Sections of the Act which give protection to 'of concern' regional ecosystems will be excluded from being proclaimed.

#### 497. Sunshine Coast, Radiation Therapy Services

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (30/5/00)—

With reference to the 7,913 signature petition I tabled a fortnight ago which clearly shows strong community support for radiation therapy services to be provided on the Sunshine Coast and an additional 500 signature petition which has today been tabled—

Will she provide public radiation therapy on the Sunshine Coast and specialist outpatient appointments and will she take up my call to purchase public treatment from the new private provider who is installing a linear accelerator in Nambour to provide more immediate and timely access for treatment to save on patient travel time and to improve health outcomes?

**Mrs EDMOND** (29/6/00): As an adjunct to the multimillion dollar redevelopment of Caloundra and Nambour Hospitals, and community health services on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland Health will continue to monitor and plan for future tertiary services at Nambour. This exercise, however, will be based on clinical and economic viability, taking into

account the competing needs of all Queensland communities.

I must point out that Labor's earlier planning for tertiary services at Nambour Hospital were scrapped by the Coalition Government. Instead, the Coalition Government redirected capital funding from Nambour to the Caloundra Hospital redevelopment and recurrent funding was redirected from Nambour to the private hospital at Noosa.

It is premature to comment on the purchase of services from the planned private radiotherapy service at Nambour. As previously advised, a number of strategies have commenced to improve radiotherapy services in South East Queensland. These include extended shifts and the ordering of a second replacement linear accelerator at the Mater Centre and additional shifts at the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

#### 498. Public Housing

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/5/00)—

With reference to 1999-2000 and further to Question on Notice No. 334 in relation to the public housing capital works program—

- (1) What is the number of spot purchases (year to date)?
- (2) What is the anticipated total of spot purchases for 1999-2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/7/00): I am advised by the Department of Housing that:

- (1) As at 31 May 2000, 15 dwellings had been purchased.
- (2) It is anticipated that a total of 20 dwellings will be purchased in 1999-2000.

#### 499. Art Built-In, Capital Works

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/5/00)—

With reference to the Art Built-In program—

- (1) How much of his respective departments' capital works budgets has been expended under this program?
- (2) What is the anticipated expenditure of his respective departments' capital works budgets in 1999-2000 under this program?
- (3) How much of client departments' capital works budgets has been expended under this program by his departments?
- (4) What is the anticipated expenditure of client departments' capital works budgets in 1999-2000 by his departments under this program?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/7/00): I am delighted the Honourable Member has shown some interest in this issue as none of his colleagues appear to be interested.

- (1) As at 30 May 2000 the Department of Public Works expenditure was \$118,535.70.
- (2) The anticipated expenditure by Department of Public Works in 1999/2000 is \$138,535.70.

(3) As at 30 May 2000, the amount of expenditure by the Department of Public Works, of client departments' capital works budgets on this program is \$123,000.

(4) The anticipated expenditure by the Department of Public Works of client departments' capital works budgets on this program in 1999/2000 is \$163,000.

#### 500. Computer Virus, Government Network

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (30/5/00)—

With reference to the most recent spate of a viral infection of e-mail networks throughout the world of the "love bug"—

- (1) What systems/practices were implemented by the Queensland Government to maximise its prevention defences against infection?
- (2) Did this include the complete shutdown of the entire Government e-mail network; if so, how long were the systems shutdown?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (29/6/00):

(1) All agencies contacted by my Department following the virus release on 8 May 2000 confirmed they had virus scanning software in place. The virus deployed so rapidly however, that most automatic checking systems could not initially detect it. Infected systems had the virus removed by local prevention software running directly on the machines or by removing the machine from the network and reinstalling all software.

(2) Seventeen agencies were directly affected to varying degrees. Fifteen agencies suspended email operations for short periods of time over the weekend (6-7 May 2000) due to infection or as a precautionary measure.

#### 501. Certification of Plumbers

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (30/5/00)—

With reference to the Integrated Planning Legislation which received bipartisan support for its introduction and as the Coalition is prepared to offer bipartisan support for self-certification of plumbing development approvals and as many plumbers currently work on a contract basis—

Will he, as Minister for Local Government, proceed with enabling legislation for plumbing private certification to occur, or is he captivated by his mates in the Plumbers' and Drainers' Union?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (29/6/00): No.

#### 502. Cannon Hill Meatworks, Redevelopment

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (31/5/00)—

With reference to the proposed redevelopment of the Cannon Hill meatworks on a reduced area of land, with reduced area for the usual effluent ponds and considering the apparent intention to pipe effluent

into the Luggage Point sewerage works and the proximity of the residents' houses—

- (1) Will he reassure me and nearby residents that amenity will not be reduced by odour?
- (2) Will he give me some details of the odour reducing techniques that will be utilised?
- (3) Will he reassure the competitors of the Cannon Hill works that Cannon Hill is not being given special dispensation by the EPA?

**Mr ELDER** (30/6/00):

(1) Yes. Australian Country Choice (ACC) will introduce new environmental technology to its operations to ensure that it meets its environmental licence requirements.

(2) The EPA and ACC are currently in discussions to finalise the measures to be taken by ACC in order to comply with its licence and the relevant legislation. Additionally, ACC will connect to sewer as part of their arrangements.

(3) ACC understands the requirements imposed on it by its environmental licence. The company has not received special dispensation from the EPA.

#### 503. Molongle Creek Boat Club

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (31/5/00)—

With reference to the Molongle Creek Boat Club Inc, a volunteer non-profit community service group which has been trying to provide a safer and improved boating access for a totally supportive boating community for safety reasons and which has been established and maintained for over 20 years—

- (1) Have Government departmental personnel from his department stifled and hindered the club in every way possible in providing this community service?
- (2) As his departmental personnel have stopped all maintenance on the existing works, under pre-existing use rights shouldn't the club be allowed to continue to maintain the existing channel while the studies are carried out as this is paramount for the safety of thousands of users each year, especially considering his department personnel stated they would work towards finalising the situation by Christmas 1999?
- (3) Is it correct that since the Molongle Creek Boat Club's inception, the club has been providing the only safe access to over 200 tenured private holiday residential properties on Cape Upstart, which is essentially a Government responsibility, these properties having sea access only?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (28/6/00):

(1) Fisheries staff of the Department of Primary Industries have advised representatives of the Molongle Creek Boat Club about the statutory requirements under the Fisheries Act 1994 in response to a second section 51 permit application lodged by the Club to undertake channel works and allow for spoil disposal, in part on tidal lands.



An initial fisheries permit has been issued to allow the Molongle Creek Boat Club to undertake maintenance works at an adjacent boat ramp and along the channel wall of the Molongle Creek channel.

Fisheries staff have recognised the important role provided by the Molongle Creek Boat Club and its facility. To facilitate the assessment process, a site inspection was undertaken to confirm the required information needed to complete the process for the second permit application. To date this information has not been received.

Separately staff from the Department of Primary Industries, the Environmental Protection Agency and Queensland Transport have met to coordinate the approval processes across Government.

(2) I am advised that the Molongle Creek Boat Club has undertaken the required survey of the acid sulfate soils which may be exposed as a result of the proposed dredging of the access channel to the boat ramp. I understand that Queensland Transport assisted the Molongle Creek Boat Club in this survey and the subsequent assessment of the results. This information in conjunction with the required dredge spoil disposal plan is to be collated and provided to the three Government agencies to complete assessment of the proposed works.

(3) I understand that the boat ramp in question is the main facility for vessels accessing Cape Upstart and that the Government has provided financial support to the Molongle Creek Boat Club each year to allow for maintenance of the facility through the Bowen Shire Council.

#### 504. Official Misconduct

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Premier (31/5/00)—

With reference to the CJC's adverse findings against Dr Brian Head, Chief Executive of the Office of the Public Service, for failing to report suspected official misconduct in the McGaw sexual harassment matter to the CJC, and as the Premier has overall responsibility to the State to ensure that we are served by a clean and ethical public service and as he is responsible to the Parliament for the Criminal Justice Act 1989—

- (1) Will he reaffirm to the House and the public that there is a mandatory requirement on all principal officers of units of public administration as defined within the Act to report all suspected misconduct which they become aware of in the course of their public duties?
- (2) In order to restore public confidence in the integrity of the public service and allay any concerns that we have returned to the pre-Fitzgerald era, will he issue a service wide notice clearly spelling out that it is mandatory to duty, pursuant to section 37(2) of the Criminal Justice Act 1989, to report?
- (3) Will he confirm to the House that it is not the duty of any Minister, including himself, or principal officer of a unit of public administration to decide for him or herself as to whether or not any matters giving rise to suspected official misconduct which come before such public officials have been

investigated, but their duty is to report such matters to an appropriate authority for a proper impartial determination?

**Mr BEATTIE** (30/6/00):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Criminal Justice Act 1989 clearly spells out the mandatory reporting duty pursuant to section 37(2) and the legislation is an open easily accessible public document.
- (3) I refer the Honourable Member to my response to (1) above. The duty to report is established in the legislation and does not extend to Ministers.

#### 505. Cooroy Private Hospital

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Premier (31/5/00)—

With reference to the closure of the extremely well appointed Cooroy Community Private Hospital—

- (1) Did his Government attempt to avert this closure or did his Government turn a blind eye to channel more patients to the new and under-utilised Noosa hospital?
- (2) As this comes close on the heels of the sawmill closure in Cooroy, what plans does he have to ameliorate the catastrophic loss of jobs in this devastated community?

**Mr BEATTIE** (30/6/00):

- (1) It was the decision of the previous Government to award the Noosa Private Hospital contract.

As part of the development of the Noosa Private Hospital, the Department of Health arranged meetings between representatives of the Cooroy Community Private Hospital and Health Care of Australia, operators of the Noosa Private Hospital, for the purpose of encouraging the development of a strategic alliance between the two hospitals to more effectively provide, coordinate and manage the delivery of private health services in the surrounding district.

In addition to these formal meetings, a number of informal meetings were held between Cooroy Community Private Hospital management and representatives from the Department. Three meetings were held between these parties, the last being in February 1999. Advice provided to the Department by Cooroy Private Hospital management indicated that they and Health Care of Australia had decided to operate independently in the competitive private hospital market.

The Noosa Private Hospital caters for both public and private patients with the majority of available beds (74 of 109) being for public patients. As anticipated by the Department, utilisation of the Noosa Private Hospital has increased steadily over the last nine months as people within the catchment area gain awareness of the new facility and its increasing capacity to provide a range of services.

- (2) The Immediate Response Plan Group considers assistance for displaced workers throughout the State. The Group is comprised of officers from my Department, the Treasury Department and Departments of State Development (Chair), Communication and Information, Local Government

and Planning and Sport, Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland and Primary Industries.

At a meeting of the Group on 5 May 2000, members were advised of the Cooroy Community Private Hospital's potential closure and recommended the implementation of the Worker Assistance Program. The Program provides assistance up to the value of \$5,000 per worker for retraining, wage subsidy, career counselling, financial planning and relocation support.

The Manager of the Program met with all employees on 9 May 2000, and provided a summary of the assistance available to eligible workers under the Program. An Immediate Response Team, comprising of officers from the Department Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, provided a personal interview to explain the Program to all employees. This process commenced on 15 May 2000.

An office has been established in Cooroy with two staff to provide ongoing assistance to the workers for a period of up to three months. This office is located at the same venue established by the Department of State Development to support the Boral Timber Workers.

The Noosa Private Hospital has provided 250 jobs for people living in the area, which includes Cooroy. I would encourage those employees who have been displaced as a result of the Cooroy Community Private Hospital closure to register their interest in employment with the Nambour and Gympie public hospitals so that the Department can attempt to place them in suitable positions as vacancies arise. They may also register their interest in employment with the private hospitals in Noosa and Gympie.

#### **506. Bowen State High School, Teacher Resources**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Education (31/5/00)—

With reference to representations made to me by concerned members, parents and teachers of the Bowen State High School regarding staff shortages—

- (1) How many teachers are currently in full-time employment at Bowen State High School?
- (2) Is there a shortage of full-time teachers at Bowen State High School?
- (3) In the event of staff shortages, what assistance does Education Queensland provide to schools that are having extreme difficulty obtaining qualified teaching staff over a long period of time?

**Mr WELLS** (3/7/00): The department informs me that Bowen State High School is staffed according to the departmental allocative formula, as are all state high schools throughout the state. At present Bowen State High School has 47 teaching staff.

The department informs me that Bowen State High School has been dealing with unplanned vacancies following sick leave, retirements due to ill health, resignations or non-completion of temporary

engagements. The department informs me that there are two full-time vacancies for the beginning of term 3, which district office staff, in consultation with Bowen State High School is endeavouring to fill. Statewide searches are conducted through the human resource system and the network of district office staff. Education Queensland district office staff will work with school staff to examine possible measures to assist in the reduction of staff turnover.

#### **507. Child Protection**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (31/5/00)—

With reference to the Child Protection Act which states that a child is an individual under 18 years, which is supported by staff in her office, however parents approaching area officers for assistance are being told that it relates to children 12 years and under, but police and the Department of Family Services in regional areas do not seem to have an understanding of the Act resulting in the Child Protection Act not working and with media reports speaking of youth death and serious health concerns due to children being exposed to danger—

- (1) What is she doing to ensure that the lives of young people are not being wasted?
- (2) Does she support teenagers being allowed to go into drug safe houses?
- (3) Does she think that increased numbers of Chaplains present in our education facilities could assist in helping these young people?

**Ms BLIGH** (30/6/00):

(1) There has been intensive training and development of staff, both in Families, Youth and Community Care and the Queensland Police Service, in relation to the Child Protection Act 1999. The Honourable Member will appreciate that this Act is a new legislative framework, some provisions are specific to children 12 years and under, and any errors of interpretation can be resolved through seeking clarification from the Office of Child Protection or departmental staff in the regions.

The Beattie Government has injected a record amount of new funding into the area of child protection to improve the range of services accessible to Queensland families.

(2) I am unsure of the term "drug safe houses". I reject any suggestion, however, that I support the use of drugs by teenagers.

(3) See (1).

#### **508. Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy**

**Mr NELSON** asked the Premier (31/5/00)—

What is the total amount of money spent so far on CYPLUS?

**Mr BEATTIE** (30/6/00): My Government is implementing its election commitments in relation to the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy (CYPLUS). As a guide, my Government is utilising the CYPLUS Stage 2 Report, which was produced by the Cape York Peninsula community.

CYPLUS Stage 3, the implementation phase, consists of two interlinked processes—the Cape York Natural Heritage Trust (CYNHT) Plan and the Cape York Peninsula to the Year 2010 (CYP2010) Action Plan.

#### CYNHT PLAN

Queensland and Commonwealth Governments responded to the key environmental, conservation and natural resource management recommendations contained in the CYPLUS Stage 2 Report, in February 1998 through the CYNHT Plan. The CYNHT Plan is an integrated regional plan that seeks to tackle major conservation and land management issues on Cape York Peninsula. Up to \$40m from the Natural Heritage Trust is being provided between 1998 and 2002 to implement the CYNHT Plan.

#### CYP2010 ACTION PLAN

As conservation and land management issues are covered in the CYNHT Plan, my Government decided in December 1998 to respond to the remainder of the Stage 2 Report—recommendations relating to economic, social, cultural and infrastructure development—by producing the CYP2010 Action Plan. The initial Draft CYP2010 Action Plan comprised responses from State Government agencies to the 640 recommendations under the 30 strategies from the CYPLUS Stage 2 Report.

Attachment One is a summary of expenditure by this Government on CYPLUS Stage 3, which identifies the expenditure for both the CYNHT Plan and the CYP2010 Action Plan. In the case of the CYNHT Plan, in-kind contributions and other support provided through Queensland Government agencies are also included.

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

#### 509. Goninan; Queensland Rail

**Mr TURNER** asked the Premier (31/5/00)—

With reference to a Townsville company, Goninan, which produces rollingstock for Queensland Rail and which is being forced to retrench 60 workers, half of its workforce, in June and as the State Government and major companies are accepting tenders from low-wage countries forcing Queensland businesses out of work which will also impact on suppliers and contractors—

What action will the Government be taking to rectify this situation to ensure continued employment to these and other heavy engineering plant workers threatened with retrenchment because of Government policy?

**Mr BEATTIE** (30/6/00): As you are aware, this Government is committed to providing more jobs for Queenslanders and to building Queensland's regions. To that end, this Government has initiated the Local Industry Policy which requires all State Government Departments and Government Owned Corporation tenderers (including Queensland Rail) to submit a Local Industry Participation Plan for all projects of State significance including those valued over \$5 million. These Plans will ensure that project

proponents and agencies have sought, wherever possible, to source products and services locally.

The Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads recently confirmed that Queensland Rail will continue to support Queensland industry and ensure they are given priority for manufacturing projects. In recent years, Queensland Rail has awarded contracts to Goninan worth a total of \$205.7 million. These contracts include:

\$145 million—50, 2800 Class diesel electric locomotives (supplied 1996-98)

\$20.4 million—220, VSA coal wagon bodies (supplied 1998-1999)

\$17 million—200, VSH coal wagon bodies (supplied 1997-1998)

\$14 million—150, VSA coal wagon bodies (supplied 1999-2000)

\$10 million—120, VSH coal wagon bodies (supplied 1997-1998).

#### 510. Student Safety on School Buses

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (31/5/00)—

With reference to the recent meeting between the Premier, the Minister for Transport and representatives of parents from the Jimboomba/Beaudesert area who are asking the Government to stop students standing in school buses travelling in 100km/h speed zones—

- (1) Was the Government able to give these representatives an assurance that it is working to resolve this problem?
- (2) Why hasn't the Government continued the announced policy to prevent standees on school buses travelling at 100 km/h?
- (3) Why can't the Government start to implement this policy in areas which are identified as being potentially dangerous?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (30/6/00):

(1) The government is committed to ensuring the safety of all students travelling to and from school.

(2) I am aware that the Coalition's election policy in 1996 contained a commitment to phasing out standees on school buses. I am also aware that in early 1997 a document titled "Your Queensland—Annual Report 1996/97" was published which stated that the School Bus Safety program had been extended and "the practice of allowing students to stand on school buses which travel in 100 km/h speed zones has been banned". Departmental records show that this was an incorrect statement and there was no reference to the action in the formal Queensland Transport Annual Report for 1996/97. That is the coalition did nothing to implement its own policy.

(3) As road crash statistics for the last five years show, school bus travel is the safest form of travel to and from school and significantly safer than travelling by car, cycling or walking. Also, the safety issue of most concern for school bus travel is children getting onto and off the bus for example while crossing the road after alighting from the bus. This Government's

policy, which has been consistently applied, is to address the safety of school children travelling to and from school through the annual SafeST program which includes a \$3 million subsidy program for infrastructure projects for schools, a \$200,000 Safe Walking and Pedalling Program and a \$600,000 School Bus Routes Review Program. Under this approach, Queensland Transport works closely with local government and individual school communities to identify and prioritise safety issues for students travelling to and from school whether it be by car, bus, bicycle or walking and to formulate an appropriate action plan to address these issues. This approach ensures that valuable resources are provided to communities which have a clear and identified safety need.

As part of this program Queensland Transport has identified a number of school bus routes which are unsuitable for standees as they are too steep or winding and standees are no longer carried on these routes. Should other routes be identified as unsuitable for standees, an action plan will be formulated with the school community to address the issue.

While I understand the concerns outlined by the representatives from the Jimboomba/Beaudesert community, I am confident that the State Government will continue its efforts to provide a safe and effective bus system for students to travel to and from school.

#### 511. Mobile Phones and Towers

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Health (31/5/00)—

With reference to the use of mobile phones and the siting of mobile phone towers—

- (1) Will she make a submission to the Senate Committee inquiry into electromagnetic radiation?
- (2) In particular, (a) if she makes a submission, will she support adopting a precautionary approach to the use of mobile phones and the siting of mobile phone towers and (b) will she support independent research being undertaken to investigate the possible effects of mobile phone use and the siting of mobile phone towers on the health of people; if so, will she clarify the details of his support?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/6/00):

(1) Queensland Health is involved in investigating the public health implications of exposure to electromagnetic radiation (including setting and reviewing standards for electromagnetic radiation) through the Radiation Health Committee, a national body established under the Commonwealth's Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998 to investigate radiation health issues. The Radiation Health Committee is comprised of representatives from State and Commonwealth radiation regulatory agencies and is coordinated by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) which is actively involved in and participates in non-ionising radiation

related research. I am advised that ARPANSA is making a submission to the Senate inquiry.

- (2)(a) The issue of possible health hazards related to exposure from radiofrequency radiation from mobile phones and mobile towers has been for some time, and is currently, under heavy scientific scrutiny worldwide. The latest research continues to show that there is no conclusive evidence as to whether any biological effects produced as a result of exposure to radiofrequency radiation from mobile phones and associated infrastructure are detrimental to health. By the same token, it is not possible to conclude that exposure to radiofrequency radiation, even at low intensities, is totally without potential adverse health effects.
- (b) Investigation of this issue is happening at a federal level by the Committee on Electromagnetic Energy Public Health Issues convened by ARPANSA.

It is important to note that independent research in this regard involves a multidisciplinary approach and cannot be undertaken by isolated groups. Further, only epidemiological studies spanning several decades may be able to provide sufficient evidence as to whether exposure to radiofrequency radiation from mobile phone technology can cause detrimental effects on human health.

Queensland Health is actively monitoring developments in the discussions relating to the biological consequences of radiation from mobile phones to keep abreast with the latest scientific data available on the public health effects of radio frequency radiation.

#### 512. Cherbourg Aboriginal Community

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (31/5/00)—

With reference to my visit to Cherbourg Aboriginal Community on 26 May to attend State school functions connected with National Sorry Day which revealed a number of issues that, with help, could enhance this well run community and to discussions with Cherbourg Council which indicated the need for a men's centre to be established to counsel men of all ages in many matters, such as issues of health, dealing with others in family situations and incentives similar to a centre that exists there for women—

Will she take up these issues with the appropriate authorities and report back with a plan to implement such a scheme?

**Ms SPENCE** (30/6/00): I am advised that there are a number of existing services available for men in Cherbourg to obtain advice and counselling.

The Wunjuada Alcohol and Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre provides services to both males and females in relation to drug and alcohol issues. It also has accommodation available for people in need of rehabilitation and provides counselling referral and discussion groups.

Also, the Barambah Aboriginal Community Care Agency provides information support, counselling and referral to all Cherbourg community members, and can assist with all health and counselling issues.

In addition, support can also be obtained from the Men's Infoline. This Statewide telephone service is specific to issues for men (such as relationship and health issues), and can be contacted toll free on 1800 600 636.

### 513. Criminal Offence Statistics

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (31/5/00)—

- (1) Will he provide details, on a year by year basis since 1997, on the number of people convicted in each of the following categories of offences—drug trafficking, production of dangerous drugs, supply of dangerous drugs, rape and attempted rape, armed robbery, unarmed robbery and serious assault?
- (2) Will he provide, for each offence category for each year, the total number of people who did not receive a term of imprisonment as part of their sentence?

**Mr FOLEY** (30/6/00):

(1) The number of recorded convictions in the Higher Courts using the Queensland Offence Codes classifications, on a year by year basis since 1997, is set out below. However, it should be noted that the number of convictions is greater than the number of persons convicted of offences, as a charge (or charges) on which a person is found guilty on a different date is counted as a conviction.

Classification	1997	1998	1999
Dealing and Trafficking in Drugs	228	213	225
Manufacturing and Growing Drugs	179	173	134
Rape and Attempted Rape	70	59	53
Armed Robbery	169	188	219
Robbery with Major Assault	60	46	57
Robbery with Minor Assault	22	20	14
Major Assault	588	1020	1097

(2) Below are the number of convictions referred to in (1) where the Court did not impose a term of imprisonment or the term of imprisonment was wholly suspended.

Classification	1997	1998	1999
Dealing and Trafficking in Drugs	84	85	71
Manufacturing and Growing Drugs	133	114	89
Rape and Attempted Rape	0	1	2
Armed Robbery	31	35	32
Robbery with Major Assault	19	15	12
Robbery with Minor Assault	5	4	3
Major Assault	249	505	564

### 514. Fuel Prices

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Premier (31/5/00)—

With reference to the unacceptably high rural and regional fuel prices—

What timeframe will be set for rectification of these inappropriate costs?

**Mr BEATTIE** (30/6/00): My Government is concerned that the 8.3 cents per litre fuel subsidy is not always being passed on to consumers in Brisbane and rarely, if at all, in regional Queensland.

My Government is determined to ensure that the full fuel subsidy is passed on to Queensland consumers. An option currently under consideration is to pay the subsidy to petrol retailers rather than to the oil companies.

My Government is also determined to ensure that Queensland consumers do not continue to subsidise motorists in other States through cross border trade.

### 515. Rockhampton Hospital

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Health (31/5/00)—

Will she outline whether it is best practice for a children's ward to be located on the same floor as the special care nursery and maternity ward at the upgraded Rockhampton Base Hospital, given concerns about the need to keep infectious diseases away from young babies, particularly premature babies, who have an immature immune system?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/6/00): Using standard Capital Works health building guidelines, these services can be located on the same floor. This practice is in place at other hospitals including, in Queensland, Ipswich, Gladstone, Hervey Bay and Redcliffe Hospitals.

No evidence locally or in the literature, could be found to substantiate a claim that infections are increased by the collocation of these services.

Furthermore, isolation facilities have been incorporated in the Paediatric Ward for appropriate infectious patients. The majority of children admitted to the Paediatric Ward are not there for infectious conditions and would not be any more risk to other patients than visitors to the areas.

### 516. Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (31/5/00)—

With reference to the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme—

- (1) How many people presently have applications for assistance?
- (2) Are these applications categorised as urgent and non-urgent?
- (3) What is the wait time for applicants to receive assistance?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/6/00):

(1) There are currently no applications categorised as urgent waiting for assistance under the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme. This compares with the 1,778 people who were waiting for urgent assistance two years ago under the Coalition Government. The Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme currently has 1,930 applications for assistance categorised as non-urgent.

(2) Applications are categorised as urgent and non-urgent.

(3) Waiting times for assistance vary however, urgent applications to receive assistance currently have no waiting time.

#### 517. Hospitals, Staff Classifications

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Health (31/5/00)—

- (1) How many different job classifications cover workers performing technical measurement roles in the State hospitals?
- (2) What is the consistency in classifications assigned for tasks performed between health districts?
- (3) Are there still workers who perform technical roles but who have not been transferred to a technical classification?
- (4) What work is being done to help low-paid employees performing such technical roles have a career path and access to relevant training?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/6/00):

- (1) Technical measurement roles are undertaken by staff employed in the Nursing, Professional, Technical and Operational classification streams.
- (2) The District Health Services Employees Award—State, defines classification levels, generic level statements and a methodology for movement between and within classifications for all health service employees including those involved in the provision of clinical measurement services.
- (3) (see 1)
- (4) Career paths and training for staff in the operational stream is oversighted by a joint union/management consultative committee known as the Public Hospitals Oversight Committee (PHOC).

#### 518. State Emergency Services, Resources

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (31/5/00)—

With reference to discontent in State Emergency Services (SES) ranks concerning a lack of funds in the training area—

- (1) Does he intend to provide funds for the purchase of motor vehicles so that training staff can properly service SES units instead of being stuck behind desks in central offices?
- (2) Will he ensure sufficient funds are made available for the employment of an SES training officer in the Longreach district so that professionally trained SES volunteers are available and training is no longer inadequately provided from Mount Isa and Rockhampton?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (30/6/00):

- (1) All Counter Disaster and Rescue Services (CDRS) staff at District Office level have access to suitable vehicles so they can carry out their duties. In most cases the key staff have a dedicated vehicle available to them. However, the staff at some District Offices are required to share a vehicle.
- (2) Under the Beattie Labor Government, the number of SES Training Officers across the state has been

increased from seven to 12, significantly relieving pressure on existing staff. The additional officers are based at Mackay, Mount Isa, Gympie, Beenleigh and Roma. Longreach District SES training is currently provided by District staff from Rockhampton, Mount Isa and Roma. This Government also employed a District Support Officer in Longreach. Each of these staff members are highly dedicated and provide a very professional service to the SES Volunteers in the Longreach area. Staff support for SES operations and training within CDRS Districts will be further reviewed as part of the budget process.

#### 519. Access Queensland

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (31/5/00)—

- (1) What support has his department given to assist the fledgling export company "Access Qld" to sell Queensland horticultural products to the very lucrative British market?
- (2) As the company is currently experiencing a challenge from the Queensland State Government with the retention of its name, what assistance is he prepared to provide to maintain their name which is critical for their future success?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (28/6/00):

- (1) Mr Paul MacNamara approached the Department of Primary Industries for assistance with a project to market Queensland products in Europe. Mr MacNamara requested assistance to enable his company to be granted space for a retail operation based in the Queensland Government Office Building in London.

Mr MacNamara was advised that he would need to deal with the Department of State Development and the Queensland Government Office at Queensland House in London.

- (2) This issue has no relevance to the DPI.

#### 520. Bundaberg Health District

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Health (31/5/00)—

With reference to the ongoing funding difficulties being faced by the Bundaberg Base Hospital—

- (1) What is the anticipated budgetary deficit for the Bundaberg Health Service District in 1999-2000?
- (2) How many of the urgent and short-term oral health services review recommendations have now been implemented and what are they?
- (3) Have the changes and staff increases made any impact on the general oral health services waiting list and what is the current waiting time?
- (4) How many positions are currently vacant in the Bundaberg District Mental Health Service?
- (5) What are they and when was each position last advertised?
- (6) What services are available under the SNAPS program and what sorts of patients is this program designed to assist?

- (7) Are general practitioners being made aware of the existence of this program?

**Mrs EDMOND** (30/6/00):

(1) The Bundaberg Health Service District is anticipating a balanced budget position in 1999/2000.

(2) The internal review in August 1999 made 27 recommendations that Bundaberg Health Service District agreed to implement. Of the 27 recommendations:

Twenty-five have been fully implemented.

Two are currently in progress to full implementation.

(3) The past three months has seen the greatest output in completed adult patients for any three month period over the last two years. Funding of adult oral health services under the Coalition Government decreased 21% over the two years it was in office. This was compounded by the Commonwealth Government's withdrawal of \$20 million from public oral health services in Queensland.

(4) Child and Youth Mental Health Service—Two positions are currently vacant.

Mental Health Unit—2.4 positions are currently vacant.

Community Mental Health—One position is currently vacant.

(5) Child and Youth Mental Health Service

One social work position, which is currently being advertised.

One psychiatrist position, which was last advertised on 1 May 2000. One application was received, which is currently being assessed for suitability.

Mental Health Unit

0.4 Registered Nurse position; applicant to be interviewed in the week beginning 5 June 2000.

One training registrar position, which was last advertised in late March 2000; applications closed 17 April 2000; no applications were received.

One registrar position, which was last advertised in late March 2000; applications closed 17 April 2000; one application was subsequently received and commences on 7 August 2000, for a six month period.

Community Mental Health

One clinical nurse position, which is currently being advertised.

(6) Sub and non-acute patient (SNAP) funding refers to the payment model used by Queensland Health to recognise the services provided by the District facilities to patients in this category. Examples of SNAP patient categories include rehabilitation, nursing home type, and palliative care patients. Rehabilitation patients are accommodated in a designated rehabilitation unit at the Bundaberg Base Hospital. Nursing home type and palliative care patients are accommodated in both general ward areas and designated areas in all the Bundaberg Health Service District facilities.

(7) General Practitioners are kept well informed on issues and services in the Bundaberg Health Service District by direct communication and through regular meetings between the Division of General Practice and the District.

#### 521. HITT and HITT Plus Scheme

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (31/5/00)—

With reference to the HITT Scheme and the HITT Plus Scheme, by each individual group and each separate scheme—

Will he provide a breakdown of the upgrade program (including a breakdown of the dwelling type) for 1999-2000 for each group in each scheme?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/7/00): I am advised that as part of the 1999-2000 HITT and HITT Plus Schemes, 106 existing dwellings will be allocated to group training companies to undertake upgrade works. See Attachment A for the total number of upgrades to be allocated in 1999-2000 under the HITT and HITT Plus Schemes, by group training company. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 522. HOME Trust, HOME Shared Trust and Housing Trust No. 2

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (31/5/00)—

With reference to the HOME Trust, HOME Shared Trust and the Queensland Housing Trust No. 2—

What has been the debt to equity ratio maintained within each of these accounts at (a) 30 June for 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 and (b) month's end for May 1999-2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/7/00): See Attachment A for the debt to equity ratio maintained within the HOME Trust, HOME Shared Trust and the Queensland Housing Trust No. 2 accounts at (a) 30 June for 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and (b) month's end for May 1999-2000. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 523. HOME Trust, HOME Shared Trust and Housing Trust No. 2

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (31/5/00)—

With reference to the HOME Trust, HOME Shared Trust and the Queensland Housing Trust No. 2—

For each of these trusts (at 31 May 2000), what is the (a) total assets of each trust and what is the significant breakdown of these assets and (b) total liabilities of each trust and what is the significant breakdown of these liabilities?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/7/00): See Attachment A for the total assets and liabilities of each trust and the significant breakdown of these assets and liabilities. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

**524. Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd, Coopers Plains**

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (31/5/00)—

With reference to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd and its contract to construct dwellings at Deacon and Turton Streets, Coopers Plains on behalf of Housing Queensland through Project Services—

- (1) What was the agreed commencement and completion dates for the project at the point of signing the contract?
- (2) Were any extensions granted to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd on this project; if so, who authorised such extensions and when?
- (3) What was the anticipated schedule of payments (date, quantum, etc.) to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd for this project?
- (4) Were any payments made to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd for this project (date, quantum, subcontractor record of payment forms, Statutory Declaration by contractor etc.) by Project Services?
- (5) Was a physical site inspection conducted by an employee of Project Services prior to any payments being made to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd (date of inspection, date of payment, position of inspector)?
- (6) What is the quantum of funds paid to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd on this project?
- (7) What was the per cent completion assessed against this project when the contract was terminated by Project Services?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/7/00):

(1) The commencement date was 22 December 1999 and the completion date was to be 7 June 2000.

(2) Extensions were granted to Designer Steel Homes as follows:

On 31 January 2000, for one day, due to rain. Approved on 3 February 2000 and confirmed on 6 April 2000;

On 16 February 2000, for one day, due to rain. Approved on 16 February 2000 and confirmed on 6 April 2000;

On 10 March 2000, for one day, due to rain. Approved on 12 March 2000 and confirmed on 6 April 2000; and

On 23 March 2000, for nine days, due to approved Sewerage Drawing not being available. Approved on 24 March 2000 and confirmed on 6 April 2000.

All of these extensions were approved by Bevan Shard, Superintendent's Representative, and confirmed to the builder Designer Steel Homes by Adolf Laxis, Superintendent.

(3) In line with Clause 42.1 of the General Conditions of Contract, AS 2124-1992, the anticipated schedule of payments to Designer Steel Homes was to be by monthly payments. The Superintendent's Representative and Builder would meet on site and agree on the value of work completed by each trade involved in the construction. The Superintendent would then have fourteen days in which to issue a

progress payment certificate. Payment of the certified amount would then be made to the Builder within fourteen days.

(4) A list of payments made to Designer Steel Homes, with the quantum, dates, dates of Statutory Declarations, and number of Record of Payment forms received, is detailed in Attachment 1. Refer to columns 6, 7, 8 and 9.

(5) Physical site inspections were conducted by the Superintendent's Representative, Bevan Shard of Q-Build. The dates of the inspections for progress claims are detailed in Attachment 1, column 2.

Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd. have been paid an amount of \$133,289, broken down as follows:

Value of work completed as at 20 April 2000—\$211,343.70

LESS Retention moneys withheld—\$18,468

LESS deduction for rectification of defective work—\$7,300

LESS moneys paid into District Court (Note 1)—\$48,068.70

LESS moneys paid into Magistrates Court (Note 1)—\$4,218

Amount paid to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd.—\$133,289

Note 1—The total amount of \$52,286.70 paid to the Courts (\$48,068.70 + \$4,218) could not be paid to Designer Steel Homes due to a Notice of Intention to Claim being received under the Subcontractors Charges Act 1974.

(7) As at the date of the termination of the Contract, the project was 17.46% complete.

I note your thinly veiled attack on the Balonne Shire Council and also your general lack of interest in the issue of subcontractor payments as you did nothing about it while you were in Government. You may like to check with your colleague, the Honourable Member for Warrego who will tell you that subcontractors did not complain to him either.

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

**525. Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd, Cleveland**

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (31/5/00)—

With reference to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd and its contract to construct dwellings at Wynyard Street, Cleveland on behalf of Housing Queensland through Project Services—

- (1) What was the agreed commencement and completion dates for the project at the point of signing the contract?
- (2) Were any extensions granted to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd on this project; if so, who authorised such extensions and when?
- (3) What was the anticipated schedule of payments (date, quantum, etc.) to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd for this project?
- (4) Were any payments made to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd for this project (date, quantum, subcontractor record of payment forms,



Statutory Declaration by contractor etc.) by Project Services?

- (5) Was a physical site inspection conducted by an employee of Project Services prior to any payments being made to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd (date of inspection, date of payment, position of inspector)?
- (6) What is the quantum of funds paid to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd on this project?
- (7) What was the per cent completion assessed against this project when the contract was terminated by Project Services?

**Mr SCHWARTEN (3/7/00):**

(1) The commencement date for this project was 24 June 1999 and the completion date was to be 11 November 1999.

(2) Extensions of time requested by the Builder Designer Steel Homes on 16 July 1999, for inclement weather, were for 28, 29, 30 June 1999, 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 July 1999. These 8 days were approved by the Superintendent's Representative Vince Keating, on 21 July 1999, and confirmed to the Builder on 6 September 1999. The new completion date was extended to 23 November 1999.

Extensions of time requested by the Builder on 2 August 1999 for delays incurred by Redland Shire Council on 19 July 1999 and inclement weather on 26 and 29 July 1999 were approved by Superintendent's Representative Vince Keating on 4 August 1999 and confirmed to the Builder on 6 September 1999. The new completion date was extended to 26 November 1999.

(3) The General Conditions of Contract, AS 4305-1996 allow the Builder to make a progress claim once each calendar month. The Builder and the Superintendent's Representative would meet on site and agree on the value of work completed for each trade involved in the construction. The Superintendent would then have fourteen days in which to issue a progress payment certificate. Payment of the certified amount would then be made to the Builder within fourteen days.

(4) A list of payments made to Designer Steel Homes, with the quantum, dates, dates of Statutory Declarations, and number of Record of Payment forms received, is detailed in Attachment 1. Refer to columns 6, 7, 8 and 9. Subcontractor, Keltic Plumbing signed a record of payment form on 3 November 1999 without being paid. Keltic advised that they were subsequently paid the full amount owing in November and December 1999. They then carried out further works to the value of \$25,500 and have lodged a subcontractor's charge for this amount.

(5) Physical site inspections were carried out by the Superintendent's Representative Vince Keating from Q-Build. The dates of the inspections for progress claims are detailed in Attachment 1, column 2.

(6) Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd. have been paid an amount of \$145,807, broken down as follows:

Value of Work Completed as at 15 March 2000—\$164,019.00

LESS Retention moneys withheld—\$15,322.00

Total—\$148,697.00

LESS deduction of part of \$6,600.00 liquidated damages added in progress payment No. 6—\$2,890.00

Amount paid to Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd—\$145,807.00

(7) As at the date of the termination of the Contract, the project was 40.55% complete.

I would also point out that the subcontractors concerned did not complain to me until February this year whereupon I acted immediately to remove Designer Steel Homes Pty Ltd from PQC and take over the job.

I am further advised by the local Member for Warrego that he received no early complaint from subcontractors. Your colleague, the Honourable Member for Mooloolah's solution to the problem of non-payment of subcontractors is to make home-owners/tenants pay subcontractors who are owed money is also rejected.

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

#### 526. John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (31/5/00)—

Did the former Manager of the John Oxley Centre, Mr Peter Coyne, sign a deed of settlement including a secrecy clause when he accepted a payment of \$27,190 on the termination of his employment with the Department of Family Services in 1991?

**Ms BLIGH (30/6/00):** Yes. Further, the document was provided in full to:

Messrs Morris and Howard for their investigation in 1996 (see pp 124-142 of the Report of An Investigation into Allegations by Mr Kevin Lindeberg and Allegations by Mr Gordon Harris and Mr John Reynolds. This matter was also listed at Section 2.2(a)(ii) of the Terms of Reference of the Morris Howard investigation.)

Mr Kevin Lindeberg under the Freedom of Information Act 1992

The Criminal Justice Commission in 1998 for its investigation into the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

The Forde Commission of Inquiry in 1998/99.

#### 527. John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (31/5/00)—

(1) Did Ms Anne Dutney, while acting Manager of John Oxley Youth Detention Centre, write a memorandum on 1 March 1990 to Mr Gary Clarke, Director of Organisational Services in the then Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs?

(2) Did Ms Dutney's memorandum express her concern, amongst other things, that staff at the centre were placing the lives of children in the care of the State at risk?

**Ms BLIGH (30/6/00):**

- (1) Yes. Further, the document was provided in full to:

Messrs Morris and Howard for their investigation in 1996 (see pp 63 and 64 of the Report of An Investigation into Allegations by Mr Kevin Lindeberg and Allegations by Mr Gordon Harris and Mr John Reynolds)

The Criminal Justice Commission in 1998 for its investigation into the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

The Forde Commission of Inquiry in 1998/99

- (2) Yes.

### 528. John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (31/5/00)—

- (1) On 18 January 1991, did a Mr Gary Clarke, Director of Organisational Services within the then Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, take part in discussions with union officials from the then Queensland Professional Officers' Association (now known as the State Public Services Federation) concerning claims for a payment of over \$29,000 to a former manager of the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre, Mr Peter Coyne?
- (2) Does the memorandum record that the union threatened to take the whole John Oxley Youth Centre saga to the CJC unless public moneys were paid to Mr Coyne?

**Ms BLIGH (30/6/00):**

- (1) Yes. Further, the document was provided in full to:

Messrs Morris and Howard for their investigation in 1996 (Report of An Investigation into Allegations by Mr Kevin Lindeberg and Allegations by Mr Gordon Harris and Mr John Reynolds)

Mr Kevin Lindeberg under the Freedom of Information Act 1992

The Criminal Justice Commission in 1998 for its investigation into the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

The Forde Commission of Inquiry in 1998/99

- (2) Yes.

### 529. John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (31/5/00)—

- (1) Did the recent Forde Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions find Mr Peter Coyne's action in handcuffing children at the John Oxley Centre in the open, overnight, to have constituted a possible breach of the Children's Services Act 1965?
- (2) What action has she taken on this matter?

**Ms BLIGH (30/6/00):**

- (1) Yes, as stated at pages 172 and 173 of the Report of the Forde Inquiry, which I suggest that the Honourable member reads. Copies of the report are available through Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland or the Parliamentary Library at no charge.

- (2) If the Honourable Member acquires a copy of the Report of the Forde Inquiry and reads pages 172 and 173, he will see that the Inquiry specifically found that no action was able to be taken against Mr Coyne as there is a 12 month limitation on prosecution for these matters.

### 530. John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (31/5/00)—

Does the document produced by Mr Leigh Carpenter, who took notes of a meeting involving the Director-General and Mr Coyne on 1 November 1990, record Mr Coyne raising the matter of his having handcuffed residents of the centre and it having been given in evidence to Mr Heiner by certain staff members against his management style?

**Ms BLIGH (30/6/00):** Yes. Further, the document was provided in full to:

Messrs Morris and Howard for their investigation in 1996 (Report of An Investigation into Allegations by Mr Kevin Lindeberg and Allegations by Mr Gordon Harris and Mr John Reynolds)

Mr Kevin Lindeberg under the Freedom of Information Act 1992

The Criminal Justice Commission in 1998 for its investigation into the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

The Forde Commission of Inquiry in 1998/99.

### 531. Queensland Rail, Police Resources

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (31/5/00)—

- (1) How many uniformed police are deployed to patrol Queensland Rail properties and train services each day?
- (2) How many shifts are operated by police on these duties each day?

**Mr BARTON (29/6/00):**

- (1) In December 1992, the Railway Squad was reformed as a uniformed squad to provide a high profile, uniform presence on the rail network.

The Railway Squad currently has an approved strength of forty-one (41) officers with an additional three (3) Sergeants assigned on surplus. On average, the number of uniformed police deployed each day is as follows:

Day shift: 10 (shifts between 6am and concluding prior to 6pm)

Late shift: 20 (shifts between 2pm and concluding prior to 3am)

The number of police rostered on each shift varies depending upon available intelligence, the day of the week (i.e. higher staffing levels on late shifts for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights than Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights), leave and other policing commitments such as: attendance at Court, training seminars/workshops, etc.

The policing commitment to the Rail network is also supported by patrols from regional police, members of the Public Safety Response Team, Dog Squad and the Police Mounted Unit.

(2) The core shifts operated at the present time by the Railway Squad are: 8am-4pm; 2pm-10pm; 4pm-12pm; and 6pm-2am.

Shifts including: 6am-2pm; 10am-6pm; 1pm-9pm; 2pm-10pm; and 7pm-3am are rostered periodically depending on intelligence and specific operational requirements, such as special events impacting upon the rail network.

### 532. Building Services Authority

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (31/5/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Building Services Authority and its Insurance and General Funds—

What is the anticipated amount of any transfers of funds between the Insurance Fund and the General Fund planned for 2000-2001?

**Ms SPENCE** (30/6/00): The anticipated amount of transfer from the Insurance Fund to the General Statutory Fund for the 2000-2001 financial year is \$4,000,000.

This forecast is based on assumptions in relation to the impact of the Goods and Services Tax.

The transfer of funds during the next financial year will be closely monitored as the impact of Goods and Services Tax becomes clearer.

The amount to be transferred will be reviewed quarterly having regard to the net asset position of the Insurance Fund and the overriding requirement that it remain actuarially sound.

### 533. Fire Levies, North Coast Region

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (31/5/00)—

(1) What is the (a) anticipated revenue from fire levies in the North Coast region and (b) anticipated recurrent expenditure on fire services in the North Coast region in 1999-2000?

(2) What is the (a) anticipated revenue from fire levies in the North Coast region and (b) anticipated recurrent expenditure on fire services in the North Coast region in 2000-2001 if the proposed changes to urban district classifications were to proceed?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (30/6/00):

(1) The current revenue from fire levies sourced from North Coast Region is \$16,951,408.00. The budgeted operating expenditure excluding depreciation expenses in the North Coast Region for

the current year is \$14,646,017.00. Budgeted depreciation expenses in the North Coast Region for the current year is \$1,520,893.00. The budgeted capital expenditure in the current year is \$1,465,000.00.

(2) The proposed total revenue sourced from the North Coast Region following the introduction of proposed changes, is \$19,693,406.00 and this figure includes a 2.2% CPI increase. The proposed operating and capital expenditure in the North Coast Region will be determined in the forthcoming budget.

### 534. Ethanol

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (31/5/00)—

With reference to the Australian Greenhouse Office and the State Forest of New South Wales which have commissioned the Manildra group to have a look at options with an ethanol pilot plant, and as the Harwood Sugar Mill in Northern New South Wales could be the site for investigating many of the facets of ethanol production from sugar cane—

What has the Department of Primary Industries done to take advantage of this Greenhouse initiative in consideration of the fact that the bulk of the sugar industry is in Queensland?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (28/6/00): At present, the Department of Primary Industries is working in cooperation with Queensland's Sugar Milling Industry and other Queensland Government Agencies on realising Greenhouse opportunities expected to result from government initiatives to control and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Two key areas of focus are fuel ethanol and electricity generation.

### 535. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, Advertising

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (31/5/00)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 108 of 2000 which asked for the names and financial contributions of all other Government entities involved in DETIR's advertising and promotion campaigns and as his response included only half the information required—

(1) Will he indicate the financial contribution made by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on each of the four occasions when they were involved?

(2) On those four occasions, was the authorising officer the Director-General of DETIR or of the Department of Premier and Cabinet?

**Mr BRADY** (30/6/00):

(1) Campaign—Amount:

Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Stage 1 (repeat)—\$130,000

Workers' Compensation—\$155,000

Industrial Relations—\$175,000

Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Stage 2 (repeat)—\$130,000

(2) The Director-General, DETIR.

**536. Employment Assistance Programs**

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (31/5/00)—

- (1) At 15 May 2000, 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** (30/6/00):

- (1-4) Please refer to Table 1.
- (5) Please refer to Table 2.

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

**537. Emergency Services, Response Times**

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (31/5/00)—

What are each of the fire response times into the Kawana area for 1999-2000 to date (a) from the Caloundra Station, (b) from the Kawana Station and (c) from the Maroochydore Station?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (30/6/00): The average response times to the Kawana area of Warana, Bokarina, and Minyama, based on reported data for:

- (a) Caloundra is 9.14 minutes
- (b) Kawana is 7.25 minutes
- (c) Maroochydore is 7.51 minutes.

These times will vary according to the specific address to which each of the stations is responded, the time of day and traffic conditions etc. Future response times to these areas from Caloundra and Maroochydore will reduce due to the new station locations.

**538. State Emergency Service**

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (31/5/00)—

With reference to recent claims that the Government is deliberately removing the identity of the State Emergency Service (SES) (31/5/00)—

- (1) Has the Department of Emergency Services removed all signage relating to the SES from district offices?
- (2) Have staff members been directed or advised to make no reference to the SES when answering telephones?
- (3) Is he aware of the resentment these actions have caused within the ranks of SES volunteers?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (30/6/00):

(1) There has been no move to remove reference to the SES from District Offices. New signage for all District Offices is currently being produced. This signage will be distributed to District Offices within the month and all signs clearly display the State Emergency Service logo.

(2) In September 1999 all staff were advised that the Divisional name "Counter Disaster & Rescue Services" should be stated when answering telephones so that the full range of services delivered by District staff could be identified to callers. CDRS District staff were never advised that "State Emergency Service" (or "SES") could not to be included when answering the telephone.

(3) The Department of Emergency Services values and recognises the contributions made by all of the various volunteer organisations the Department supports. However, if any SES Volunteers are concerned about these matters I invite them to contact the Director SES, a position reinstated by the Beattie Labor Government, directly to highlight their concerns.

**539. Recreation Camps**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (31/5/00)—

With reference to concern being expressed by staff members in his department about the future of the State's network of recreation camps—

- (1) When did the former Minister first initiate the current round of audits of the recreation centres?
- (2) Who conducted those audits and how many staff were involved?
- (3) When will the results of those audits be made public?
- (4) Have any recommendations been made to close, sell or lease any of the camps?
- (5) Which centres are being considered for a radical change of management by parties outside the department?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (29/6/00):

- (1) September 1998.
- (2) Robertson Recreation and Events Company Pty Ltd. This contract was terminated on 16 March 2000 when the company went into receivership. A Department employee was subsequently allocated to the project on 6 April 2000 to complete the report.
- (3) The report will be assessed by my Department and then referred to me with recommendations for my consideration.
- (4) As indicated in my response to (3) above, the report has not yet been referred to me.

**540. Cherbourg, Ostrich Industry**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Premier (31/5/00)—

With reference to the ostrich industry in Queensland and, in particular, an abattoir and tanning facility at Cherbourg which, it seems, has lost its European

licence to treat ostriches and Victoria now fills this role, however freight and distance makes this uneconomical, and as it also seems that Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) has lost its authority to issue any EU licences and the European authority does not return to Australia until October and it is vital to re-establish Cherbourg for the above reasons—

Will he take the matter up with the Federal Government and assist it in speeding up the process of re-issuing the EU licence as a matter of urgency, given that this request has the support of a minimum of 40 ostrich farmers in the Cherbourg proximity?

**Mr BEATTIE** (30/6/00): My Government recognises the potential of the ostrich industry for regional Queensland. Consequently, the Food and Meat Industries Task Force, a joint program of the Departments of State Development and Primary Industries, is working closely with the Cherbourg Abattoir to help it upgrade its facilities and Quality Assurance processes so that it can regain its EU accreditation.

Further reviews by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service are required prior to relicensing.

#### 541. Gaming Machines

**Dr WATSON** asked the Treasurer (31/5/00)—

With reference to gaming machines in Queensland—

- (1) What is the total number of clubs with gaming machines and the total number of those clubs that have the maximum number of 280 machines?
- (2) What is the total number of hotels with gaming machines and the total number of those hotels that have the maximum number of 35 machines?

**Mr HAMILL** (28/6/00):

- (1) At 31 May 2000, 638 and two.
- (2) At 31 May 2000, 677 and 165.

#### 542. Petrie and Shorncliffe Rail Depots

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (31/5/00)—

- (1) Is he aware of concerns raised by rail unions about the proposed closure of the Petrie and Shorncliffe depots?
- (2) Will he advise if Queensland Rail proposes to close these depots; if so, when?
- (3) What impact would such a decision have upon staff currently employed at these depots?
- (4) What evidence is there that these depots are any less viable than other CityTrain depots?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (30/6/00):

- (1) Yes, correspondence has been received from union representatives.
- (2) QR is not proposing to close these depots.
- (3 & 4) Not applicable.

#### 543. Warrego Highway, Blacksoil

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/6/00)—

With reference to the Warrego Highway between Eleazar Drive and the Brisbane Valley Highway, Blacksoil—

- (1) How many people have been killed on this section of the National Highway in the last five years?
- (2) Has this location been marked as a black spot?
- (3) What plans, if any, are there for an overpass at this location; if there are any, when is the overpass to be constructed?
- (4) As traffic banks up onto the dual carriageway where traffic is moving at 100 kilometres per hour, at the intersection of Eleazar Drive in the Toowoomba bound slip lane, will he have the slipway extended as a matter of urgency due to the dangerous situation existing at this location?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (4/7/00):

(1) The Department of Main Roads' records indicate a total of two fatal accidents have occurred on this section of road in the past five years.

(2) The Federal policy for Blackspot funding does not include improvements along National Highways. Accordingly, this policy precludes the intersection of Eleazar Drive with the Warrego Highway from being listed for Blackspot funding

(3) I continue to press the Federal Government for funding to provide an overpass interchange at this location. It has, for some years, been identified on the priority list of major projects for the National Highways in the South East Queensland Region. As the Honourable Member would know, funding of National Highway works is the responsibility of the Federal Government, but it has not allocated funds to this work in the current budget.

(4) Departmental officers have investigated the safety issues on this area of roadway.

There are no accidents recorded which reflect the situation described, although overflow of the slip lane may occur at times.

The speed limit through this section is 80 kilometres per hour and approach sight distance is good so that approaching traffic is able to avoid the queue when it occurs.

While such a situation is undesirable, the limited funds available are directed to higher priority projects where hazards are causing accidents. There is no project currently programmed to extend the turn slots.

#### 544. HOME Assist/HOME Secure Scheme

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (1/6/00)—

With reference to the HOME Assist/Secure program which his department administers to assist pensioners with subsidised tradesmen assistance in their homes—

- (1) Under what conditions do the various participating organisations hire the tradesmen for this program?
- (2) Are the criteria used to select these tradesmen set by his department?

- (3) Does his department allow some latitude for pensioners to use local tradesmen under this program or must they use tradesmen engaged by the various organisations?
- (4) Do the pensioners have any channels to complain to his department if they feel they have been overcharged by participating tradesmen?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (3/7/00):

(1) The Home Assist/Secure program guidelines stipulate that funded organisations are required to engage tradespersons who hold relevant licences and insurances. Most Home Assist/Secure projects engage local tradespersons where possible.

(2) Funded organisations are required to develop and document the policy and/or process by which external tradespersons will be engaged. Funded organisations also have a responsibility to monitor the work of tradespersons to ensure completion to satisfactory standards.

(3) Consumers of Home Assist/Secure services have the choice of engaging their own contractors at their own expense or, if eligible for subsidised assistance, they may engage preferred providers through the Home Assist/Secure projects, in which case the labour component of the job may be subsidised. Program guidelines stipulate that preferred providers must be covered by adequate insurance and their work must be completed to a satisfactory standard. All work involving subsidised assistance requires a quotation and approval by relevant Home Assist/Secure project staff prior to any costs being incurred by the project.

(4) Consumers have the right to complain to their local service provider or to officers of the Department of Housing. Information on the procedure for lodging complaints or raising concerns is set out in the brochure 'Your Rights and Responsibilities', which is provided to consumers at the time of the first interview.

#### 545. Dairy Industry

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (1/6/00)—

With reference to the impending dairy deregulation and the resultant non-viability of many small farms—

Will he consider an adjustment to Local Government and Planning guidelines to allow these now destitute farmers to subdivide their farms?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (29/6/00): The State Planning Policy 1/92: Development and the Conservation of Agricultural Land states good quality agricultural land is a finite resource that should be conserved and managed in the longer term.

Markets change and the Policy recognises that a decline in the market for a particular product should not justify development on land which would then prevent it being used for other agricultural purposes. This would simply serve to further limit farming opportunities in Queensland.

The Planning Guidelines: The Identification of Good Quality Agricultural Land (released in 1993), which

support the State Planning Policy, are currently being reviewed by my Department. The new draft Guidelines will provide advice on the definition, identification, conservation and management of good quality agricultural land.

I am advised the Queensland Dairy Farmer's Organisation has been consulted throughout the review of the draft Guidelines and I encourage dairy farmers to continue to participate in the review. However, given the possible adverse affects of subdivision on the viability of surrounding farms, the draft Guidelines will not be amended to allow subdivision.

#### 546. Maryborough Mental Health Unit

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Health (1/6/00)—

With reference to the Maryborough Mental Health Unit and the large number of suicides in Hervey Bay, Maryborough and the area covered by the unit—

- (1) What is the total number of suicides that have occurred over the last six months?
- (2) What is the number of attempted suicides in the last six months?
- (3) How many were carried out in the mental health unit?
- (4) How many of them were at some time patients of the unit?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/7/00):

(1) The Maryborough Mental Health Unit is aware of three suicides for the period 1 December 1999 to 31 May 2000 in the Fraser Coast District.

(2) Over the same period the District has recorded 64 admissions to the Maryborough Mental Health Unit for suicidal intent.

(3) One suicide was carried out in the Maryborough Mental Health Unit.

(4) Of the 64 admissions, only two were previously patients of the Maryborough Mental Health Unit.

#### 547. Newlands Mine Road

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/6/00)—

With reference to the Collinsville to Newlands mine road—

Has he any intention of building a section of road between Cerito Station and the Newlands Mine site?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (4/7/00): The construction of a new road between Cerito Station and the Newlands Mine site cannot be justified, at this stage, given the low traffic volume that the route is likely to attract and the availability of access on the Collinsville-Elphinstone Road via an adjacent State-controlled road.

There are other roadworks planned in the area which are considered to have a much higher priority, particularly those on the Bowen Developmental Road. A major project on this road will complete the sealing of the road between Collinsville and Mount Coolon which is 97 kilometres of new work by 2005, at a total estimated cost of \$12 million. The project

has been included in Main Roads' Roads Implementation Program 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 and is supported by Bowen Shire Council.

It is not possible to justify investment in this new link at this time when higher priorities exist on the Bowen Developmental Road.

#### **548. Maryborough/Hervey Bay, Respite Centres for Children with Disabilities**

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (1/6/00)—

With reference to respite centres for physically challenged children in Maryborough and Hervey Bay—

Will she reveal, in some detail, what funding is available in the remainder of this Budget year and what increases are expected in the next Budget?

**Ms BLIGH** (3/7/00): Disability Services Queensland has provided funding of \$25,500 for the Wide Bay Respite Centre, located in Hervey Bay, to sustain the service until October while the ongoing funding requirements of this service are assessed. Disability Services Queensland also provides funding of \$224,483 to Fraser Coast Family Support and Respite for respite services in Maryborough. Details of next year's budget will be available on 18 July 2000 when the Treasurer delivers the 2000-01 Budget.

#### **549. Kilcoy State Schools**

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Education (1/6/00)—

With reference to the requests of both Kilcoy State High School and Kilcoy State Primary School—

- (1) When will the proposed facilities and infrastructure be undertaken at the high school?
- (2) When will the State primary school library be completed?

**Mr WELLS** (3/7/00):

Kilcoy State High School

The government's Secondary Schools Renewal initiative, a continuation of the successful Building Better Schools program, offers older schools like Kilcoy State High School a second avenue to access capital works funding. This project, for pre-1975 secondary schools, is more than simply capital investment—it is an investment in the future of young Queenslanders through a major renewal of both the curriculum and facilities in some of our oldest high schools.

Kilcoy State High School has been included in the list of schools that will be considered for inclusion in Phase 3 of this project. This school is currently preparing a comprehensive Educational Brief that is due for submission by the end of June 2000. Depending on how successfully the school positions itself in an educational sense, capital works projects nominated by the Principal could possibly be incorporated within the scope of work approved by the Secondary Schools Renewal project team. The

District Director will assist the school in preparing its brief for Secondary Schools Renewal.

Kilcoy State School

Significant improvements to the school's classroom stock carried out under the government's Building Better Schools initiative provided some opportunity at that time to reconfigure the school's library services.

The department informs me that Kilcoy State School's declining student population now suggests that the proposed solution identified in 1996 may no longer be the most appropriate. The department informs me that the District Director is undertaking a review of educational requirements in the Kilcoy area.

#### **550. National Parks**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (1/6/00)—

With reference to the report now released by the Local Government Association of Queensland into the problems related to national parks in Queensland—

- (1) What action does he plan to address the issues relative to the shortcomings of national parks in Queensland, such as the lack of funding for maintenance, the spread of feral animals and the spread of noxious weeds to mention but a few of the problems?
- (2) When will the necessary remedial action be taken to address the problems with national parks as suggested by the Local Government Association of Queensland?

**Mr WELFORD** (29/6/00):

(1) Since establishing the new Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) in May 1999, several major initiatives have been implemented which begin to address many of the recommendations in the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Inquiry. These include:

preparation of the National Parks Master Plan (a blueprint for the future management of parks in Queensland due for release shortly);

the rapid assessment of park management performance (providing the foundation for a more accountable performance reporting, resource allocation and business planning framework for park management);

community survey of attitudes and behaviours towards the national park estate (a benchmark survey to be repeated every two years); and

a review of the resourcing requirements for the management of national parks.

These and similar programs will be continued and expanded to ensure Queensland's parks are well managed. The QPWS will work with the LGAQ and all its key stakeholders to improve management so that Queensland's park system continues to deliver environmental, economic and social benefits to the State.

(2) The LGAQ National Parks Inquiry reflects a strong desire within the community to see Queensland's parks well managed. Many of its recommendations offer genuinely useful ideas for, and new approaches to, issues raised by stakeholders. As outlined above action has already begun to enhance the management capacity of the QPWS.

### 551. Electricity Industry

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (1/6/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Energy Policy and although he speaks about gas and renewable sources of energy playing an important role in the future of energy generation—

- (1) Why does the Beattie Government's "Queensland Energy Policy" ignore the possibility of improved technologies in the use of coal for power generation?
- (2) What role is planned for the clean burning coal reserves in the Surat Basin as these high quality coal reserves can be used to generate local growth rather than be left as an untapped natural resource?

**Mr McGRADY** (5/7/00):

(1) The coal industry makes a significant contribution to the Queensland economy, being responsible for \$5.4 billion or 35% of Queensland's total exports in 1998-99. In order to assist in the development of new technologies, the Government is continuing to support the Black Coal Co-operative Research Centre's work on developing clean coal technologies for power generation.

(2) The Government is also supporting work to assess the suitability of Queensland coals, including coals from the Surat Basin, for use in new cleaner coal technologies, through the Black Coal Co-operative Research Centre.

### 552. Townsville Region, Public Transport

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/6/00)—

With reference to the efficiency and popularity of public transport which is very important to a community and without good public transport we become dependent on private vehicles and this brings all sorts of problems to a growing city, and as the Townsville and Thuringowa Councils have planned a public forum for input from community members and appealed to his department to have some say in plans for public transport in our cities—

Why is his department, located in Brisbane, making arrangements for the next five years for Townsville/Thuringowa and ignoring input from these local councils?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (4/7/00): The member for Thuringowa's assertion is wrong.

I am informed that Brisbane based Queensland Transport officers and officers based in Townsville met representatives of the Townsville City Council, Thuringowa City Council and peak community

groups representing the aged and people with disabilities on Wednesday 10 May.

All representatives were provided with the opportunity to table any issues concerning the Townsville service contract. Representatives were also advised that these issues would be taken on board by Queensland Transport and that appropriate issues would be taken up during the term of the second Townsville service contract.

No representations were received from Thuringowa City Council at the 10 May 2000 meeting but written representation have since been received from the Mayor of Thuringowa and the Member for Thuringowa.

### 553. Molongle Creek Boat Club

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (1/6/00)—

With reference to the Molongle Creek Boat Club Inc, a volunteer non-profit community service group which has been trying to provide a safer and improved boating access for a totally supportive boating community for safety reasons and which has been established and maintained for over 20 years—

- (1) Is it correct that Government department personnel from the Environmental Protection Agency have stifled and hindered the club in every way possible in providing this community service?
- (2) As his department personnel have stopped all maintenance on the existing works, under pre-existing use rights shouldn't the club be allowed to continue to maintain the existing channel while the studies are carried out as this is paramount for the safety of thousands of users each year, especially considering his department personnel stated they would work towards finalising the situation by Christmas 1999?
- (3) Is it correct that since the Molongle Creek Boat Club's inception, the club has been providing the only safe access to over 200 tenured private holiday residential properties on Cape Upstart, which is essentially a Government responsibility, these properties having sea access only?

**Mr WELFORD** (29/6/00):

- (1) No.
- (2) The existing access channel constructed by the Molongle Creek Boat Club was undertaken without the necessary approvals. The site of the works is located within a Queensland Marine Park. The boat club has maintained the channel using a swamp dozer at low tide to push up spoil onto the northern side of the channel, impacting on seagrass in a fish habitat area and a dugong protection area. Maintenance of this channel has the potential to disturb acid sulfate soils and cause environmental harm. Environmental Protection Agency staff have been liaising with the boat club and the Bowen Shire Council to resolve the issues to enable the works, including maintenance of the channel, to be approved in a



manner which does not impact on the surrounding environmental values.

(3) I am advised that the boat ramps in question are the main facility for vessels accessing Cape Upstart and that the Government has provided financial support to the Molongle Creek Boat Club each year to allow for maintenance of the facility through the Bowen Shire Council.

#### 554. Legal Aid

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (1/6/00)—

- (1) Will he provide details, on a year by year basis since 1995, on the total number of people who received terms of imprisonment greater than six months, the number of these people who accessed Legal Aid funding to appeal their sentence and the number of these appeals which were successful?
- (2) In relation to the above, will he provide details for each year on the offence category for each person who accessed Legal Aid to fund an appeal as well as the level of funding received?

**Mr FOLEY** (3/7/00): (1 & 2) These details are provided in the attachment to this answer. However, Legal Aid Queensland does not have data on the total number of people who received terms of imprisonment greater than six months. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 555. Noosa Private Hospital

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Health (1/6/00)—

With reference to Queensland Health which has contracted with the Noosa Private Hospital for the delivery of public health services—

- (1) What guarantees will she provide to Queensland taxpayers that the Noosa Private Hospital is providing all of the services they have contracted to provide?
- (2) In particular, how does her department accurately monitor if the Noosa Private Hospital is delivering the total level of health services they have contracted to provide?
- (3) How much does it cost her department to monitor the Noosa Private Hospital's compliance with their contractual obligations in the delivery of public health services?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/7/00):

(1) Under the contract signed by the previous Government, the Noosa Private Hospital is provided with a budget to deliver a specified amount of health services during the financial year. The budget is capped and the operator of the hospital, Health Care of Australia is only paid for the services provided. There is no guaranteed minimum payment.

(2) Each month Health Care of Australia is required to provide Queensland Health with the number and type of services provided to public patients the previous

month. This activity report is used as a basis for invoicing Queensland Health.

Under the terms of the contract, Queensland Health has the right to audit the records of the hospital to ensure accuracy in reporting and billing.

(3) The current cost is estimated to be around \$120,000 per annum and is expected to reduce over time.

#### 556. Mudgeeraba, Traffic Controls

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/6/00)—

With reference to a recent undertaking by the Main Roads district office on the Gold Coast for limited consultation with community groups relating to intersections in the Mudgeeraba area to determine suitable controls such as roundabouts or traffic lights at Somerset Drive and Hardys Road—

- (1) Will he explain why, when the majority of the groups consulted, in one case, wanted roundabouts, the district office decided to install traffic lights?
- (2) Will he undertake full consultation in relation to this issue where all the residents of the area can have a say?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (4/7/00):

(1) With regard to that particular intersection, the consultation findings recorded five groups in favour of a roundabout and four groups in favour of traffic signals. The difference in opinion was marginal. However, based on the strong submission from the adjoining school and, consideration of safety of school children, traffic signals were identified as the most appropriate option. This option was supported also by Councillor Ted Shepherd, the area Councillor.

(2) The appropriate consultation has been and will continue to be undertaken.

#### 557. Moreton TAFE Institute

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 290 and to part (1) of his response in which he indicates that Microsoft estimated the potential savings and business benefits accruing to Moreton Institute of TAFE over three years was approximately \$9m and as Microsoft is a major financial beneficiary of this business deal—

- (1) What did he do to obtain independent and objective financial advice before signing this deal?
- (2) What does his statement, "Microsoft is the sole supplier of customer campus agreement of Microsoft products", actually mean and how does this reason absolve the department from compliance with the State Purchasing Policy?
- (3) Will he confirm that the contract with Microsoft requires TAFE to exclusively use Microsoft products?

**Mr BRADY (3/7/00):**

(1) I am advised that the Information Technology activities of Moreton Institute of TAFE are managed through a contract with UNISYS which was entered into during the period of the Coalition Government. I understand that UNISYS advice was sought before any business decision was made to move from a NOVELL platform to a Microsoft platform.

(2) I am advised that Microsoft is the sole supplier of this particular Campus Agreement arrangement whereby Moreton Institute of TAFE was able to customise a business systems solution that would offer considerable savings to students and staff for products that are used within the learning experience of the Institute.

I am advised that the process by which Moreton Institute has entered into a Customer Campus Agreement with Microsoft is in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy.

(3) It does not require the Moreton Institute of TAFE to exclusively use Microsoft products.

#### **558. Building and Construction Industry, WorkCover**

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

With reference to the internal inconsistency in his response to Question on Notice No. 27—

- (1) If he knows there are builders freeloading on the present system by not paying their full WorkCover premium, why is his new policy aimed at all builders?
- (2) Is it because he has emasculated the WorkCover fraud detection unit and now finds that he has no option but to change policy rather than pursue unethical operators, most of whom will no doubt find ways around his new policy?

**Mr BRADY (3/7/00):**

(1) As outlined in my earlier response compliance with workers' compensation obligations has been a major problem in the building and construction industry. This potentially leaves both workers and employers exposed to financial loss. The new scheme is proposed to cover all workers, contractors, employers and employees. It will replace existing workers' compensation costs for the industry and will provide a more even commercial playing field. In fact those paying their fair share now will not be worse off under the proposed scheme. The levy scheme was proposed to the government by both employer and unions and has wide support of the industry. It is being developed in full consultation with the industry.

(2) The proposal to collect workers' compensation premiums as a levy on building and construction industry projects was proposed to the Government by the building and construction industry. The industry was looking at ways to improve poor premium compliance, remove the unlevel commercial playing field that results from non-compliance and develop a scheme that does not leave contractors

and workers financially exposed. The Government is working with the industry and WorkCover to develop such a scheme.

#### **559. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Thursday Island**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

With reference to page 102 of the Queensland Government Gazette of 19 May 2000 and the advertised position of College Manager, Thursday Island—

What is the salary and classification level of the current position of College Director, Thursday Island?

**Mr BRADY (3/7/00):** The Torres Strait College Director position is an AO7 level with a salary range of \$58,992-00 to \$63,325-00. The position is currently vacant.

#### **560. TAFE and Training Organisations, Audits**

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

At 30 May 2000, how many user-choice compliance audits have been conducted (a) in TAFE and (b) in other registered training organisations?

**Mr BRADY (3/7/00):** The Government wants the same things from all providers: quality training and quality service. The audit program in VET covers all providers.

The Government has made it plain that it expects all registered training organisations, private or public, to provide training to a standard that complies with the Australian Recognition Framework and with User Choice policy. In addition, it is expected of TAFE Institutes that they continue to set a quality benchmark in vocational education and training.

The legislation recently passed by the House includes provisions that will give TAFE Institutes greater autonomy and greater accountability. Since we took on the responsibility of Government, we have been taking steps to establish the policy and administrative frameworks that will enable us to achieve these objectives.

As from 1 July 2000, TAFE Institutes are no longer covered by artificial contractual arrangements, as had been the case in past years. Each Institute is asked to negotiate a resource agreement that binds the Institute and its Director to achieve set performance standards in a broad range of areas of activity, including user choice. While this process differs from the contractual arrangements the Department has with private providers, TAFE Institutes and private providers are subject to the same conditions.

All TAFE Institutes are covered by an ongoing integrated audit program, which is much more comprehensive than the audit arrangements that cover private providers of training. The integrated audit program—reflecting the resource agreement—covers every aspect of the business of an Institute and the Institute Director is personally accountable for the provision of quality training and

quality service to the community and to the individuals the Institute serves.

In addition, from time to time aspects of the business of an Institute may be examined using the more traditional compliance audit model. This will occur when complaints are received or when a request is made by the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission or by one of its standing committees.

In addition, TAFE Institutes, unlike private providers, are subject to an intensive program of internal audit and to external scrutiny by the Queensland Audit Office. Literally hundreds of audits take place in Institutes each year. We cannot replicate this with private providers.

Reflecting the difference in audit arrangements, since the user choice contractual audit process commenced in July 1998 a total of ninety-seven private Registered Training Organisation audits have been undertaken. Two TAFE Institutes have been audited for compliance under user choice contracts, prior to the commencement of the ongoing integrated audit process which covers all Institutes. Two further compliance audits of Institutes are being programmed for the next few weeks, covering specific aspects of User Choice.

#### 561. TAFE; Bannikoff Report

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

With reference to the following remark made by the Queensland Sector Union General Secretary in the latest edition of that union's journal, i.e., "For too long the ratio of teachers to administrative staff has been increasing in favour of teachers. This burden destroys productivity and morale for administrative staff"—

If the General Secretary has the same opinion in relation to TAFE teaching and administrative staff as he has to school teachers and administrative staff, won't this prevent achievement of the Bannikoff Report recommendation which calls for reversal of present teaching and administrative staff ratios in TAFE.

Mr BRADY (3/7/00): To my knowledge the General Secretary of the Queensland Public Sector Union has not made any similar remarks with regard to the ratios of TAFE teachers to administrative staff. I would not presume to make the assumption that he is opposed to the recommendations of the Bannikoff Report.

#### 562. TAFE, Apprentices and Trainees

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1087 of 19 August 1999—

- (1) What research has his department undertaken to ascertain why Government departments/agencies employing trainees and the trainees in such public sector agencies are

clearly showing their preference for non-TAFE training organisations as providers of off-job training associated with user-choice?

- (2) What are the primary findings of this research?

Mr BRADY (3/7/00): Apprentices and trainees are covered by User Choice arrangements for the selection of training providers, which was introduced by your Government. Under User Choice, employers and their apprentices and trainees have a right to determine which training provider they use. Government Departments are merely exercising their right.

It is a matter for TAFE Institutes to identify and implement strategies to improve their market share.

#### 563. Wide Bay TAFE Institute, Maryborough Campus

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

- (1) Will he confirm that because of an administrative error at Maryborough TAFE, a Maryborough based apprentice has had to travel to Brisbane to obtain tuition necessary to complete his apprenticeship?
- (2) Will he also confirm that such tuition is provided between the hours of 8 and 10 on Monday mornings and 10-12 on Friday mornings with the apprentice spending the intervening three days per week in the college library?
- (3) If a private training provider was responsible for such an appalling situation, would he be so calmly accepting of the situation?

Mr BRADY (3/7/00): I am advised that:

- (1) An apprentice who had completed a prevocational course was given inappropriate advice relating to the terms of his apprenticeship which caused him to travel to Brisbane to complete the stage 1 of his training.
- (2) The training was initially scheduled on Friday and Monday as best-fit in timetabling to allow the apprentice to be in Brisbane from Friday to Monday and return to work the remaining three days.
- (3) My Director-General requested that the Commissioner for Training investigate this matter and as a consequence of his findings the employer was paid an ex gratia payment of \$1837.50. If a private training provider was found to be responsible for a similar situation it would be reasonable to believe they would compensate the employer as the Department has compensated the employer in this instance.

#### 564. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Staff

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

- (1) How many DETIR staff (excluding TAFE staff) are currently in acting positions?
- (2) How many have been in "temporary" positions for the past 18 months?

**Mr BRADY (3/7/00):**

(1) As at 19 May 2000, 289 DETIR staff (excluding TAFE staff) were in acting positions.

(2) As at 19 May 2000, 28 DETIR staff (excluding TAFE staff and trainees) were employed in temporary positions for the past eighteen months.

**565. Bremer TAFE Institute, Springfield and Richlands Campuses**

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

(1) How many TAFE programs have been conducted this semester at (a) the Springfield Campus of the Bremer Institute of TAFE and (b) the Richlands Campus of the same institute?

(2) In each program (a) how many students were enrolled and (b) what programs are planned for each of these campuses in Semester 2 of this year?

**Mr BRADY (3/7/00):**

(1)(a) 8 courses.

(b) 22 courses.

(2)(a) See tables below.

**Courses Conducted at Springfield Campus Semester 1, 2000**

Course—No. Enrolled  
 Certificate III in Horticulture—3  
 Certificate II in Business (Office Administration)—11  
 Certificate III in Business (Office Administration)—5  
 Certificate III in Office Administration (Legal Office)—38  
 Diploma of Business (Administration)—2  
 ACE Short Course: Introduction to Computers—17  
 ACE Short Course: Guitar—7  
 ACE Short Course: MYOB—14  
 TOTAL—97

**Courses Conducted at Richlands Campus Semester 1, 2000**

Course—No. Enrolled  
 Certificate II in Horticulture—47  
 Certificate IV in Horticulture—1  
 Diploma of Horticulture—12  
 Certificate in Vocational Studies (Municipal Works)—2  
 Commercial Operator ACDC—11  
 Certificate I in Warehousing—34  
 Certificate II in Warehousing—34  
 Certificate I in Engineering (Prevocational)—47  
 Certificate I in Vocational Access—144  
 Certificate II in Vocational Access—6  
 Certificate I in Vocational Education—44  
 Course in Volunteer Tutoring—8  
 Course in Learning Support—73  
 Certificate II in Business (Office Administration)—57  
 Certificate III in Business (Office Administration)—92

ACE Short Course: Introduction to Computers—19

ACE Short Course: Windows 95/98—12

ACE Short Course: Under the Limit—8

TOTAL—651

(b) The proposed courses for Semester 2, 2000 are as detailed below:

**Proposed Courses for Springfield Campus, Semester 2, 2000**

**Course—Places Available**

Certificate II in Business (Office Administration)—Subject to demand

Certificate III in Business (Office Administration)—Subject to demand

Certificate III in Office Administration (Legal Office)—Subject to demand

Diploma of Business (Administration)—Subject to demand

ACE Short Course: AUSLAN—15

ACE Short Course: Belly Dancing—15

ACE Short Course: Introduction to Computers—15

ACE Short Course: Guitar—15

ACE Short Course: Microsoft Word for Beginners—15

ACE Short Course: Photography for Beginners—15

ACE Short Course: MYOB—15

TOTAL—Numbers not yet available

**Proposed Courses for Richlands Campus, Semester 2, 2000**

**Course—Places Available**

Certificate II in Horticulture—Subject to demand

Certificate III in Horticulture—Subject to demand

Certificate I in Warehousing—Subject to demand

Certificate II in Warehousing—Subject to demand

Certificate I in Engineering (Prevocational)—Subject to demand

Certificate I in Vocational Access—Subject to demand

Certificate II in Vocational Access—Subject to demand

Certificate I in Vocational Education—Subject to demand

Course in Volunteer Tutoring—Subject to demand

Course in Learning Support—Subject to demand

Certificate II in Business (Office Administration)—Subject to demand

Certificate III in Business (Office Administration)—Subject to demand

ACE Short Course: Introduction to Computers (night)—15

ACE Short Course: Cake Icing (day)—15

ACE Short Course: Hydroponics (day)—15

ACE Short Course: Scrap Book (day)—15

ACE Short Course: Yoga (day)—15

Total—Numbers not yet available.

**566. Moreton TAFE Institute**

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 1851 of 26 November 1999—

- (1) Will he provide an assurance that the first paragraph of his answer contains no arithmetical errors?
- (2) As the business review process is now further advanced, will he indicate (a) how many excess staff have been identified and (b) how many staff have been or will be offered VERs this year?

**Mr BRADY** (3/7/00):

- (1) These figures accurately reflect the situation as of 26 November 1999.
- (2)(a) 14 positions have been identified as surplus to requirements.
- (b) 14 staff have accepted the offer of Voluntary Early Retirement and no further offers are expected to be made this year.

**567. Ipswich, Training Contracts**

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 782 of 9 June 1999—

- (1) Will he provide to and table in the Parliament, an updated list of 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?
- (2) What is the name, nature, venue and cost of each such project?

**Mr BRADY** (3/7/00): (1 & 2) Please refer to the attached tables. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

**568. Barrier Reef TAFE Institute**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

- (1) How many student places were available in the Childcare program offered by the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE in 1999?
- (2) How many places were made available in Semester 1 this year?
- (3) How many places will be available in Semester 2?
- (4) How many students are currently on the waiting list for this course?
- (5) How much does TAFE charge students undertaking this course?

**Mr BRADY** (3/7/00): I am advised that:

- (1) 46 full-time Diploma students, 17 full-time Certificate students and 72 self-paced Diploma students and 33 self-paced Certificate students.

(2) 34 full-time Diploma students, 26 full-time Certificate students and 17 self-paced Diploma students and 15 self-paced Certificate students.

(3) As enrolments are yet to be finalised specific numbers of full-time and self-paced students in both the Diploma and Certificate are unavailable.

(4) As at 9/6/00 the Institute had a waiting list of 48 applicants for both the Certificate III and Diploma courses.

(5) The maximum tuition fee payable is \$625.80 per student year, together with an amenities fee of \$154.00 per student year.

The actual cost paid depends on the length of the course undertaken.

A 75% reduction in the tuition fee component is available for those eligible for a concession.

**569. Group Training Australia**

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

With reference to a document obtained under FOI and under the heading "What is the Government doing to improve its relations with Group Training Schemes", in which the following advice appears: "A Departmental officer is currently on a six week Industry Release to Group Training Australia—Queensland and Northern Territory Inc, while its Executive Officer is on annual leave. The officer is ensuring the Association's operations continue to support its members during the Executive Officers absence." and whilst industry release is admirable—

Does he believe that it is the role of a departmental employee to be involved in the operations of a non-Government entity to this extent; if so, will he explain to the Parliament why he believes so?

**Mr BRADY** (3/7/00): Yes.

As Mr Elliott acknowledged, industry release is admirable.

The non-government entity involved is a peak representative body for Queensland's group training network.

Collectively, group training organisations are the largest employer of apprentices in this State—and a significant employer of trainees. In recognition of this role, the Department and the state association, Group Training Australia—Queensland and Northern Territory Inc. last year formalised a partnership agreement.

The industry release enabled an officer to gain first hand knowledge of issues impacting on the group training network. It was therefore viewed as a further opportunity to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the major employer of apprentices and trainees in Queensland and the Government.

**570. Goods and Services Tax**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Treasurer (1/6/00)—

With reference to the list of Queensland's taxes and charges that were exempted from the imposition of the GST—

As the Minister responsible for the Office of State Revenue, will he provide a similar list of all Queensland's taxes, charges, levies, etc. for which the GST is to be imposed?

**Mr HAMILL** (28/6/00): The Commonwealth Treasurer has the power to issue determinations under Division 81 of A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 of taxes and regulatory charges that will effectively be GST free. In addition, some government fees and charges will be GST free under the GST-free provisions (Division 38) of A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999. Fines and penalties will be outside the scope of the GST, because they are not related to a taxable supply. A small number of government fees and charges will be input taxed. All other government fees and charges will be subject to the GST.

Government Owned Corporations and Commercialised Business Units will set fees and charges taking into account the GST liability on the fees and charges and the availability of savings from the removal of wholesale sales tax that can be passed on to consumers.

Most general government fees and charges that attract the GST will increase by 10%. This price increase is equal to the government's liability to pay GST on these fees and charges to the Australian Taxation Office.

While businesses are expected to increase prices by less than 10% because other taxes have been abolished, the Queensland Government has no capacity to reduce general government fees and charges in this way. The Government has no capacity to pass embedded tax savings on to consumers, because the Commonwealth has reduced funding to Queensland by an amount equal to the embedded wholesale sales tax savings on its expenditures.

The Queensland Government has an obligation to consumers to show the impact of the Federal GST on the price of government goods and services. Where GST does apply to Government fees and charges, the Queensland Government will make very clear the impost of the Commonwealth's GST. Wherever appropriate, prices displayed in public information and on all system generated invoices and receipts will state the GST component. The Queensland Government will assist the consumers by ensuring that changes to government fees and charges as a result of the Commonwealth's GST are transparent.

Attached is a list of general government fees and charges within my portfolio that will attract the GST. I refer the Honourable Member to my ministerial colleagues for information on fees and charges within their portfolios that will attract the GST.

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

#### 571. Townsville Region, Public Transport

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/6/00)—

With reference to the current contract negotiation in relation to the commercial bus contract in the Townsville region—

- (1) Is he aware of the concern being expressed by the Townsville City Council and other representative bodies in the region about the lack of consultation with the local community about transport needs?
- (2) Will he advise what steps he proposes to take to ensure that a more open and consultative process is adopted by Queensland Transport in negotiating these contracts?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (4/7/00):

- (1) On Wednesday 10 May officers of Queensland Transport from Brisbane and regional officers from Townsville met representatives of the Townsville City Council, Thuringowa City Council and peak community groups representing the aged and people with disabilities.

All representatives were provided with the opportunity to table any issues concerning the Townsville service contract. Representatives were also advised that these issues would be taken on board by Queensland Transport. Where appropriate issues would be taken up during the term of the second Townsville service contract.

There are many facets to the consultation which Queensland Transport conducts. Queensland Transport, for each service contract area, has on two occasions, independently conducted, statistically reliable market research as to the opinions of residents (both service users and non-users) of the services which are available.

The survey is standard and asks residents their opinions of many aspects of the services including, how well the route network suits their needs, the frequency of services, the cost of fares, the adequacy of vehicles and bus stops amongst other things.

This survey plays a major role in assessing the performance of the service contract holder and is highly valued for its objectivity and independence.

The survey results are seen as a key element in the consultation process since all residents of Townsville (aged over 16 years of age) have an equal chance of being contacted and questioned in detail as to their opinions on a wide range of issues which affect their bus services.

- (2) Appropriate on going consultation processes are being undertaken by Queensland Transport.

#### 572. Abattoir Corporation

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (1/6/00)—

With reference to the negotiation of redundancy arrangements for Queensland Abattoir Corporation (QAC) workers by Mr Harry Hauenschild, which the QAC board warned in their 1999 annual report were above normal and potentially above their capacity to pay—

- (1) How will these redundancy arrangements be paid for?

- (2) Has any funding from the Meat Processing Development Initiative been allocated to pay for these redundancy payments?
- (3) Will he give an assurance that QAC's assets, such as the Bundaberg abattoir site, will not be sold to meet QAC's liabilities such as these enhanced redundancy payments?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (28/6/00):

- (1) These liabilities have been accommodated in the QAC's balance sheet forecast.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes. The Bundaberg abattoir site will not be sold to meet these liabilities.

### 573. Outback Train Travel, Advertising

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (1/6/00)—

With reference to the recent advertising campaign, funded by Tourism Queensland and Queensland Rail TravelTrain and aimed at promoting travel in outback Queensland—

- (1) What was the total cost of the campaign including all costs involved in campaign planning, material preparation, production and placement?
- (2) What was the breakdown of costs in TV, press, radio, direct mail etc?
- (3) What areas of the State were targeted during the campaign and how were those areas targeted?
- (4) What was the total cost of consultants involved in this campaign?

**Mrs ROSE** (3/7/00):

- (1) The total campaign budget was \$180,000.
- (2) Queensland Rail coordinated all media production and placement.
- (3) The campaign activity was targeted to South-east Queensland and Northern New South Wales to a 45 plus demographic using television advertising in the Brisbane and Northern Rivers region, direct mail of an eight-page brochure using the combined Tourism Queensland/Queensland Rail database, an insert of this brochure into Brisbane News and retail press advertising.
- (4) Tourism Queensland did not engage any consultants.

### 574. Abattoir Corporation

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (1/6/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Abattoir Corporation's (QAC) 1999 Annual Report and specifically, the Cabinet Budget Review Committee's appointment of Mr Harry Hauenschild to finalise redundancy arrangements for QAC workers and given that, according to the report, the QAC board is of the view its previous redundancy arrangements were generous and that the arrangements negotiated by Hauenschild may set a precedent—

- (1) Will he detail the nature and extent of the redundancy arrangements negotiated by Hauenschild for QAC workers and the funding arrangements proposed to meet these?
- (2) Will these redundancy payments be paid to all QAC workers, including those workers whose jobs will be maintained with the new operator of the Cannon Hill abattoir?
- (3) Will he provide a comparison of these redundancy arrangements with the State's meat industry award?
- (4) Do the QAC redundancy arrangements set a precedent for other Government-owned corporations and public service awards?
- (5) Will the Government similarly intervene in the negotiation of other Government-owned corporation and public service awards to negotiate enhanced redundancy arrangements?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (28/6/00):

- (1) The outcomes of the negotiations conducted by Harry Hauenschild resulted in an agreement which was certified by the Industrial Commissioner Mr Brown on 22 October 1999, Number CA 515.

This "Certified Agreement" is a public document, copies of which can be obtained through the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission.

These liabilities have been accommodated in the QAC's balance sheet forecast.

- (2) Yes all workers who are eligible under the "Certified Agreement" will be paid when QAC ceases operations on 30 November 2000. In particular I refer you to Clause 25 of the "Agreement" which details the eligibility conditions.

- (3) It is my understanding that comparisons were made during the during the negotiations stages and I would advise you to contact my colleagues Mr Braddy's Department to obtain these comparisons.

- (4) No. In general terms the payments and conditions set out under the "Agreement" follow the Termination Change and Redundancy Standards. Generally, Government Owned Corporations have redundancy arrangements, which are either equal to, or greater than, the benefits negotiated for QAC employees.

- (5) QAC is not a Government Owned Corporation it is a Statutory Authority constituted under the Meat Industry Act 1993. The Government only intervened in this process to provide a framework for management and employees of QAC to work together to facilitate the Government's exit from the meat processing industry in a harmonious and orderly fashion.

### 575. Strategic Weed Eradication and Education Program

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (1/6/00)—

With reference to the SWEEP Program—

- (1) Will he advise if funding will be provided to continue the highly successful SWEEP Program in its present form?

- (2) If the scheme is to be scrapped, does he have an alternative scheme to control these noxious weeds?

**Mr WELFORD** (29/6/00): (1-2) The Strategic Weed Eradication and Education Program, known as SWEEP, will continue next year. However, the funding allocations for SWEEP have yet to be determined.

The level of funding will be influenced by the extent to which Queensland receives funding from the National Weeds Program and the level of commitment demonstrated by local government and individual landholders.

#### 576. Sunshine Coast, Sewerage Line

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (1/6/00)—

- (1) Is it a fact that (a) the Government is considering a charge of \$10,000 per annum on Caloundra City Council to run a proposed sewerage line through an already cleared route in Dularcha National Park as a part of the proposal to sewer Mooloolah, (b) the use will be in the public interest, ecologically sustainable and there is no reasonably practicable alternative and (c) no other local Governments are making such a payment?
- (2) Will he withdraw this proposed condition so that the much-needed sewerage of Mooloolah can proceed as soon as possible?

**Mr WELFORD** (29/6/00):

- (1) (a) It is a fact that:

Caloundra City Council has been negotiating with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) for the construction of a sewerage main through Dularcha National Park and that the proposed route generally follows an existing cleared route that the QPWS uses for management purposes; and

subject to a formal agreement between the Chief Executive of my Environmental Protection Agency and Caloundra City Council, it is proposed that an annual fee be paid for the use of the National Park by the Council.

- (b) It is a fact that where a proposed use of a National Park is not consistent with the management principles under which a park is managed, section 35 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 can be used to provide for such a use. However, that use must be prescribed by regulation and the Chief Executive of my Environmental Protection Agency must be satisfied that the cardinal principle for the management of National Parks is observed to the greatest possible extent, the use is in the public interest, is ecologically sustainable and there is no reasonably practicable alternative to the use.
- (c) To date there has been one other authorised use of a National Park under section 35 of the Nature Conservation Act. However, it is a fact that the arrangement with Caloundra City

Council will be the first of its kind as it is proposed to apply an annual rental charge for use of the National Park.

- (2) I understand that the matter of annual payment has not been a hurdle in the negotiating process and that Caloundra City Council agreed in writing on 30 March 2000 to a draft Deed of Agreement which clearly identified the proposed annual payment.

#### 577. Cooroy Hospital

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (1/6/00)—

With reference to the various options for the Cooroy Hospital being explored by the community, one of which is a nursing home—

- (1) How many people from the Cooroy District, including Eumundi and Kenilworth, are awaiting nursing home placement?
- (2) How many are likely to require nursing home beds over the next five years?
- (3) How many former residents from these areas are awaiting nursing home placement closer to home?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/7/00):

- (1) The provision of residential aged care, including the former nursing home and hostel care, is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. Consequently, Queensland Health does not maintain details of the number of people awaiting nursing home or high-level care placements, or projected future needs.

(2) Refer to (1).

(3) Refer to (1).

#### 578. Local Government Planning Schemes

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (1/6/00)—

With reference to Local Government planning schemes which are in the process of being developed and finalised at the present time by Local Government across Queensland and under his administration serious inconsistencies are emerging in the new schemes and it is recognised that no one plan will fit all regional and local conditions, however much can be done to ensure consistent language and complexity do not allow planning schemes in Queensland to become overly complex and inconsistent—

- (1) Why has he opted not to assist Local Government with the preparation of planning schemes by way of a flexible standard model to which they could refer?
- (2) Why has he reneged on his pre-election promise to Local Government to give the Integrated Planning Act significant support because it gave communities the choice to plan for their own communities?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (29/6/00):

- (1) My Department is working closely with local governments in the preparation of their new planning



schemes and providing practical guidance and assistance about the preparation, structure and drafting of these instruments.

Last year the Department published guidelines about preparing planning schemes and statements of proposals in accordance with the Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA). The guidelines provide advice about interpretations of the Act and practical suggestions about how to approach, structure and draft schemes and proposals under the IPA.

My Department is currently following up on these guidelines with further more detailed advice about planning scheme preparation. In particular, guidelines are being prepared to provide example scheme provisions that local governments may refer to or adapt to their particular scheme requirements. It is expected these guidelines will be available later in the year to assist local governments in making their planning schemes efficient and effective instruments.

(2) I have made implementation of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA) a key priority. On becoming Minister, I ensured additional funding of \$800 000 was made available to assist in the implementation of IPA. This has enabled additional specialist staff to be employed to assist local government in the transition to the new system and to fund a series of targeted projects designed to provide local government with detailed resource material.

Training and workshops on a range of IPA matters have been provided at regular intervals throughout the State at no cost to local governments (other than the cost of Council staff travelling to these workshops). Guidelines, explanatory notes and other advice has been prepared and circulated to local governments and further advice currently being developed will be distributed and discussed with local governments as it is completed.

### 579. Trainees

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (1/6/00)—

- (1) In 1998-99, how many available traineeship places in (a) the private sector and (b) the public sector, were filled by trainees from the 15-16 year-old category?
- (2) In each case, what percentage of the total number of traineeships did these 15-16 year-olds constitute?

**Mr BRADY** (3/7/00): (1-2) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 580. Helicopter Emergency Services

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (1/6/00)—

With reference to the provision of annual grants to support community-based helicopter emergency service providers and, in particular, the \$2.674m grant allocation in 1998-99—

- (1) Will he give an assurance that no employees or directors of any of the community-based organisations received, or are receiving, a commission based on the amount of the Government grant?
- (2) If commissions on grants have been or are being paid, which providers pay commissions from Government grants?
- (3) Will he name individuals who have received a proportion of grants as commission, including the amounts received?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (30/6/00):

(1) The Department of Emergency Services provides Government grants to four community helicopter providers in Queensland. During 1998/99 annual grants were provided as follows:

RACQ CareFlight (Gold Coast)—\$606,000

Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service (Rockhampton)—\$606,000

CQ Rescue (Mackay)—\$606,000

Energex Community Rescue (Maroochydore and Bundaberg)—\$856,000.

In return for the grant, community helicopter providers agree to provide aeromedical primary response, evacuation and transport, search and rescue operations, counter disaster operations, assist with Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority operations and assist with police responsibilities according to the terms and conditions of a Service Agreement between each community helicopter provider and the State of Queensland through the Department of Emergency Services.

The terms of the Service Agreements require each community helicopter provider to comply with specified operational, administrative and financial reporting arrangements. However, as there is no requirement for community helicopter providers to supply the Department of Emergency Services with details in relation to the remuneration arrangements of individual employees or Directors of the organisation, I am unable to provide these details to you.

(2) My Department is unaware of any arrangements whereby community helicopter providers pay their directors or employees commissions on State Government grants.

(3) My Department is unaware of any arrangements whereby community helicopter providers pay their directors or employees commissions on State Government grants.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****495. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Consultancies** (see also Hansard 18/07/00 p. 2041)

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (30/5/00)—

- (1) Will he table the consultancy performance report for all consultancies over \$10,000 which have been entered into by his department since he assumed office?
- (2) Where such reports (required under Part C, Section 7 and Appendix F of the Queensland Government's Purchasing Policy) have not been completed, will he indicate (a) the total cost of the relevant consultancy and (b) the reason the required report has not been completed?

**Mr BRADY** (27/7/00): Additional answer—

- (1) Disclosure of performance reports on consultancies entered into since 29 June 1998 are subject to application under the Freedom of Information Act 1992.
- (2) In respect of 1998/99 there were eight performance reports which were not prepared. In 1999/2000 performance reports have been prepared for all consultancies. All officers have been advised of the reporting requirements for consultancies and the comments contained in the Auditor-General's report.

**581. Branyan Road State School**

**Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Education (1/6/00)—

With reference to an urgent need for an administration building at Branyan Road Primary School which is currently in the electorate of Burnett and as I have raised previously, children have no sick room and have to use a makeshift bed on the open veranda which has been an issue for quite some years and I believe planning has already been undertaken and as this school will be in the Bundaberg electorate after the boundaries change, the school community has enlisted my help to try to get this much needed facility—

Will he advise if this administration building could be listed in the forthcoming Budget; if not, what action can be taken to provide this quite urgently needed building?

**Mr WELLS** (28/7/00): I acknowledge the Member for Bundaberg and her continuing strong representations on behalf of the Branyan Road Primary school community in regards to the administration building at the school. The department informs me that design work for a replacement administration block at Branyan Road State School was undertaken during 1997/98. This was done to enable Education Queensland to respond quickly should an opportunity arise to include the project on a future draft Capital Works Program.

Education Queensland accepts that the administration facilities at Branyan Road State

School as being deficient in both size and quality. The department informs me that for this reason, the project has been scheduled for inclusion on the 2001/2002 draft Capital Works Program.

I have asked the department to revisit this project during this financial year to refine the design and ensure its cost effectiveness. The community's support will play an important part in determining that solution.

**582. Condamine and Balonne Rivers WAMP**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/6/00)—

With reference to the draft WAMP for the Condamine and Balonne Rivers that he launched in Dalby on 15 June—

- (1) Is he aware that local irrigators claim his Option A, which he insists retains the status quo, is in fact a reduction in allocations for licensed water harvesters in the Upper Condamine?
- (2) Will he provide documentation to prove their allegations are incorrect?

**Mr WELFORD** (20/7/00):

(1) Within the draft Plan, the water diversions associated with Scenario A are consistent with the level of on-the-ground development as of the middle of 1999. The installation of uninstalled pumps ("sleeper" licences) has the effect of reducing the available diversions for existing water users. The treatment of "sleeper" licences is one issue where the Government is seeking specific comments from stakeholders.

(2) A series of targeted and focused workshops with water users is currently under way at a local level. These workshops will provide for a more informed discussion on this issue and on the draft Plan in general and will provide the opportunity to examine and explain the data used in the WAMP in more detail.

**583. Townsville Correctional Centre, Staff**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (20/6/00)—

- (1) Why has a Townsville Correction Centre employee, Adam John Morton, who has worked full time in a continual temporary position since January 1998 not as yet been offered a permanent position within the Department of Corrective Services?
- (2) Why is it that no other employees in the Townsville Correction Centre have had to wait this amount of time before being offered permanent employment?

**Mr BARTON** (19/7/00): Mr Morton commenced employment as a trainee custodial correctional officer on 19 January 1998. The custodial correctional officer training program runs for seven weeks and until the successful completion of this course, trainees are not eligible for permanent placement within the department.

During his employment with the Townsville Correctional Centre, Mr Morton has performed duties in a number of different areas of custodial corrections, including duty in the farm area of the centre for a period of time. Mr Morton's Performance Planning and Reviews (PPRs) during the period indicated that he required further skills development in the custodial area prior to being considered suitable for permanent appointment.

Since these PPRs were undertaken, Mr Morton has been given the opportunity to work in other custodial areas of the centre to enhance his skills.

The decision to offer custodial correctional officers permanent employment at Townsville Correctional Centre is made by the management team of the centre. A list of officers eligible for permanent appointment within the centre is developed when permanent vacancies are identified.

All officers on the list are considered for permanent appointment on the basis of merit. In this regard, length of service is not a consideration in determining merit.

Since January 1998, a number of permanent appointments have been made to custodial correctional officer positions at Townsville Correctional Centre.

Of these appointments, all officers were initially appointed in a temporary capacity and subsequently were offered permanent employment.

An additional issue in the availability of permanent positions was the deployment of four officers from the Wacol Precinct to the Townsville Correctional Centre as a result of the decommissioning of the Moreton A Correctional Centre.

There are currently 35 temporary custodial correctional officers at the Townsville Correctional Centre, including Mr Morton.

Mr Morton will continue to be considered for permanent appointment when vacancies become available on the basis of merit.

#### **584. Ministerial Advisory Arrangement, Offensive Material**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (20/6/00)—

With reference to a series of questions asked of the Minister for Family Services in State Parliament in November 1999 regarding the activity of an elected member of the Minister's Ministerial Advisory Arrangement after an official document of the Ministerial Advisory Arrangement was distributed which contained a quantity of racist, sexist and religious jokes which were highly offensive and to John Tudman, an elected member at that time of the Maryborough Housing Action Group, who admitted publicly to his involvement in the placing of the offensive material in the official document and to Tony Dreger of the Maryborough Housing Action Group, who has now been appointed to the Ministerial Advisory Arrangement in place of John Tudman—

- (1) Did she cause an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the placement of these offensive jokes into the official document?
- (2) Will she confirm that Tony Dreger was also involved in the placement of these offensive jokes into that official document?
- (3) Was the office of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care contacted by any party opposed to the appointment of Tony Dreger?
- (4) Did the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care contact community service organisations in the local area of Maryborough or Hervey Bay regarding the intended appointment of Tony Dreger to this official position?
- (5) Why was Tony Dreger appointed to this official position after it was known publicly that Maryborough Housing Action Group had been responsible for the inclusion of this offensive material in this official document published by the Ministerial Advisory Arrangement?

**Ms BLIGH** (21/7/00):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am advised that the Administrator of the relevant organisation has confirmed that Mr Dreger was not involved in the placement of the jokes in the document. Mr Dreger confirmed in writing that he had no involvement. If the Honourable member has evidence to support his allegations this should be provided to me forthwith.
- (3) I am advised that one concern was raised alleging that Mr Dreger was involved in the placement of the jokes in the document. This allegation could not be substantiated.
- (4) Mr Dreger's nomination was recommended by the Regional/Sector Network. Local service providers and SAAP agencies, including the local women's services, have forwarded letters of support for Mr Dreger's nomination.
- (5) Mr Dreger was nominated by Regional/Sector Network as the preferred representative of services in the region.

#### **585. Maryborough, West Indian Termites**

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (20/6/00)—

With reference to the long term infestation of West Indian termites in heritage Maryborough—

- (1) Was the recommendation from his chief entomologist that the infested buildings and a quarantine area should be thoroughly fumigated with methyl bromide, despite the logistical difficulties associated with some buildings?
- (2) Is this document now within Cabinet, and Cabinet's decision has been to continue with the current survey and spot spraying with synthetic pyrethroids—a much cheaper, but much less effective technique, which will not

achieve eradication, but allow the problem to perpetuate?

- (3) Has he just approved the complete fumigation of 13 buildings in Brisbane at the expense of the Government in accordance with the applicable regulation?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (20/7/00):** The infestation of West Indian Drywood Termite in Maryborough has recently been confirmed using a systematic survey of buildings suspected of being infested with the termite. Following the survey experts have visited the area and are preparing a report on the fumigation operation including the projected cost of the operation.

The fumigation of the infested buildings will be with methyl bromide and will be performed prior to the flight season of the termite which begins in November. Fumigation of buildings confirmed as infested whether they are in Brisbane or Maryborough will be carried out before November 2000.

#### **586. Regional Forest Agreements, Hardwood Plantations**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (20/6/00)—

With reference to the hardwood plantations now being planted on freehold lands under the RFA—

- (1) How many such hectares will have been planted in the south-east of Queensland by 30 June 2000 and where?
- (2) How many trees per hectare are being planted and what species are being planted?
- (3) What steps are being promoted to cull out unsuitable young trees and under what time frames?
- (4) What is the expected number of trees per hectare to be left after the selection processes to be allowed to grow to maturity?
- (5) What is the expected girth size and length of millable saw logs after a 25 year growth period for the different species of trees grown in these plantations?
- (6) What is the expected yield per hectare after 25 years in relation to the different species of trees grown?
- (7) To what level is his department involved in these private timber plantation projects?
- (8) What equity will his department retain in each plantation?
- (9) How will his department maintain this equity in relation to deceased estates or sale of plantations?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (20/7/00):**

(1) The attached Table 1 summarises the areas that will be planted in south-east Queensland up to 30 June. In total 297 ha will be completed with over 920 ha to be planted by year's end.

(2) Department of Primary Industries Forestry planting procedure involves planting approximately

1,000 trees per hectare. There are a range of species being planted, the main ones being:

- Spotted gum (*Corymbia variegata*)
- Gympie messmate (*Eucalyptus cloeziana*)
- Blackbutt (*E. pilularis*)

In addition a number of other species are also being planted dependent on individual site factors:

- Flooded gum x forest red gum hybrid (*E. grandis* x *E. camaldulensis*)
- Dunn's white gum (*E. dunnii*)
- Western white gum (*E. argophloia*)
- Red mahogany (*E. resinifera*)
- Camden woollybutt (*E. macarthuri*)

(3) Department of Primary Industries Forestry procedure for culling unsuitable young trees involves their being removed in conjunction with the first pruning of the lower branches. This is dependent on growth rates of the particular species and the individual site characteristics, but is normally undertaken at around age 2-3 years of age.

(4) The number of unsuitable young trees removed at the first pruning stage is dependent on the number of trees surviving the initial planting and the early growing seasons. The aim is to retain, and allow to grow to maturity, approximately 200-300 trees per hectare after the early selection processes.

(5) The aim is to have millable saw logs after a 25 year growth period with a minimum small end diameter of 30cm. The final log size is dependent on the individual site factors influencing productivity such as rainfall and soil factors. For the purposes of the growth modelling data for financial return calculations, sites are classified as low, medium and high productivity dependant on the above factors. This equates to an average stem volume of 0.89, 1.27 and 1.64 cubic metres respectively and associated tree diameters at breast height of 34, 38 and 42 cm. The log length on all sites would be greater than the 2.4 m minimum industry requirement.

(6) The expected yield per hectare after 25 years is primarily influenced by the individual site factors such as rainfall and soil factors as opposed to only the different species of trees grown. As such, these additional factors need to be taken into consideration in commenting on expected yields. In general, for the purposes of the growth modelling data for financial return calculations, sites are classified as low, medium and high productivity dependant on the above factors. After 25 years then and given that generally no thinning yields are anticipated, final production from these various productivity sites equates to 300, 425 and 550 cubic metres yield per hectare respectively.

(7) The level of involvement that the Department of Primary Industries Forestry has in these private timber plantation projects is dependent on the specific project.

(8) The equity that the Department of Primary Industries Forestry retains in each plantation is dependent on the arrangements with each equity partner as outlined in the individual joint venture agreement. The equity split is related to the

respective parties' contribution to the plantation's development.

(9) The Department of Primary Industries Forestry equity in relation to deceased estates or sale of plantation land will be maintained through profit a prendre agreements registered on the land title. The Queensland Government amended the Land Title Act 1994 to allow profit a prendres to be registered on the land title.

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

### 587. Caboolture, Tree Felling/Clearing Contracts

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/6/00)—

- (1) How many tree felling, tree clearing contracts and jobs were issued out by Q Build at Caboolture over the past two years, 12 months and six months?
- (2) What is the average price of each tree felling and tree clearing job or contract?
- (3) How many tree felling contractors have been contracted work by Q Build at Caboolture over the past two years, 12 months and six months?
- (4) Who are these contractors and which contractors are local to the Caboolture area?
- (5) How many quotes did each contractor make on each job over the past two years, 12 months and six months?

Mr SCHWARTEN (21/7/00): I am advised that:

(1) Over the past 2 years 668 jobs were issued by the Q-Build Sunshine Coast Regional Office\*.

Over the past 12 months 295 jobs were issued by the Q-Build Sunshine Coast Regional Office\*.

Over the past 6 months 89 jobs were issued by the Q-Build Sunshine Coast Regional Office\*.

\*The Q-Build Sunshine Coast Region covers an area from the east coast north to Coolumb, west to Toogoolawah and Esk and south to the Pine River. This includes the principal towns of Caboolture, Caloundra and Maroochydore.

(2) The average price of each job or contract is \$598.00.

(3) Over the past 2 years—5 tree felling contractors have been contracted work by Q-Build.

Over the past 12 months—5 tree felling contractors have been contracted work by Q-Build.

Over the past 6 months—5 tree felling contractors have been contracted work by Q-Build.

(4) The following are contractors which were contracted work by Q-Build for the Caboolture area:

Contractor—Location

Arbor Operations Pty Ltd—Virginia

Mulch It Tree Care Services—Woombye

Suncoast Tree Service—Yandina Creek

J. Fennell—Wamuran

Combined Services/Adam's Treelopping—Elimbah

(5) Total quotes submitted by each contractor:

Contractor	2 years	12 months	6 months
Arbor Operations Pty Ltd	82	56	9
Mulch It Tree Care Services	22	11	6
Suncoast Tree Service	28	7	5
J. Fennell	2	1	0
Combined Services/Adam's Treelopping	6	5	0

### 588. Flying Foxes

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/6/00)—

With reference to flying fox damage—

- (1) Why are flying foxes listed as a protected species and where is the documentation supporting that protection?
- (2) Why are mitigation permits being initially refused to growers?
- (3) If mitigation permits are issued, why are numbers so heavily restricted?
- (4) Why can't mitigation permits be issued before damage occurs?
- (5) If flying foxes remain on the protected species list, what compensation is available to growers?
- (6) Is there any attempt to develop a protective measure other than netting?

Mr WELFORD (20/7/00):

(1) Under the provisions of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 all native Australian wildlife which is prescribed as presumed extinct, endangered, vulnerable, rare or common wildlife is protected wildlife. Flying foxes are classified as common in Queensland but are a unique component of the fauna of Queensland and their protection and conservation remains an important issue.

The Action Plan for Australian Bats, published in 1999, provided evidence that clearing of suitable habitat for development is a key threatening process for the population decline in flying foxes. The plan recommended that the grey-headed flying fox be classified as vulnerable in Australia. In Queensland, recent information suggests a decline of grey-headed flying fox and spectacled flying fox populations. Because of these factors, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is to undertake a review of their conservation status.

(2) All damage mitigation permits are assessed on merit and there is no evidence to suggest that there is a blanket refusal of these permits to fruit growers. Under the provisions of the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994 a damage mitigation permit for protected wildlife can only be granted if the take is ecologically sustainable, the taking of wildlife is humane and does not cause any unnecessary suffering to the wildlife and the land-holder can demonstrate that wildlife is causing, or is likely to cause, damage to crops or significant economic loss.

(3) Numbers are restricted to ensure that any take is ecologically sustainable.

(4) A damage mitigation permit can be issued for damage caused or damage likely to be caused by common wildlife.

(5) Officers of the QPWS are working closely with fruit growers and other government departments through consultative committees to mitigate the potential impact of flying foxes. This work involves the development of non-lethal crop protection options that are acceptable to growers, while providing for the best possible protection for flying foxes.

There are two basic principles to consider when developing a control strategy. First, the program has to be effective in achieving the desired outcome and second, the program has to be cost effective. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that culling flying foxes for crop protection is not an effective method of crop protection.

(6) There are a variety of non-lethal crop protection measures available to growers. So far, netting is considered to be one of the most effective systems for overall crop protection. There are a variety of different netting systems available and some of these also protect crops from insect pests and hail damage.

In addition, there are a variety of non-lethal crop protection systems that have been used to varying degrees of success. These include various scaring devices, such as streamers, smoke and recorded animal alarm calls, and acoustic and light deterrent devices which aim at deterring flying foxes from feeding in orchards. There are also smell and taste deterrents that, when sprayed onto the crops, make the fruit unpalatable for animals. However, no reliable data is currently available for this type of deterrent, and as with the use of all chemicals, a registration for their use would be required. Chemical deterrents are currently being investigated by members of the previously mentioned consultative committees.

#### 589. Studies of Society and Environment Syllabus

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Education (20/6/00)—

With reference to the statement on page 2 of the SOSE Syllabus which states "Social Justice seeks to challenge the inequalities inherent in social institutions and structures and to deconstruct dominant views of society. These ideas reflect a Western tradition of thinking"—

Will he list the values and ideas underlying our Western culture which it is proposed to destroy?

**Mr WELLS** (20/7/00): The term "deconstruct" means analyse. It does not mean destroy.

#### 590. Unmet Needs Disability Support

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (20/6/00)—

With reference to the department's own figures which show there are over 4,000 adults with a disability who have registered that they have an

unmet need for support and, of these 4,000 people, only 500 have received funding for adult lifestyle packages from the original \$30m provided by the Government and as this situation represents still a significant unmet need and does not take into account the unmet need for support for families and children with a disability and clearly, the new funding recently announced by the Government will not fully address the level of unmet need in Queensland—

(1) Will the Government commit to a plan to fully address unmet need disability support within the next five years; if so, will that plan address both the backlog of demand for support and the annual growth in demand for disability support services?

(2) When will the Queensland public see this plan?

**Ms BLIGH** (21/7/00):

(1) The Disability Services Queensland 5 Year Strategic Plan outlines detailed strategies to improve the lives of Queenslanders with a disability.

(2) The Disability Services Queensland Strategic Plan was released on Monday, 10 July 2000 and tabled in the Parliament on Tuesday, 18 July 2000.

#### 591. Criminal Offenders, Sentences

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (20/6/00)—

(1) Will he provide details on the number of people sentenced to serve some form of imprisonment in Queensland, for each month since 6 December 1999?

(2) Will he provide, for each month since 6 December 1999, the number of these people who received a prison sentence for defaulting on unpaid fines?

**Mr FOLEY** (13/7/00):

(1) Currently, data is available only for the months of December 1999 and January 2000. The number of recorded convictions resulting in a sentence of imprisonment for these months is set out below. However, it should be noted that the number of convictions is greater than the number of persons convicted of offences, as a charge (or charges) on which a person is found guilty on a different date is counted as a conviction.

Month—Number

December 1999—435

January 2000—541

(2) As the Department of Justice and Attorney-General does not hold this data, the question should be asked of the Honourable Minister for Police and Corrective Services.

#### 592. Baralaba Airstrip, Upgrade

**Mr PEARCE** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/6/00)—

With reference to my previous representations on the need to establish an upgraded airstrip at Baralaba because of safety concerns expressed by pilots, in particular Air Ambulance pilots and given the

geographic location of Baralaba and the need to provide a safe landing strip for emergency evacuation medical access and the economic development of the area—

Will he give serious consideration to applications for funding submitted on behalf of the local community?

**Mr BREDHAUER (4/7/00):** I would like to thank the Member for Fitzroy for this question which I know is of great interest to him and I acknowledge his previous personal representations on this matter.

I recognise that the development of a new, safe airstrip is very important to a community like this, particularly for emergency air services. All the projects submitted for funding in 2000/01 have been assessed against the criteria published in the guidelines to the Rural and Remote Airport Development Program. The submission from the Banana Shire Council for Baralaba is being given serious consideration and the outcome for all projects in this area will be finalised in the State Budget.

### 593. Schools, Information Technology

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Education (20/6/00)—

As Queensland is being marketed as the "Smart State" with positive increases in computer technology in schools, when will appropriate levels of information technology support be funded to maintain these developing technologies?

**Mr WELLS (20/7/00):** In the last budget, the Premier announced that the Networked Learning Community initiative was to receive \$40 million over four years, including \$5 million in 1999-2000, to enhance learning outcomes through information technology, with the initial focus on professional development of teachers and the provision of technical support in schools.

The benefits of that commitment began to be delivered to schools in February of this year. An amount of \$4 million was allocated to technical support and transferred to school funds as an Enhanced Information Technology Support Program grant in Term 1. Schools in the electorate of Gladstone received a total of \$64 000. A similar amount will be included in the second semester grants payment, which (with the allocation of \$2 million to professional development) will meet this government's commitment to provide a total of \$10 million in this school year.

The Networked Learning Community initiative complements other funding programs. In three financial years, the Schooling 2001 program has delivered \$80 million to schools to give students access to the resources necessary for an education for the twenty-first century, including \$12 million in 1999-2000 specifically for IT replacement. Enhanced IT Support will keep the technology already in schools operating.

Schools now have a dedicated source of funds to enable them to manage all of the IT resources at the school, including administering network servers, configuring personal computers, systems and

network installations, ensuring their availability and reliability, and recovering personal computers, systems and networks following faults and failures. Principals have reported using the money to purchase ongoing IT support from their computer suppliers or to engage an IT technician (either in their own right or as part of a cluster by pooling the funds).

The strategy outlined in Queensland State Education 2010 refers to the importance of "teachers with the right skills, leadership and support; and all underpinned by excellence in the use and application of information technology" in building the Smart State. The Enhanced IT Support program demonstrates the commitment of this government to delivering those enabling conditions.

### 594. Schools, Compensation to Injured Students

**Mr PAFF** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (20/6/00)—

- (1) What machinery is in place to compensate a child who has received bodily harm or grievous bodily harm as a genuine case of injury by bullying whilst at school where such assault does not come within the ambit of the Criminal Compensation Act?
- (2) Has his department any plans to instigate into legislation, criminal compensation for a child injured whilst at school; if so, when will we expect such legislation in place?

**Mr FOLEY (13/7/00):**

- (1) It is difficult to answer questions which do not clearly convey what is sought. An indictable offence of violence against a person (adult or child) resulting in injury can result in a court order for compensation under the Criminal Offence Victims Act 1995 against a person of 10 years or more. Application for payment may be made to the State if the offender is unable to pay the compensation. There is no plan to amend the Criminal Offence Victims Act 1995 so as to apply to an assault which has been dealt with summarily. Damages for any injury caused by any person can be sought under the common law.
- (2) Any issue specific to the education system should be raised with the responsible Minister.

### 595. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Registration Approvals

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (20/6/00)—

With reference to the "registration management committee" operating within his department—

- (1) Who are the members of this committee?
- (2) What was the date of its establishment?
- (3) Why was it established when there are already two statutory councils established to deal with

registration approvals, i.e. the Accreditation Council and the State Training Council?

- (4) What are its terms of reference and its functions?
- (5) Under what authority was this committee established and under what authority does this committee make decisions?

**Mr BRADY** (20/7/00):

- (1) Registration Management Committee

Membership—Position

Barry Smith (Chair)—Chair, Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission (VETEC)

Harry Hauenschild—Commissioner for Training

Tom Baxter—Chair, Business Services ITAB

Peter Noonan—General Manager, VETEC

Each member of the Committee has a nominated proxy.

- (2) On 29 September 1999.

(3) To simplify and accelerate recognition and auditing processes; strengthen performance evaluation; and streamline VETEC procedures.

- (4) The terms of reference are:

- (a) Recognise who is approved by the VETEC as a training organisation (section 61 Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 1991);
- (b) Register training organisations that deliver courses in Queensland (section 20 Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 1991);
- (c) Approve those organisations that wish to deliver approved training schemes in Queensland (section 75 Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 1991);
- (d) Monitor and enforce compliance with Queensland's commitment to the Australian Recognition Framework; and
- (e) Where relevant, advise the Department on issues relevant to contract compliance reports as they relate to the functions above.

(5) VETEC; the Accreditation Council; and the State Training Council established the Registration Management Committee and delegated powers to undertake the functions (a) to (d) listed above.

#### **596. Nambour Hospital, Methadone Treatment Service**

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Health (20/6/00)—

With reference to a methadone treatment service which is operating at the Nambour General Hospital—

- (1) Since the last State Government Budget, how much money has been provided to the Nambour General Hospital for the provision of the Methadone treatment service?
- (2) Has any money been received from the Federal Government to assist in the provision of this service; if so, (a) how much money, (b) when

was the money received, (c) what conditions, if any, were attached to the provision of the money and (d) what period of time is the money intended to be used for?

- (3) On what days and between what hours does this service operate, in particular (a) how many people are employed at Nambour by Queensland Health in the provision of this service and (b) how many people are rostered on a shift for duty and what are their duties?
- (4) In relation to each client of this service, in particular (a) when a client presents for treatment, is a urine sample required to be provided; if so, how regularly is a urine sample required to be taken from each client and (b) what happens if a client refuses to provide a urine sample?
- (5) What action does she require her departmental staff to take if a client presents at the service and the urine test result is positive (a) once a week, (b) once a month and (c) once each six months?
- (6) How long can a person remain on the service to receive the Methadone treatment?

**Mrs EDMOND** (20/7/00):

- (1) The full year budget for the methadone program for the Sunshine Coast Health Service District was \$414,713. The State Government has not provided additional money since the 1999/2000 budget was handed down.
- (2) No Federal government money was received in the Queensland Health 1999/2000 budget to assist the methadone program.
- (3) The Special Health Services clinic operates on a five day week, providing extended client contact times on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (0800-1700hrs). Tuesday is divided between a morning session committed to multidisciplinary team management processes and an afternoon session for clinical work. The clinic opens each week for 40 hours.
  - (a) Staffing comprises two Administration Officers, 4.5 Nurses, one Pharmacist, one Psychologist, and two Senior Medical Officers.
  - (b) Different hours are worked by various staff to cover the operating hours of the clinic. Duties are in accordance with individual position descriptions and are directed towards best-practice in the provision of a methadone syrup program. Depending on the professional stream, position duties include administration; clinical assessment, treatment, and management; dispensing; counselling; and health education.
- (4)(a) Urine samples are required to be provided by all new methadone syrup registrants on commencement of the program. Weekly urine samples are taken for six to eight weeks for monitoring stabilisation. Thereafter, urine tests are utilised on a random basis to confirm clinical impressions about a client's substance use.
  - (b) If a client refuses to provide a urine sample they may be requested to present again within 24



hours to provide a sample or may have the refusal documented as a positive urine test, and/or may be counselled about substance use.

(5) A positive urine test may be interpreted in a number of ways depending on the individual clinical case. In many cases the client would be counselled about substance use and further urine tests would be sought following further management of problems contributing to the client's misuse of non-prescribed substances. Time between urine tests may vary for each client depending upon their clinical care.

(6) Indefinitely. There is no set time period from registration to completion of the methadone syrup program. Treatment goals are negotiated with each client. Goals may include an indefinite period receiving methadone syrup, a program of dose reductions, and/or an admission for inpatient detoxification.

### 597. Moreton TAFE Institute

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (20/6/00)—

With reference to the final sentence in his response to Question on Notice No. 290—

- (1) What does he mean when he says "Microsoft is the sole supplier of Customer Campus Agreement of Microsoft products"?
- (2) Who authorised the appointment of Microsoft as "sole supplier"?
- (3) When was that authorisation made and in what form was it made (e.g. contract, Memorandum of Understanding)?

**Mr BRADY** (20/7/00):

(1) The "Customer Campus Agreement", within which Microsoft products are supplied, is a unique agreement that is only available from Microsoft.

(2) I authorised the appointment of Microsoft on the basis that it is a unique agreement. The products are only available from Microsoft and the arrangements are in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy. My approval was subject to the completion of a formal agreement with Microsoft which was signed by the parties on 30 March 2000.

(3) 29 February 2000 on the basis of a submission from the Moreton Institute of TAFE and the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

### 598. Government Advertising

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Premier (20/6/00)—

Will he provide full details of expenditure on Queensland Government advertising for (a) the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement, (b) the vegetation management policy and (c) the energy policy?

**Mr BEATTIE** (20/7/00):

- (a) \$265,326;
- (b) \$346,426; and
- (c) \$88,633.

### 599. Ambulance Service, Patient Transfer

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (20/6/00)—

With reference to claims by solicitors McNamara and Associates about the abrupt and uncaring attitude of the New South Wales and Queensland Ambulance Services (QAS) and the Department of Veterans Affairs in a matter involving elderly Gatton resident, Mr Ken Smith—

- (1) Did the QAS refuse to take part in the transfer of Mr Smith from Lismore Base Hospital to Gatton?
- (2) Did Gatton ambulance carry out the transfer following direct negotiations with Lismore Base Hospital?
- (3) Who refused QAS participation in the transfer of Mr Smith and who eventually agreed to undertake the transfer?
- (4) Was Mr Smith forced to stay in Lismore Base Hospital for almost a week while these negotiations were taking place?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (21/7/00):

1. No. The QAS did not refuse to take part in transferring Mr Smith from Lismore Base Hospital to Gatton.

2. No. Negotiations for Mr Smith's transfer occurred between Lismore Base Hospital and the Queensland Ambulance Service, South Western Region Communications Centre, Toowoomba.

3. The QAS did not refuse to transport Mr Smith. Mr Smith was transferred from Lismore Base Hospital to Gatton by Queensland Ambulance Service, Gatton Ambulance Station, on 8 May 2000.

4. Lismore Base Hospital commenced negotiating the transfer of Mr Smith with the South Western Region Communications Centre at 11.54 am on Thursday 4 May 2000. Mr Smith was transferred by the Gatton Ambulance Station at the first available opportunity.

### 600. Ambulance Service, Patient Transfer

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (20/6/00)—

With reference to a matter involving elderly Gatton resident Mr Ken Smith and his unfortunate dealings with the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) (20/6/00)—

- (1) When was he first made aware of the problems Mr Smith was experiencing in getting transferred by ambulance from Lismore Base Hospital to Gatton Hospital?
- (2) Has he asked for an investigation to be carried out into the matter; if so, who is doing the investigation and when will it be completed?
- (3) Will he clarify the entitlements of Veterans Affairs Gold Card holders as far as the QAS is concerned?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (21/7/00):

(1) I was made aware of Mr Smith's situation in a letter from McNamara and Associates, Solicitors, dated 6 June 2000.

(2) I caused the matter to be investigated by the Commissioner, Queensland Ambulance Service. The investigation was completed on 28 June 2000.

(3) A Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card holder is entitled to emergency ambulance transport in Queensland.

#### **601. Fire and Rescue Authority, Overseas Visit**

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (20/6/00)—

With reference to his proposal to send four senior Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority personnel to Britain and the United States of America to look at aerial type appliances—

- (1) Have these appliances already been ordered or paid for?
- (2) Is it true that none of the four members of the touring party have a comprehensive knowledge or background in aerial type appliances except the Firefighters' Union secretary who has limited knowledge?
- (3) Is the Director of Personnel Development, Ms Delphine Rouessart, a member of the touring party?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (21/7/00):

(1) The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) has ordered one Aerial Appliance. The cab chassis has been purchased and the unit is being assembled with an expected delivery date of March 2001. Our representatives will be looking at a vast range of appliances at the Exhibition in Germany to ascertain if the QFRA would be able to utilise such appliances in the future.

(2) The delegation consists of three members:

Mr Frank Pagano, Commissioner, Brisbane South Region, QFRA

Mr Russell Neuendorf, Director, Technical Services Unit, QFRA and

Mr Mark Walker, Secretary, United Firefighters Union.

Mr Pagano has functional responsibility for Appliances and Equipment and has held this position for three years. Mr Neuendorf's responsibilities include vehicles, equipment and communications. Both Mr Pagano and Mr Neuendorf play a fundamental role in the strategic direction of the QFRA in this area.

Mr Walker is an operational Firefighter and is representing the United Firefighters Union. The United Firefighters' Union is funding Mr Walker's attendance.

The delegation is attending The International Exhibition for Fire and Catastrophe Prevention and Rescue Services in Germany. This exhibition is the showcase for the latest developments in firefighting technology. The delegation will be looking at a wide range of technologies in relation to Fire Service delivery. Representatives of other Australian Fire Services are also attending the exhibition. The delegation will be fostering a more coordinated

approach to the procurement of this equipment with other Australian Fire Services.

The delegation is also taking the opportunity to inspect the manufacturing facilities of various and potential suppliers of firefighting equipment for the QFRA in the United States. They will be visiting the American Le France factory in North Carolina and their aerial appliance factory in Pennsylvania and will be meeting with representatives from Chicago and San Francisco Brigades to discuss practices and technologies.

(3) Ms Rouessart, Director, Professional Development Unit is not a member of the delegation.

#### **602. Ambulance Service, Emerald**

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (20/6/00)—

With reference to the appointment of Queensland Ambulance Service Clinical Support, Regional and Community Education Officers based at Emerald—

- (1) Will he provide details of the formal advertising, selection and appointment processes followed in the temporary (that is, relieving periods if undertaken) then permanent appointment of each of these current officers, outlining all of the periods of time in those positions?
- (2) Will he provide the names of the members of the selection panel who recommended each appointment, including the names of the persons providing final approval of the appointments?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (21/7/00):

Clinical Support Officer (CSO)—Emerald

20.7.98-30.8.98: Officer Craig Liddington appointed Acting CSO, Emerald

1.9.98-29.11.98: Position Vacant

30.11.98-5.7.99: Officer Duane Reid appointed Acting CSO Emerald

Vacancy Ref A2031/99: Clinical Support Officer, Emerald

DES Gazette Date: 3.5.99

Closing Date: 31.5.99

Vacancy Recalled: No applications received

Vacancy Ref A2042/99: Clinical Support Officer, Emerald

DES Gazette Date: 2.6.99

Closing Date: 28.6.99

One application only received: Mr Nigel Fordyce

Mr Nigel Fordyce appointed 28.6.99 with probationary period of four months

Permanent appointment made 21.10.99

Selection Panel Members: Mr Frank Lawrence (Area Manager Emerald), Mr George Thomson (OIC Emerald) and Ms Kerri Wood (QFRA Admin Support)

Panel recommendation reviewed by DES Human Resource Officer (HRO)—Central Region

Appointment Approved by Mr Rodney Walz,  
Regional Executive Director (RED) Central  
Region

Regional/Community Education Officer—Emerald

Vacancy Ref No: AS219/96: Regional Education  
Officer, Emerald

Gazetted: 2.8.96

Closing Date: 26.8.96

One application only received: Mr Mike Fahey

Mr Fahey appointed. Appointment letter sent  
27.9.96

Notification of Appointment in Gazette: 4.10.96

Selection Panel Members. Mr Rod Sheather  
(Superintendent Human Resources and  
Community Support), Mr Stewart Merefield  
(Regional Education Officer, Mackay) and Mr  
Greg Belz (Regional Marketing Manager,  
Central Region)

Panel recommendation reviewed by DES  
HRO—Central Region

Appointment approved by Mr Geoff Venz,  
Acting RED Central Region

In May 1998 at the direction of QAS Central  
Office a functional management system was  
created within Central Region which made the  
Emerald position redundant. In June 1998  
Officer Fahey, in accordance with redundancy  
principles and policy of the QAS, was put on 12  
months salary maintenance, and offered  
redeployment to the position of Public  
Education Officer Emerald Station.

Mr Fahey chose redeployment, and currently  
occupies the position of Public Education  
Officer at Emerald. The redeployment was  
approved by Mr Rodney Walz, RED Central  
Region.

### 603. State Emergency Services, Audit

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Emergency  
Services (20/6/00)—

With reference to an internal memorandum dated 15  
June 2000, that claims the Department of Emergency  
Services is under scrutiny from the Queensland Audit  
Office (QAO) because of the department's  
questionable ability to accurately reflect its financial  
liability to suppliers of goods and services delivered  
prior to 30 June—

- (1) When did he first become aware that the QAO  
had concerns about the financial management  
of the Department of Emergency Services?
- (2) What steps has he taken to ensure that the  
department's financial statements for the year to  
30 June 2000 are an accurate reflection of the  
organisation's financial performance and that  
the balance sheet is an accurate reflection of  
the department's financial position?
- (3) What sort of pressure, as indicated in the  
memorandum, has been applied by the QAO in  
this regard?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (21/7/00):

(1) I am not aware of any QAO concerns about the  
financial management of the Department of  
Emergency Services. QAO staff seek clarification  
from my department's chief financial officer on  
financial issues throughout the annual audit cycle.

(2) To ensure the financial statements of the  
department for the year ended 30 June 2000 are an  
accurate reflection of its performance, regular  
monthly reviews of the accounts and reconciliations  
are undertaken to verify that the information is true  
and fair.

Operational and financial support staff have also  
been instructed to identify any revenue or expense  
accruals at year end to ensure the financial  
statements are accurate.

With particular reference to the liability owed to  
suppliers of goods and services that are recognised  
in the balance sheet as at 30 June 2000 the following  
actions are planned—

- (a) The time allowed for operational and financial  
staff to identify accruals will be greater than  
would normally occur for month-end close off  
of accounts. The additional time will enable  
staff to more fully scrutinise transactions and  
events for accrual accounting effects;
- (b) Creditor statements will be scrutinised to  
minimise the potential for outstanding invoices;  
and
- (c) Operational staff will be canvassed daily to  
ensure that documents ready for processing are  
given to data entry staff.

The QAO has recently reviewed my department's  
end of year accrual accounting processes for  
compliance with the Financial Administration and  
Audit Act 1977 and has expressed no concerns.

(3) The QAO seek clarification on financial  
management issues from my chief financial officer  
throughout the annual audit of my department. No  
issues raised in respect of the current engagement  
could be construed as significant concerns nor as  
unusual pressure. As part of the normal audit process  
QAO recently sought assurances concerning  
accrued expenses and liability provisions to be  
reported as at 30 June 2000. A formal response to  
the QAO will be provided in the timeframe requested  
by the QAO, which my department is confident, will  
vindicate the processes and procedures to be used  
in ensuring accurate accruals.

My department enjoys a strong working relationship  
with the QAO and values its input in assisting the  
department to identify potential areas for  
improvement.

### 604. State Emergency Services, Audit

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for  
Emergency Services (20/6/00)—

With reference to Queensland Audit Office (QAO)  
criticism of the Department of Emergency Services  
as outlined in an internal memorandum dated 15 June  
2000, especially regarding purchase and payment  
procedures—

- (1) At 31 March 2000, had more than \$8m worth of unprocessed supplier invoices for goods and services provided weeks and months previously, been identified?
- (2) Of the \$8m, was about \$3.5m worth of unprocessed invoices attributed to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority?
- (3) Is he aware of claims that some departmental staff have deliberately ignored departmental policy in regard to the use of SAP-generated invoices?
- (4) What steps has he taken to ensure procedures are followed and invoices are processed quickly, given that the QAO has been critical of his department's performance?

**Mr ROBERTSON (21/7/00):**

(1) No. This is an incorrect interpretation of data provided by the department to the QAO as part of the annual audit process.

(2) No. Approximately \$3.5m worth of processed and unprocessed invoices dated prior to 1 April 2000 were received by Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA). This represents over 6,000 transactions and of these only 35 were found to have values exceeding \$1000 and were unprocessed after 30 days. These have been analysed and it was found that 34% were not processed as goods or services had not been received, 34% were delayed as the quality of the goods/services were in dispute, 11% were provided late by the supplier or had inadequate information to allow processing, the precise nature of the delay could not be established for 9% and 6% were the subject of a dispute over pricing with the supplier. I consider that not processing invoices of this nature is prudent financial practice.

(3) I am not aware of any instances where departmental staff have deliberately ignored departmental policy. My department has rewritten and distributed its Financial Management Practice Manual in simpler terms so that there can be no misunderstanding of departmental policy.

A recent review of almost 14,000 transactions revealed that 83% of the transactions related to amounts of \$500 or less. The departmental approved policy, based on cost-benefit considerations, is for only those purchase orders greater than \$500 to be processed as a SAP-generated purchase order. For orders less than \$500, staff have the option to enter the purchase order in SAP or pay the invoice as a direct payment.

(4) My Department processes in excess of \$16M worth of invoices per month. There will always be delays in processing disputed accounts. As part of the normal annual audit process, the QAO has written to my chief financial officer seeking clarification in respect of payments to creditors. However, I am not aware of any explicit or implicit criticism of my department's performance.

#### **605. Fire Service Levy**

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (20/6/00)—

With reference to the proposal to incorporate Fire Service Levy revenue into the overall funding of the Emergency Services Department—

- (1) Does he support the proposal?
- (2) By how much would this proposal decrease the financial resources available to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority?
- (3) What other sections of the department have been nominated to receive funding under this proposal?

**Mr ROBERTSON (21/7/00):**

- (1) There is no such proposal.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.

#### **606. State Emergency Services, Toowoomba**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (20/6/00)—

With reference to the constant criticism of the level of SES training available to volunteers in the Toowoomba Region—

- (1) How many training courses have been conducted by Regional/District training staff for local SES groups since 1 July 1999, detailing the positions available to members and the rate of acceptance on each course?
- (2) What training concerns have been raised by SES volunteers during this same period?

**Mr ROBERTSON (21/7/00):**

(1) There have been 24 courses conducted in the Toowoomba District since 1 July 1999 with 325 SES Volunteers being trained. In comparison, in 1997-98—the final year of the previous Coalition Government—there were only 13 district training courses offered to Toowoomba District SES volunteers, with 256 members trained. Up to 16 positions are offered for each course. If a course is oversubscribed attendance is prioritised by the Local SES Unit. Not only have more SES volunteers been trained under the Beattie Labor Government, we have also provided a wider range of courses, including Vertical Rescue training, an SES Units Executives Course and a joint Emergency Services Cadet Camp, as well as more first aid courses, more road accident rescue training, more land search operators courses and more traffic control training. The relevant Local Government also arranges, conducts and funds additional courses for SES volunteers.

(2) The Toowoomba District Office of Counter Disaster & Rescue Services is not aware of any concerns from Volunteers.

#### **607. Sunshine Coast, Urban Road Network**

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/6/00)—

With reference to the increasing congestion on, particularly, the northern end of the Nicklin Way on the Sunshine Coast, and as this is the busiest section of the urban main road network on the Sunshine

Coast and there is no alternative route between the Buderim/Mooloolaba/Maroochydore area and the Caloundra/Kawana area—

What are the current anticipated commencement and completion dates for an alternative bridge and road along the multimodal corridor and what arrangements has the Government made to bring this urgent work forward to address the current level of congestion on the Nicklin Way?

**Mr BREDHAUER (20/7/00):** Survey and detailed planning have commenced for the construction of the subarterial road component of the multimodal corridor. Specifically, this road will link the Sunshine Motorway west of Bundilla Boulevard with the Nicklin Way by way of Aquatic Drive. It will provide an alternative route to the northern part of the Nicklin Way for non-local traffic.

The subarterial road will include a new bridge over the Mooloolah River and a full interchange with the Sunshine Motorway.

The Department of Main Roads is planning for the construction of the subarterial; however, a start to construction is dependent on the rate of development in the Kawana and Bundilla areas.

#### 608. Police Service, Resources

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (20/6/00)—

How many unfilled vacancies existed in the Queensland Police Service at 31 May 2000 and where are these vacancies located?

**Mr BARTON (20/7/00):** As at 31 May 2000, there were 316 vacant positions in the Queensland Police Service. All of these positions are in the process of being filled, and are at various stages of completion. The location of these vacancies are set out below.

Region/Command—No. of Vacancies

Far Northern Region—25  
Northern Region—20  
Central Region—22  
North Coast Region—14  
Southern Region—43  
South Eastern Region—14  
Metro North Region—36  
Metro South Region—21  
Corporate Services/Headquarters—30  
State Crime Operations Command—38  
Operations Support Command—53  
Total—316

Region/Command—No. of "Surplus" Officers

Far Northern Region—55  
Northern Region—58  
Central Region—33  
North Coast Region—48  
Southern Region—52  
South Eastern Region—80  
Metro North Region—39  
Metro South Region—37  
Corporate Services/Headquarters—16  
State Crime Operations Command—0  
Operations Support Command—11  
Total—429

These vacancies were more than offset by 429 "surplus" officers, the majority of whom were first year Constables. For this reason—despite the fact that individual vacancies existed in all regions—the Actual Strengths of all Police Regions exceeded their Allocated Strengths.

The following factors need to be taken into consideration:

all first year constables are initially allocated to Districts, and perform duties only at approved training stations and establishments within these Districts;

the actual strengths and vacancy rates of police stations (especially those approved as training stations) can vary markedly due to allocations of first year Constables.

apparent vacancies at smaller stations are frequently offset by officers who are deployed from larger stations to relieve pending the appointment of a permanent officer;

there is an inevitable lag time in filling vacancies which result from either natural attrition or promotion and transfers; the current level of vacancies is well within normal business parameters and is well below the levels that existed prior to the implementation of the Police Staffing Plan.

#### 609. Queensland Rail, Voluntary Separation

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/6/00)—

How many applications for voluntary separation have been received by Queensland Rail at 19 May 2000?

**Mr BREDHAUER (20/7/00):** As at 19 May 2000 Queensland Rail (QR) had received a total of 1191 Expressions of interest for voluntary separation.

#### 610. Sports Education Network Program

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (20/6/00)—

With reference to media reports that the Sports Education Network Program, developed with the assistance of officers in his Department of Sport and Recreation Queensland, was likely to close because of a withdrawal of Government funding—

- (1) Has the program closed as predicted?
- (2) When was the decision made to cease funding the program?
- (3) Was the Government's decision to cease funding the program based on recommendations from departmental officers based in Rockhampton?
- (4) Has the program been successful during its period of operation?

**Mr MACKENROTH (19/7/00):**

(1) Despite reports of closure earlier this year, the Sports Education Network (SEN) continued to operate under the terms and conditions stipulated within a funding resource agreement between the

Department and the Network. This agreement expired on 30 June 2000.

(2) No decision has been made by this Department to cease funding for the SEN project. The project has been funded annually over the past two years to coordinate education and training programs for the period 1 April 1998 to 30 March 1999 and 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 respectively. The project is currently under review. Any further consideration of funding will be considered in the context of the outcomes of the review.

(3) A decision has not been made to cease financial support to the Network.

(4) The Network's project has met the requirements relating to the coordination of sport and recreation education and training courses in Central Queensland as set out in the Department's resource agreement for the funded period.

### 611. Child Abuse Complaints

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (20/6/00)—

With reference to recent reports of the concerns of child protection workers—

- (1) How many complaints of child abuse and neglect have been received by her department since 1 July 1999?
- (2) What were the comparable figures for the same period in the previous year?
- (3) How many of those received in the current financial year have been responded to on a same day basis?
- (4) How many have remained uninvestigated for two or more days?
- (5) How many notifications remained uninvestigated at 1 June 2000?
- (6) What criteria have operational managers been given to determine which cases and in what order, notifications will be investigated?
- (7) What changes have been made since 1 December 1999 to the relevant instructions/guidelines for staff?
- (8) In relation to the last two matters, will she provide copies of the relevant documents?

**Ms BLIGH** (21/7/00): In response to your question on notice, I provide the following information—

(1) In the period 1 July 1999 to 30 April 2000, 9,015 reports of child abuse and neglect were received by my Department, these reports related to 14,997 children.

(2) In the period 1 July 1998 to 30 April 1999, 9,093 reports of child abuse and neglect were received by my Department, these reports related to 15,260 individual children.

(3) This question cannot be answered sensibly given the nature of the notification, assessment and substantiation process. If the Honourable Member wants a more detailed briefing on this matter, I invite

him to make contact with the Director-General of the Department.

(4) See response to (3).

(5) See response to (3).

(6) The Policy Memorandum (PM 00/03) Child Protection Notification (Initial Assessment) Response and Specific Workload Management Strategy was implemented on 6 March 2000.

(7) Since 1 December 1999 the following changes have been made to guidelines for staff:

The new PM 00/03 (dated 24 February 2000) Child Protection Notification (Initial Assessment) Response and Specific Workload Management Strategy was issued to all staff.

The Child Protection Procedures Manual has been updated to incorporate the assessment and response strategies outlined in the new PM.

Team Leaders from each Area Office attended training for the implementation of the new PM on 29 February 2000. Senior Resource Officers and Senior Practitioners took a key role in presenting the material at the training. Following the training, senior regional staff were provided training and advice to regional management teams, including operational managers. In addition, the information outlined in the training package was sent to all operational managers.

(8) Yes, if the Honourable Member wants copies of the documents or a more detailed briefing on the above matters, I invite him to make contact with the Director-General of the Department.

### 612. Regional Centres Program

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (20/6/00)—

With reference to the recently announced funding for the Regional Centres Program—

Will he provide full details for each project for each council or community group, including the (a) name of each council or community group to be funded, (b) name and objective of each project to be funded for each council or community group, (c) value of each project funded for each council or community group, (d) objectives of each project for each council or community group and (e) commencement and completion dates for each project for each council or community group?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (19/7/00): The attached table provides details for parts (a) to (d) of this question.

A total of 34 projects have been funded under the Regional Centres Program. All 31 eligible local governments received funding.

In regard to commencement dates, at this stage my Department has been advised that all councils are proceeding with their projects. Councils are in the process of obtaining certifications, planning approvals, and other documentation required for formal commencement, and are finalising project

programs to provide to my Department as part of the requirements associated with the Program.

Expected completion dates, as nominated by respective Councils are included in the attached table.

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

### 613. Charters Towers Railway Station

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/6/00)—

With reference to staffing at the Charters Towers station and goods shed—

Has a decision been made by Townsville railway management to close this facility and are they not consulting or telling any one of their decision?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (20/7/00): Queensland Rail (QR) has no intention of closing this facility. I refer Honourable Members to my media release of 23 June 2000, in which I reiterated this Government's commitment to regional communities throughout Queensland.

In this regard, the station master and train crew will still maintain a presence at the main railway station.

### 614. Welcome Creek State School

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Education (20/6/00)—

With reference to the terrible fire at Welcome Creek State Primary School and considering that about 95 per cent of its current students are bussed from Moore Park and the greater area of land available for future expansion at the Education Department-owned Moore Park site—

- (1) What is the Government's intention for the future of this school?
- (2) Given the increase and forecast for further increases in residential population at Moore Park, is it the Government's intention to relocate the school to this coastal community?
- (3) Will there be a genuine consultation effort undertaken by the Government to ensure all considerations of affected community members are taken into account; if so, when will this consultation begin and in what format?

**Mr WELLS** (20/7/00): The department informs me that the response by Education Queensland to the fire at Welcome Creek State School which occurred in the early hours of Monday 5 June 2000 was swift. By Tuesday, 13 June 2000, the school had been made safe, temporary accommodation acquired and the school reopened for classes.

(1) It is the department's intention to operate classes at Welcome Creek while a decision is made regarding the longer-term provision for education in this area.

(2) Education Queensland is providing advice regarding options for future development. These

options will be carefully considered to ensure that the best long-term educational options are provided to the Welcome Creek school community.

(3) The government has an excellent record of consultation with school communities when planning for new or relocated schools. Education Queensland's community consultation in regard to this incident began with a meeting of school community members on Wednesday 7 June at the Moore Park Community Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to inform parents of actions taken in relation to the reopening of the school. The process to make a decision regarding rebuilding options, will include appropriate consultation.

### 615. Designer Steel Homes, St George

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/6/00)—

With reference to the collapse of the Brisbane based building firm Designer Steel Homes who received a contract from the State Government to construct three Housing Commission units in Marie Street, St. George and as he would be aware, there are a number of subcontractors who are owed significant sums of money for work done on this job—

- (1) Will his department make payments to the subcontractors?
- (2) How much is each subcontractor likely to receive?
- (3) When will these payments be made?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/7/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, I have already outlined the situation in relation to this project to him in correspondence of 26 June 2000.

### 616. Nerang Police Division

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (20/6/00)—

- (1) Will he supply the monthly crime statistics for the Nerang Police Division from 1 July 1999 to 31 May 2000, including a breakdown of crimes against the person, property offences and other offences?
- (2) Will he also provide the current staffing levels at Nerang, both actual and approved?

**Mr BARTON** (20/7/00):

(1) The monthly crime statistics for the period 1 July 1999 to 31 May 2000 for the Nerang Police Division are as follows:

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

An analysis of total reported crime in the Nerang Police Division indicates there has been a marginal, but consistent decrease in total reported crime for the period between 1 July 1997 and 30 May 2000. In the corresponding period here has been a consistent clear up rate of crime.

(2) The current staffing levels at Nerang Police Station as at 7 July 2000 are: Actual—21; Approved—21.

**617. Fuel Subsidy**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Treasurer (20/6/00)—

With reference to the fuel subsidy provided under the Fuel Subsidy Act 1997—

What was (a) the total value of the fuel subsidy paid out on unleaded fuel sales in Queensland for 1997-98 and 1998-99, (b) the total value of the fuel subsidy paid out on leaded fuel sales in Queensland for 1997-98 and 1998-99, (c) the total value of the fuel subsidy paid out on diesel fuel sales in Queensland for 1997-98 and 1998-99, (d) the total value of the fuel excise received from the sale of unleaded fuel in Queensland for 1997-98 and 1998-99, (e) the total value of the fuel excise received from the sale of leaded fuel in Queensland for 1997-98 and 1998-99 and (f) the total value of the fuel excise received from the sale of diesel fuel in Queensland for 1997-98 and 1998-99?

**Mr HAMILL** (18/7/00):

(a) & (b) The data collected under the Scheme does not differentiate between leaded and unleaded petrol.

Subsidies commenced under the Fuel Subsidy Act 1997 in December 1997. 1997-98 and 1998-99 petrol subsidies under the Fuel Subsidy Act 1997 were approximately \$189,705,000 and \$290,728,000 respectively.

(c) Subsidies commenced under the Fuel Subsidy Act 1997 in December 1997. 1997-98 and 1998-99 diesel subsidies were approximately \$164,573,000 and \$272,827,000 respectively.

(d), (e) & (f) Excise revenue is collected by the Commonwealth and is based on the movement of stock out of bonded store.

The payments received by the State from the Commonwealth for fuel are not broken down into petrol and diesel amounts.

**618. Prince Charles Hospital**

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Health (20/6/00)—

With reference to the PABX and mail rooms at the Prince Charles Hospital and in light of the continuing concerns of workers—

Will she advise whether recent tests confirm that work carried out by Queensland Health to overcome poor air quality have been effective and that no ongoing health problems are still being experienced by staff working in the PABX and mail rooms?

**Mrs EDMOND** (20/7/00): Installation of a new dedicated Air Conditioning Unit in the PABX Room at The Prince Charles Hospital was completed on 21 June 2000.

Staff have reported that conditions have significantly improved and that the working environment is a very comfortable one. One workstation area is being reviewed following staff expressing concerns that the area is somewhat cooler than other work areas.

No health difficulties are being experienced by the staff of the Mail Room due to the air quality.

**619. Schools, Capital Works Expenditure**

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Education (20/6/00)—

- (1) How much has been spent on capital works in each electorate from 1 July 1999 to 30 April 2000 (listed by electorate)?
- (2) Which schools received funding and how much did each school receive?

**Mr WELLS** (20/7/00): The Honourable Member is referred to Budget Paper Number 5 Capital Statement that details those projects with an estimated expenditure of \$250,000 or greater.

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. The department informs me that it would be misleading to provide a list of projects that have not yet proceeded to tender stage.

**620. Apprentices and Trainees**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (20/6/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 135 of 14 March 2000, in which he indicated that DETIR and TAFE have to date retained 104 of the 175 trainees who had been employed and completed their training by 1 March—

If a private sector employer routinely put off 40 per cent of its trainees when they completed their training and attempted to justify this policy on the grounds that it was thus providing the maximum number of opportunities for the training of young people, wouldn't he criticise that employer for sorting or abusing the training system?

**Mr BRADY** (20/7/00): No, I would not criticise a private sector employer in this situation. However, I have criticised employers who take on a trainee but do not make the effort to allow the trainee to complete and gain his or her qualifications.

If employers train beyond their needs for permanent staff, in areas of skill shortage, and see the trainees through to the completion of their traineeship, I would praise them for their high level of service to the community.

If private sector employers are training in excess of their future training needs, it is to provide young people and others with the opportunity to gain employment so they can be competitive in the labour market.

**621. Indigenous Communities; Alcohol and Drug Strategy**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (20/6/00)—

- (1) What efforts has she made and what action has she put in place to halt the entry of alcohol, and in some cases unfortunately drugs, into so-called alcohol free communities?



- (2) Is she aware that the prevalence of alcohol, and in some cases drugs, is frustrating to those many families trying to raise a family in the best way possible in their communities and, of course, frustrating those many caring professionals endeavouring to uplift the quality of life for those living in Queensland Aboriginal Communities; if so, what is she doing about the problem?

**Ms SPENCE (20/7/00):**

1. My department has worked with the Liquor Licensing Division and the Queensland Police Service to develop a strategy to reduce the illegal sale of alcohol, or sly-grogging as it is known. The strategy was developed in collaboration with members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence. It is being piloted in four Indigenous communities, Woorabinda, Doomadgee, Palm Island and Yarrabah for six months from July 1st this year. As part of the strategy:

a model set of by-laws which deal with a range of liquor offences including sly-grogging have been developed by my department;

a training package is to be developed by the Queensland Police Academy specifically targeting the unlicensed sale of liquor, which will be made available to all remote area police; and

all Officers-in-Charge at police stations located in remote communities have been formally notified of their responsibilities in addressing sly-grog offences.

The Honourable Member should be aware that police, be they sworn officers or community police employed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Councils are responsible for enforcing the law as it relates to the illicit sale of drugs and alcohol.

2. I share the frustration of those members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who struggle to provide a better quality of life for people suffering the consequence of excessive drug and alcohol consumption of others.

In commissioning the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence to prepare a report, I enabled a clear picture about the level of violence in Indigenous communities to be developed. In responding to the Task Force's Report, the Queensland Government has undertaken for the first time, an important audit of programs related to reducing family violence in Indigenous communities.

My department has demonstrated a strong commitment to restoring community control by providing funding through the Local Justice Initiatives Program (LJIP). The LJIP builds the capacity of communities to deal with their own issues and reinstates customary practices and respect for elders, which is the only way to bring about long-term change.

It is important to acknowledge the responsibility Indigenous community members themselves have for

reducing excessive alcohol consumption. LJIP and other community capacity building programs being developed by my department are designed to empower communities to take such responsibility.

My department is also fulfilling a significant role in ensuring that there is a coordinated approach to reducing family violence in Queensland. For example, my department is ensuring that Queensland's involvement in developing a national strategy on family violence, as endorsed by the Ministerial Council on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA) is meaningful and worthwhile for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Just last week my department convened a meeting of key stakeholders including ATSIC, Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland and Liquor Licensing to discuss how best to advance the national strategy in Queensland.

This Government has taken significant steps to change the way it does business with Indigenous Queenslanders. The Ten Year Planning Partnership which I recently announced will give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities the best chance ever of ensuring that the programs and policies implemented by government are those that the communities themselves wish to have delivered. This Government is about giving Indigenous Queenslanders the means to fix their communities themselves rather than having Government's tell them what they need.

#### **622. Building Services Authority; A. V. Jennings**

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (20/6/00)—

With reference to the letter sent to Mr Robbie Merritt, dated 16 March 2000, from Mr Ray Potts, Acting General Manager of the Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA), in which Mr Potts stated—"The Authority acknowledges that some of the work performed by A V Jennings in the construction of your home departs from good building practice and legislative requirements. However, in the Authority's view the departure is not of sufficient magnitude to warrant action against the company for negligence or incompetence"—

How does she and the QBSA reconcile that, whilst they acknowledge that the construction of Mr Merritt's home departed from legislative requirements (the law), they fail to take action against the builders A V Jennings?

**Ms SPENCE (20/7/00):** In regulating the building industry, the BSA is required to take a reasonable and balanced approach.

The BSA is not in the business of making scapegoats out of builders who have made mistakes but who are willing to rectify them.

In every industry, there may be instances when operators depart from recognised good practice but they are not necessarily guilty of negligence or incompetence. Such serious charges require a

wealth of evidence to sustain a prosecution and in the majority of cases involving defective building work, such action is simply not justified.

Initially the BSA formed the opinion, based on a number of factors, that the termite infestation at Mr Merritt's home could not be attributed to either the builder or the home owner and offered to pay for repairs out of the Statutory Insurance Scheme. However as work has progressed, further evidence has come to light, which indicates that AV Jennings was primarily at fault.

A V Jennings has now been put on notice that the company will be held responsible for the cost of rectification work and the BSA will be pursuing that issue.

The BSA is active in prosecuting offenders when necessary, and I have every confidence in its ability to decide when there is sufficient evidence to sustain a prosecution, and whether such action is warranted.

### 623. Environmental Protection Agency, Roma

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (21/6/00)—

With reference to the two and a half positions of the Environmental Protection Agency at Roma that have been abolished and to his letter he wrote to me on this matter indicating the two environmental officers left Roma on transfer, quite mischievously inferring their positions would be filled—

- (1) Does he, as the Minister for Environment responsible for enforcement of the Act, honestly believe all the needs of south-west Queensland west of Toowoomba can be serviced from Toowoomba?
- (2) How does this stripping of departmental services from Roma align with Premier Beattie's promise to promote jobs, jobs, jobs in all regions of the State?

**Mr WELFORD** (20/7/00):

- (1) Services are delivered to all of Regional Queensland from a number of Regional Centres. My Environmental Protection Agency is committed to ensuring that high quality service is provided in all regions of the State.
- (2) Services have not been stripped from the south west. My Environmental Protection Agency and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service retain offices in Roma, Charleville and Toowoomba.

### 624. Howard Torbanlea Rural Fire Service

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (21/6/00)—

With reference to the shutting down of the analogue network and considering the Howard Torbanlea Rural Fire Service depends on analogue pagers for emergency call outs—

- (1) What alternative system is he putting in place?
- (2) What trials have been conducted on the operation of the replacement system?

- (3) When is it going to be up and running?
- (4) Is he aware that the current system will be shut down on 30 June 2000?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (21/7/00):

1. Howard Torbanlea is able to function using telephone communication for activation. Firecom has contact details for all brigade officers in the Maryborough District. The majority of brigades do not reply on pagers.
2. The Howard Torbanlea Rural Fire Brigade has trialled Link and Orange systems. These do not work. They are currently trialling Helga Communications through Telstra.
3. A replacement pager system will be implemented as soon as a suitable supplier can be identified.
4. Yes.

### 625. Nature's Earth, Burpengary

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (21/6/00)—

- (1) Why have serious environmental concerns with respect to Armdrott Pty Ltd trading as Nature's Earth raised by the Burpengary Floodplain Protection Association (BFPA) in letters dated 12 March and 24 June 1999 not been adequately answered?
- (2) What has been done about the undertaking by departmental officers at the meeting of 26 October 1999 between BFPA and him to conduct a full environmental audit on the whole site?
- (3) As no testing has been carried out, how can departmental officers write in a compliance inspection report, "Since no monitoring has been carried out in the receiving waters or storm water drain leaving the site via the sites diversion drain, it is not possible to determine if any actual release of leachate constituents has occurred beyond the boundary of the licensed place. If such release occurs, it is not expected that the contaminants might cause serious or material environmental harm in the receiving waters"?
- (4) As the EPA renewed Nature's Earth's license in August 1999, that is after the IPA became law and in the full knowledge that the site did not have, and never had been given, town planning approval and the licensed activity, composting, had been prohibited by the Planning and Environment Court in May 1999, which was raised with him on 26 October and he asked his officers for legal clarification, what was the legal decision?
- (5) As the Environmental Protection Order of 7 May 1999 established minimal soil permeability and ground water separation criteria for all leachate ponds to prevent release of contaminants to receiving and ground waters and as compliance was required by 1 August 1999, has this requirement been met and proved by testing?

**Mr WELFORD (20/7/00):**

- (1) The issues raised by the Burpengary Floodplain Protection Association have been investigated and discussed with members of the Association by my Environmental Protection Agency staff during numerous conversations during 1999 and 2000. .
- (2) Compliance inspections of the site were carried out in December 1999 and February 2000.
- (3) Monitoring has since been carried out which verified the statement. That is, the monitoring could not conclude that the facility was contributing to a deterioration of water quality in those receiving waters.
- (4) My Environmental Protection Agency did not 'renew' nor amend the licence held by Armdrott Pty Ltd in August 1999. The legal advice referred to had nothing to do with renewing or amending this licence.
- (5) The Environmental Protection Order was appealed in the Planning and Environment Court. This matter is still before the Courts.

**626. Health Services, Boonah, Laidley and Gatton Shires**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Health (21/6/00)—

With reference to the Allied Health/Rural Health Services provided to the Lockyer electorate from the West Moreton Health District and Toowoomba Health District—

- (1) What services and frequency of service are provided to the Boonah, Laidley and Gatton Shires?
- (2) How many occupational therapists service each area?
- (3) What percentage of occupational therapy visits are home visits/hospital visits?
- (4) Is her department looking at increasing these services to these rural areas; if so, by how much and when?

**Mrs EDMOND (21/7/00):**

(1) Rural shires of Boonah, Laidley and Gatton are part of the West Moreton Health Service District. Through cross-District agreements Toowoomba Health Service District also provides some services to people in Gatton.

Toowoomba Health Service District provides a number of part time and full time services in Gatton including: Physiotherapy—three days per week; Social Work—five days per week; Occupational Therapy—one day a month; and a Psychologist—one day a fortnight. Home and Community Care (HACC) Allied Health Services are also provided to eligible clients in Gatton one day per month. The Mental Health Outreach Service for the elderly, will also provide specialist aged care services to Gatton on request. The service includes psychology, occupational therapy and social work services.

West Moreton Health Service District provides a range of hospital, community and public health

services in the three surrounding shires of Boonah, Esk and Laidley. Each Shire has a hospital that provides a comprehensive range of inpatient, ambulatory care, and 24-hour access to emergency and medical services. Other core services include physiotherapy, x-ray, pharmacy and pathology services.

West Moreton District Health Service also provides Allied Health Services through a number of community based programs including Integrated Mental Health Services, Child Youth and Family Services, Public Health Services, Aged Care Services and Rural Community Health Services (Adult) Program. The frequency of service provision within each program is based on community need.

(2) West Moreton Health Service District provides approximately 2.3 FTE Occupational Therapists through outreach and home visit services. Boonah, Esk and Laidley Shires utilise the Occupational Therapy services of approximately 1 FTE funded by the HACC program. Ipswich provides 0.3 FTE of an Occupational Therapist Rural Health when required and 1 FTE Occupational Therapist for Integrated Mental Health.

In Gatton, the Toowoomba Health Service District provides Occupational Therapy services equivalent to 0.16 FTEs, or three to four days per month. It includes 0.11 FTE in Gatton, 0.05 FTE in Rural Allied Health.

(3) All services provided in the area by West Moreton Health Service District are community based and are provided within the client's own residence. There is provision for clients to be seen within the hospital setting as part of pre-discharge planning, provided they meet the eligibility criteria as set down in the funding guidelines.

Similarly, occupational therapy services provided by Toowoomba Health Service District at Gatton are currently 100% home visits.

(4) West Moreton Health Service District recently conducted a review of the health related community services within the shires of Boonah, Esk and Laidley, including demographics and predicted growth rates for the three shires. The report and recommendations are to be provided to the District Manager, West Moreton Health Service District, in July 2000.

In May 2000, Toowoomba Health Service District increased occupational therapy services in Gatton by one day per fortnight.

**627. Corrective Services, Ms B. Johnson**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (21/6/00)—

With reference to a letter that was sent to me on 28 March in reply to my letter in which I made representations on behalf of a constituent, Ms Belinda Johnson, and as I feel the letter was incomplete and unanswered—

- (1) Why was Ms Johnson, a Queensland Correctional Services employee, to be charged by Queensland Police for having an unsecured syringe found in her bedside table drawer intact

with cap on when this syringe is used for her medical condition?

- (2) As there is no provision within the Drugs Misuse Act, Section 10(4) or 10 (4a), that defines clearly that a person must store a syringe in a lockable holding facility, how can Ms Johnson be charged if this law does not exist?
- (3) Why was this woman's employer, Queensland Correctional Services, notified of this matter when clearly this is a breach of privacy and does he believe there could be a case of misuse of police powers; if so, will Ms Johnson receive a letter of apology from him?

**Mr BARTON (19/7/00):**

(1) On 8 March 2000, Detectives from the Ayr CIB executed a warrant on the premises occupied by Ms Belinda Johnson. During a subsequent search, a syringe was discovered in a bedside table belonging to Ms Johnson. The syringe, although capped, was lying loosely amongst other items in the bedside table. This syringe was seized by police for the purpose of chemical analysis.

At the time of this seizure, Ms Johnson was advised that the syringe would be analysed and if it was found to have been used for the administration of a dangerous drug then proceedings against section 10(4A) of the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 would be commenced.

At the time of the discovery, it was impossible for investigating officers to determine whether or not the syringe had been used in connection with the administration of a dangerous drug. This could only be substantiated following a chemical analysis. Although Ms Johnson had put forward an explanation for the possession of the syringe, investigating police were still required to have the syringe analysed to prove or disprove Ms Johnson's explanation.

Chemical analysis revealed that the syringe had not been used in connection with the administration of a dangerous drug and therefore proceedings against section 10(4A) were not commenced.

(2) Had the syringe been used in connection with the administration of a dangerous drug, then the provisions of section 10(4A) would have been invoked. This section provides that a syringe, used for the above mentioned administration, must be disposed of in accordance with the procedures prescribed by Regulation.

Regulation 9 of the Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987 prescribes that a syringe or needle that has been used in connection with the administration of a dangerous drug must be disposed of by either: placing the hypodermic syringe or needle in a rigid wall, puncture resistant container, and that container is sealed closed in such a manner that its contents are incapable of causing injury to any person; or by giving the hypodermic syringe or needle to a person who is a medical practitioner, pharmacist or person or a member of a class of persons referred to as authorised in section 10(3) of the Act.

As stated, proceedings against Ms Johnson under section 10(4A) were not commenced.

(3) On the afternoon of 8 March 2000, the day that Ayr Police executed a search warrant on the premises occupied by Ms Johnson, Ms Johnson telephoned the Townsville Correctional Centre and informed the Intelligence Officer at that centre that her residence and motor vehicle had been searched by police.

It was only following Ms Johnson's telephone call that the Department of Corrective Service Intelligence Group contacted the Ayr Police seeking confirmation of the information provided by Ms Johnson. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Corrective Services and the Queensland Police Service, confirmation of the search was able to be provided.

Even though the Memorandum of Understanding allows for the passing of information between the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Corrective Services, it was Ms Johnson who in fact advised her employer of the incident.

## **628. State Fire and Rescue Authority, Firefighter Resources**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (21/6/00)—

With reference to training of new fire fighters—

- (1) How many new fire fighters currently undergoing training are (a) male and (b) female?
- (2) What is the cost to train each person?
- (3) Do trainee fire fighters get preference for permanent employment over temporary fire fighters currently filling these positions?
- (4) How many fire fighters are currently employed under the classification of temporary?
- (5) Will all temporary fire fighters currently employed at stations gain permanent employment?
- (6) Are trainees given a guarantee of permanent job placement at the end of successful training?

**Mr ROBERTSON (21/7/00):**

(1) There are currently 11 male and 0 females undertaking their initial recruit training course.

(2) The training of each recruit firefighter would be approximately \$18,400 plus a salary for the 12 weeks of \$8,800. Additional expenses, in the form of travel and accommodation, would be incurred where recruits are required to live away from home during their period of training. Training costs may also vary depending on the number of participants.

(3) Temporary firefighters are used to fill vacancies or temporary vacancies on an interim basis. The vacancy will be filled permanently by a recruit firefighter or by internal transfer. The policy of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority is all new recruit firefighters must have made application and been successful in all stages of the latest basegrade recruitment campaign. The firefighters currently filling temporary vacancies can only be considered for

permanent employment if they have participated in such a process.

(4) There are 65 temporary firefighters currently employed by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority filling temporary vacancies (e.g. annual leave). It should be noted that a number of these officers only perform the occasional relief shift for planned or unplanned leave.

(5) Whilst the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority acknowledges and greatly appreciates the service provided by temporary firefighters, there is currently no provision for the conversion of these officers to permanent status. This would be inequitable on those who are awaiting entry from the selection program. Those temporary firefighters who are interested in being employed by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority on a permanent basis must apply as part of the next basegrade firefighter recruitment campaign.

(6) Recruit firefighters are employed on a permanent basis. Their employment is subject to three months probation and their performance is continually assessed during this time. Their continued employment is dependent upon successful completion of these assessments and assessments during the recruit course.

#### 629. Bremer River, Ipswich, Pollution

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (21/6/00)—

With reference to the tidal section of the Bremer River, Ipswich, i.e. from the Brisbane River to Hancock Bridge, Brassall—

- (1) How regularly is this river checked for effluent discharge and other pollutants?
- (2) How many businesses and companies are currently discharging into the river?
- (3) What guidelines do the operators have to apply?
- (4) How often are the discharges tested?

**Mr WELFORD** (20/7/00):

- (1) Officers from my Environmental Protection Agency carry out routine water quality monitoring surveys of the Bremer River on a monthly basis.
- (2) There are currently four companies licensed under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to release contaminants to that section of the Bremer River. Additionally, two of Ipswich City Council's sewage treatment plants currently discharge to that section of the Bremer River.
- (3) The conditions of their environmental authorities.
- (4) The licence conditions require the companies to monitor the quality of the discharge in some cases weekly, in others quarterly. My officers when carrying out their random compliance audits may also monitor the quality of effluent release.

#### 630. Land and Resources Tribunal

**Mr BORBRIDGE** asked the Premier (21/6/00)—

With reference to his decision to activate the Land and Resources Tribunal—

What are the (a) total costs, capital and recurrent, for 1999-2000, (b) total anticipated costs, capital and recurrent, for 2000-2001, (c) number of staff, (d) classification levels of staff, (e) salary and related costs of members of the tribunal, (f) rental costs and office floor-space and (g) number of matters heard/determined by the tribunal?

**Mr BEATTIE** (21/7/00): The information requested on the Land and Resources Tribunal is as follows:

- (a) Unaudited actual expenditure for 1999-2000 was \$3,182,000 comprising operational costs and a capital component to fit out the Tribunal's premises and purchase equipment;
- (b) Estimated to be \$4,748,000. This figure includes a carryover of \$1,546,000 from the 1999-2000 financial year;
- (c) 12 staff;
- (d) 1xSO2; 1xAO7; 2xAO5; 1xAO4; 4xAO3; and 3xAO2.
- (e) The President receives the equivalent entitlements of a Supreme Court Judge and the two Deputy Presidents receive the equivalent entitlements of a District Court Judge as determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal;
- (f) Rental costs of \$212.50 per square metre, per annum and 1133 square metres of office floor space; and
- (g) Hearings have begun, and in addition the Tribunal has been active in consultation with stakeholders about its roles, forms, practices, procedures and jurisdictions. The Tribunal has also engaged in a community awareness program regarding the Tribunal's activities and operations, travelling to diverse regions of the State to meet and inform a wide range of stakeholders.

I recently introduced the Land and Resources Tribunal Amendment Bill 2000 into the Legislative Assembly. The purpose of the Bill is to expand the role of the deputy presidents to include dealing with non-native title mining matters under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Fossicking Act 1994 including matters otherwise to be dealt with by the warden becoming the mining referee. On the passage of the Bill, the non-native title mining jurisdiction will be commenced which will allow such matters to be dealt with by the Tribunal.

#### 631. Dairy Industry

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (21/6/00)—

With reference to Queensland Department of Primary Industries economists and advisers who have been assisting dairy farmers, during the last two months, compare their current farm profit and loss accounts with what they can expect after deregulation and in every case that I have examined, even when the compensation package is counted as income, the results clearly show that the farms will make significant annual losses—

- (1) How can he move that deregulation be accepted during this session given that if the deregulation bill is passed this week, Queensland farmers are committed to bankruptcy and Victorian farmers benefit at Queensland's expense?
- (2) Why won't he allow Queensland dairy farmers until October which is allowed Federally, during which time they can come up with a more equitable plan as they are currently working on such a plan which looks promising and is receiving support?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (20/7/00):**

(1) The Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation has been advising its members for over 18 months that deregulation was inevitable. This forecast has proved to be true with Victoria deregulating its industry from 1 July 2000. All other States have now followed suit. Queensland has had to act accordingly in the interests of its industry. Ultimately the Queensland Government had two choices – to face deregulation without assistance or to remove market milk controls and allow Queensland farmers to receive \$220 million in assistance under the Commonwealth Dairy Industry Adjustment Program. The only responsible course was the one taken—to make this assistance to Queensland's farmers.

(2) Opinions have been obtained from the Solicitor General and the Crown Solicitor regarding the plans put forward by the Australian Milk Producers' Association and the subsequent variations. These showed that the plans are illegal and unworkable. There is no point in encouraging proposals which can only foster false hope in farmers at a time when market deregulation has occurred throughout Australia.

### 632. Studies of Society and Environment Syllabus

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Education (21/6/00)—

With reference to articles in The Courier Mail of 10 June which condemn the ideological bias and inability to prepare children to take their places as productive citizens in our society inherent in the new SOSE curriculum and to the editorial "Ideology in the classroom" which states "Parents send their children to school to prepare them for living as individuals in a competitive world. Any curriculum which does not help achieve this aim is not worth teaching."—

Will he explain why this condemnation has been made?

**Mr WELLS (25/7/00):** The SOSE syllabus began development in 1997 involving significant public consultation with teachers, school authorities, parent and community organisations, professional associations, university academics, unions, industrial and government bodies, and other interested parties. It was trialled in 46 Catholic, Independent and State schools across Queensland. Feedback from a large consultative network was acknowledged in the various drafts that appeared on the Queensland School Curriculum Council's website. Independent

external evaluators certainly did not condemn the syllabus but rather concluded that, "participants were generally very pleased with the documents and support they have had during the SOSE trial and were particularly complimentary of the professional work done by the project team".

This new syllabus incorporates and values both traditional knowledge and futures perspectives, to prepare students to live as individuals in a competitive and changing world. It is academically rigorous with a systematic emphasis on five inquiry processes including the process of communicating, which includes literacy. Few changes in the content that is currently taught are required.

### 633. Sunshine Coast District Health Service, Funding

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Health (21/6/00)—

- (1) When the Sunshine Coast District Health Service receives money for specific purposes, how does she ensure that all the money received for the specific purposes is used for the purpose for which it is intended?
- (2) Since the last State election, what money has the Sunshine Coast District Health Service received for specific purposes?
- (3) What were those specific purposes?
- (4) Has all the money for these purposes been spent on the purpose it was intended; if not (a) where has the money gone, (b) how much money is involved and (c) why has the money not been spent?

**Mrs EDMOND (21/7/00):**

(1) Funds received for specific purposes by the Sunshine Coast Health Service District are quarantined for those specific purposes. Specific cost centres are allocated to ensure all expenditure associated with the special funding is captured and to enable budget/expenditure monitoring. As most funding for specific purposes contains a labour component, employees paid by special funding have the dedicated cost centre allocated against their payroll number in the employee masterfile module of corporate Human Resource system (LATTICE).

Queensland Health Corporate Office requires mandatory reporting on all special funding in the snapshot report provided each month.

(2) For the 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 Financial Years the Sunshine Coast Health Service District has received a budget which contained a base allocation plus identified special funds. Funds for specific purposes received in 1998/1999 totalled \$18,323,346 and for 1999/2000 totalled \$21,556,787.

(3) Specific purposes include: Elective Surgery Performance Funding, Implanted Prosthetic Appliances, Mental Health Strategy Funding, Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy, Aged Care Reform Project, Breast Cancer Screening, high cost drugs, school based nurse program and indigenous health initiatives.

(4) Yes, all specific purpose cost centres will be fully expended for the 1999/2000 year.

**634. Rail/Road Tunnel, South Brisbane-Bowen Hills**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/6/00)—

With reference to the recent announcement by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane regarding a proposed rail/road tunnel from South Brisbane to Bowen Hills—

- (1) Was he consulted about the rail aspects of this proposal?
- (2) Does he support the Lord Mayor's proposal?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (20/7/00):

- (1) No
- (2) The proposal is currently the subject of consideration in my Departments.

**635. Police Resources**

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (21/6/00)—

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 please provide this information in the same format as provided to Question on Notice No. 961 and use 31 May 2000 as the reference date?

**Mr BARTON** (19/7/00):

- (1) The national police to population ratio remains relatively static and is estimated to be 1:466.
- (2) The Queensland police to population ratio is estimated to be 1:482.
- (3) As at 1 June 2000, the estimated police to population ratios in all police regions and districts were as follows:

Far Northern—1:413

Cairns—1:441  
Innisfail—1:481  
Mareeba—1:440  
Northern—1:419  
Mount Isa—1:236  
Townsville—1:503

Central—1:553

Gladstone—1:601  
Longreach—1:262  
Mackay—1:647  
Rockhampton—1:537

North Coast—1:698

Bundaberg—1:782  
Gympie—1:519  
Maryborough—1:696  
Redcliffe—1:735  
Sunshine Coast—1:748

Southern—1:598

Charleville—1:198  
Dalby—1:511  
Ipswich—1:626  
Roma—1:412  
Toowoomba—1:786  
Warwick—1:572

South Eastern—1:611

Gold Coast—1:600  
Logan—1:661

Metropolitan South—1:726

Oxley—1:763  
South Brisbane—1:675  
Wynnum—1:916

Metropolitan North—1:550

Boondall—1:1052  
Brisbane City—1:59  
Ferny Grove—1:1249  
Fortitude Valley—1:181  
Hendra (Clayfield)—1:709  
Indooroopilly—1:1136  
Petrie—1:897  
Sandgate—1:745

**636. Bush Nursing Association, McKinlay Centre**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (21/6/00)—

What assistance is forthcoming for the Queensland Bush Nursing Association Inc McKinlay Centre for desperately needed funding to upgrade this very important health facility in north west Queensland?

**Mrs EDMOND** (21/7/00): My Ministerial colleague The Honourable R E Schwarten MLA, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing and I are currently developing a proposal to assist the Queensland Bush Nursing Association at McKinlay. I recently had a positive meeting with the Association to discuss options.

**637. Pap Smear Register**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (21/6/00)—

With reference to the Pap Smear Register—

- (1) How many women are opting off the register as opposed to those who are on the register?
- (2) What steps are being taken to ensure that doctors meet their obligations to advise women that they can opt off the register?
- (3) How many complaints have the Health Department and the Health Minister received from women who were not advised prior to their details being included on the register that they could opt off the register?

**Mrs EDMOND** (21/7/00):

- (1) The estimated opt-off rate is 0.27%.
- (2) As the Honourable Member would be aware when she committed the Opposition to support the Pap Smear Register in debate on the legislation on 12

November 1998, a key principle of this legislation is that all women be informed of the Register at the time of their Pap smear and that they be given the option to opt off. For this reason, specific requirements are built into the legislation for service providers to inform women of the Register. A range of strategies have been implemented to ensure that doctors are aware of this obligation.

A GP Information Kit was sent to each Queensland general practitioner, relevant specialists and hospitals. The kit outlined the legislative obligations for Pap smear providers in relation to the Register. New promotional resources are routinely disseminated to GPs with a covering letter relating to the cervical screening program and their obligations with regard to the Registry. The latest promotional resource sent to GP surgeries in February 2000, was a tent card for surgery reception desks advising women that results are routinely forwarded to the Register unless the 'opt off' option is taken. Another approach to be undertaken to remind Pap smear providers of their responsibility to inform women about the Register and their choice to 'opt off' is a sticker placed on the plastic case in which Pap smear slides are transported between the GP and the Pathology laboratory.

If women call the Register and say that they were not informed about the Register at the time of having their Pap smear, their permission is sought to follow up with the Pap smear provider. A Registry staff member then telephones the provider to inquire whether the doctor received the Information Kit and to provide further information about the operation of the Register. More resources and information are sent if required. The woman is not identified at any time to the provider.

Partnerships with Divisions of General Practice are continuing to be strengthened to ensure GPs are up to date with information pertaining to the Register.

(3) I have received 11 letters concerning the Pap Smear Register. A 1800 number is also available. On average, staff respond to 45 concerned callers a week. These generally relate to lack of information about the Register at the time of their Pap smear and requesting their details be deleted. I am advised that many of these women subsequently decide to retain their information on the Register once the services have been explained to them.

### 638. Childers Hospital

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Health (21/6/00)—

With reference to the difficulties facing Childers Hospital in maintaining the services of an on-call doctor during weekends—

What assurances can she give that this situation will be rectified and that patients of the Childers district will have access to a doctor at or through their local hospital at all times?

**Mrs EDMOND** (21/7/00): Until recently, weekend relief for the Medical Superintendent with Right of Private Practice at Childers was provided by another General Practitioner based in the town.

The General Practitioner has now decided that he no longer wishes to assume this responsibility and has withdrawn his services.

Weekend relief is now provided by a resident medical officer based at Bundaberg. This situation is usual practise in Districts which have a large hospital and smaller rural facilities.

### 639. 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 (21/6/00)—

With reference to business name registrations in Queensland since 1 July 1999—

Will she provide a monthly breakdown of (a) the total number of applications received each month, (b) the number of applications approved each month, (c) the number of applications declined each month, (d) the number of applications deferred each month and (e) the average time (in days) of processing business registrations?

**Ms SPENCE** (21/7/00): In response I wish to table the following information:

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

(e) The majority of business name applications are lodged by mail or at a public counter of the Office of Fair Trading in Brisbane or at OFT regional centres. Applications may also be lodged with Smartlicence, at Magistrates Courts Offices or at QGAP Agencies. These various lodgement options have a bearing on the time taken to register a business name.

The average times taken to register business names are 15 to 20 minutes for public counters, or 10 days for mail, which involves mail opening, cheque receipting, name processing, data entry and certificate dispatch.

### 640. Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (21/6/00)—

With reference to the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund for 1998-99 and 1999-2000—

- (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 (21/7/00):**

1. 229 claims were made in 1998-99 by consumers who were misled by real estate agents and 145 in 1999-2000.
2. The amount of \$765,727 was paid from the fund to claimants in 1998/99 and \$292,497 has been paid to claimants in 1999-2000.
3. 13 claims were disallowed by the Committee in 1998/99 and 37 were disallowed in 1999-2000.
4. There were 100 claimants in respect to motor dealing transactions in 1998-99 and 80 claims have been lodged in 1999-2000.
5. The amount of \$279,280.81 was paid to those claimants in 1998-99 and \$627,347 has been paid to claimants in 1999-2000. The comparatively large payment in 1999-2000 was due to paying an amount of \$415,771 from the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund as a result of the liquidation of Queensland Motor Auctions Pty Ltd, which was licensed as both an auctioneer and a motor dealer.
6. There were 29 claims relating to motor dealers disallowed in 1998-99 and 30 disallowed in 1999-2000.

**641. Auctioneers and Agents Committee**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (21/6/00)—

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 1 July 1999?
- (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 (21/7/00):**

1. Prior to 1 February 2000, the Auctioneers and Agents Committee comprised Sandra Deane as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Molly Robson, Wendy Hilditch and Pauline McLaughlin as members. From 1 February 2000, the Committee comprised Wendy Cull as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Molly Robson, Wendy Hilditch, Edward Clarke and Pauline McLaughlin as members.

The Committee also breaks into two Subcommittees called the Real Estate Agents and Auctioneers Subcommittee and the Motor Dealers and Commercial Agents Subcommittee.

The Registrar of Auctioneers and Agents is a member of the Committee and its Subcommittees and is represented at meetings by a Deputy Registrar. No fees are payable to the Registrar or Deputy Registrar.

The table below details remuneration for the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2. 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. 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.

**642. Auctioneers and Agents Committee**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (21/6/00)—

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 1 July 1999?

**Ms SPENCE (21/7/00):** Prior to 1 February 2000, the Auctioneers and Agents Committee comprised Sandra Deane as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Molly Robson, Wendy Hilditch and Pauline McLaughlin as members. From 1 February 2000, the Committee comprised Wendy Cull as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Molly Robson, Wendy Hilditch, Edward Clarke and Pauline McLaughlin as members.

The Registrar of Auctioneers and Agents is also a member of the Committee and is represented at meetings by a Deputy Registrar.

The table below details the breakdown of meetings of the full Committee for the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000. 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)

**643. Building Services Authority**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (21/6/00)—

With reference to the home warranty insurance provided to consumers through the Queensland Building Services Authority—

Will she list for 1999-2000 (a) the total value of claims, (b) the average value of claims and (c) the maximum monetary value of a claim paid?

**Ms SPENCE** (21/7/00):

(a) As at 23 June 2000, the total value of claims approved in the 1999-2000 financial year was \$12,016,956.

(b) The average value of claims was \$7,354.00.

(c) The maximum monetary value of a claim paid was \$100,500.

#### **644. Public Housing, Capital Works Expenditure**

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/6/00)—

With reference to 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** (21/7/00): I am advised that, under the 1999/2000 Ministerial Program Statement, the land acquisition budget for public rental housing was \$20M. As at 27 June 2000, the department has purchased, or has under contract, a total of 194 lots of land. Total forecast expenditure for land during the 1999/2000 financial year is \$23.5M, of which \$22.8M is attributed to the purchase price and professional fees.

See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on expenditure and number for land acquisitions by State electorate. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### **645. Public Housing, Capital Works Expenditure**

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/6/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction program of \$97.265m (which includes the carryover from 1998-99) (21/6/00)—

Will he provide a breakdown of capital expenditure and number of dwellings to be commenced and/or completed by State electorate for 1999-2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/7/00): I am advised that, under the 1999/2000 Ministerial Program Statement, the new construction budget for public rental housing was \$97.265M. The budgeted \$97.265M was for expenditure on carryover projects for dwellings commenced in previous years, and for expenditure on 700 new construction commencements during 1999/2000. As at 27 June 2000, the department has programmed a total of 1,114 carryover and new dwelling commencements. The 1,114 dwellings include 611 carryover dwelling projects to be completed in 1999/2000, and 503 new dwellings scheduled to commence in 1999/2000. Total project cost for the 1,114 dwellings is \$124.5M, of which \$70.977M is forecast to be expended during the 1999/2000 financial year.

The new construction budget was reduced from \$97.265M by \$26.288M to an end of financial year forecast of \$70.977M. Forecast expenditure has been reduced due to intra budget transfers of funds to spot purchases, land acquisitions and capital works on existing dwellings. In addition, as a result of an overheated residential building industry, linked to the imminent introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), during the latter part of the 1999/2000 financial year, Treasury has approved the deferment of commencing 200 dwellings and associated expenditure from the 1999/2000 program to 2000/2001. This initiative has been requested and supported by industry groups such as the Housing Industry Association.

See Attachment A for a breakdown provided by the Department of Housing 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)

#### **646. Public Housing, Capital Works Expenditure**

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/6/00)—

With reference to the public housing capital works program on existing dwellings (excluding the urban renewal and community renewal programs) (21/6/00)—

Will he provide a breakdown of capital expenditure by State electorate for 1999-2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/7/00): 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 a "as needs basis" and cannot be determined in advance. General upgrading includes upgrading kitchens, bathrooms and laundries to improve the livability for public housing tenants.

I am advised that the total expenditure for general upgrades, estate improvements and redevelopment projects (excluding the urban renewal and community renewal programs) statewide for 1999/2000 is forecast at \$49,175,127 from an original budget forecast of \$49,408,000.

See Attachment A for the breakdown provided by the Department of Housing of proposed expenditure by State electorate. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### **647. Public Housing**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/6/00)—

With reference to the disposal/sale of housing (houses and/or vacant land) by Housing Queensland (including public, ATSI and community housing) since 1 July 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** (21/7/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing in relation to the disposal/sale of housing (houses and/or vacant land including public, ATSI and community housing) since 1 July 1999. I am advised 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)

#### 648. Public Housing, Capital Works Expenditure

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/6/00)—

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** (21/7/00): I am advised that the total capital expenditure for 1999/2000 within the urban renewal program was budgeted at \$21.1M. The 1999/2000 forecasted expenditure is \$18.2M. The 1999/2000 actual capital expenditure within the community renewal program is \$1.138M.

See Attachment A for the breakdown provided by the Department of Housing for each program of capital expenditure by State electorate for 1999/2000. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 649. Gladstone, Respite Care

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (21/6/00)—

With reference to the Gladstone electorate which continues to have a high need for respite care and to Mainstay, Endeavour and others which provide an excellent service, however, many families need short term continuous respite (ie for a number of weeks) to allow families to recuperate—

When will she meet the need for this type of respite for families like the Warren family before they have to relinquish their son out of sheer desperation?

**Ms BLIGH** (26/7/00): I am very aware of the critical levels of unmet need for disability support services within both Gladstone and Queensland generally. This is the result of decades of neglect by successive governments in Queensland. The Honourable Member can be assured that this Government has a firm commitment to providing a range of support options to assist individuals with a disability and their families.

In the 2000-2001 budget, funding for a further eight family support and respite centres was provided. An amount of \$2.6 million has been provided to support up to 400 families with enhanced flexible respite services such as overnight respite, host family, in home and community based support. Allocations of these and other funds in the 2000-2001 budget will be allocated on a needs basis.

#### 650. Criminal Offenders, Sentences

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (21/6/00)—

Will he provide details on how many people have been sentenced for armed robbery offences in Queensland for each year since 1996, how many of these for each year served a term of imprisonment as part of their sentence and how many of these, for each year, were sentenced as serious violent offenders?

**Mr FOLEY** (13/7/00): The number of recorded convictions for armed robbery offences since 1996, is set out below, together with the number of instances where a term of imprisonment was served. However, it should be noted that the number of convictions is greater than the number of persons convicted of offences, as a charge (or charges) on which a person is found guilty on a different date is counted as a conviction.

Armed Robbery: 1996—200; 1997—169; 1998—188; 1999—219

Sentenced to imprisonment: 1996—155; 1997—138; 1998—153; 1999—187

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General does not have an information system that can identify those people sentenced as violent offenders.

#### 651. Fairview Ambulance Station, Toowoomba

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (21/6/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service—South Western Region—

- (1) Is he aware that the Fairview Ambulance Station in Toowoomba was recently closed for a period of time?
- (2) Will he identify who made the decision to close this facility, how long it was closed for and why it was closed?
- (3) Will he explain the impact that financial restrictions and/or staffing shortages played in the decision to close the facility?

- (4) Will he give a detailed account of how many ambulance calls were received during that period that would normally have been attended to by Fairview Ambulance Station officers?

**Mr ROBERTSON (21/7/00):**

(1) I am aware of the temporary closure of Fairview Ambulance Station from 1700 hours to 2400 hours on the night of 18 June 2000.

(2) Mr Glen Maule, Queensland Ambulance Service, Toowoomba Area Manager, closed the facility. The facility was closed for seven hours due to the absence of a staff member on leave and another reporting sick. The Station was reopened with the reporting to duty of the night shift officer at 0001 hours 19 June 2000.

(3) There were no financial restrictions or staffing shortages involved in this decision but staff absences did contribute to the decision.

(4) During the time of closure there was a pre-booked aerial transfer that Fairview Station officers might normally have attended, depending on the occurrence of concurrent cases at the time.

#### 652. Ambulance Service, Far Northern Region

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (21/6/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)—Far Northern Region—

- (1) Will he fully explain the absence of the incumbent officer from his substantive position as Officer-In-Charge Cairns cluster detailing (a) the reason for the absence including the time period and processes followed, citing any extraordinary circumstances and (b) what type of disciplinary action has been taken and whether this action is both appropriate to the circumstances, the position of the officer in question and any precedence previously set in the QAS?
- (2) Will he give his assurance and that of the QAS Commissioner that any claims by this officer of harassment and bullying by the Regional Executive Director (or any other officer) will be thoroughly and independently investigated?

**Mr ROBERTSON (21/7/00):**

(1) The Officer-in-Charge of the Cairns cluster was deployed from his substantive position on 11 February 2000 to a position of operational ambulance officer.

- (a) The reason for his deployment is that the QAS received a complaint from a member of the public alleging that the Officer-in-Charge had stolen QAS property. The property involved was a set of tyres that had been removed from an ambulance vehicle. The matter was immediately referred to the Criminal Justice Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1989. The Chief Officer of the Official Misconduct Division directed the QAS Commissioner to refer the matter to the Queensland Police Service. The police investigation continues.

- (b) No disciplinary action has been taken against this officer. The QAS has deferred the implementation of the disciplinary procedures until such time as the police investigation has been finalised. This is consistent with the way matters such as this have been dealt with previously in the QAS. The officer has been deployed to a position in which he does not have any responsibility for QAS resources. He has not suffered any financial loss as a consequence of the deployment.

(2) The QAS Commissioner has not received any complaint from the Officer-in-Charge alleging harassment or bullying by the Regional Executive Director or any other officer. Any complaints of this nature are fully investigated.

#### 653. Ambulance Service, Central Region

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (21/6/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)—Central Region—

- (1) Are both he and the QAS Commissioner aware of persistent claims of the existence of a so-called 'boys club' which is anecdotally known to operate predominantly among senior communications personnel located between Mackay and Rockhampton?
- (2) Are both he and the QAS Commissioner aware that the membership of this 'boys club' is well known among QAS circles to continually, yet discretely, harass and bully fellow QAS employees, all apparently with the tacit approval of the Regional Executive Director?
- (3) As members of this 'boys club' have been widely known to elude justice in several other investigations (including those reported to the CJC), can both he and the QAS Commissioner give their personal assurances that this 'club' does not exist and that any unlawful behaviour will be independently investigated?

**Mr ROBERTSON (21/7/00):**

(1) The Commissioner is aware of allegations of a so-called 'boy's club' in the Mackay area. The allegations relate to a personal association between a number of individual staff members. I was not previously aware of this allegation.

(2) The Regional Executive Director, Central Region, has ensured that any allegations or complaints of bullying and/or harassment have been investigated independently. It is noteworthy that all QAS Communications Officers undergo training in Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) principles. EEO continuation training was conducted for Mackay Communications Centre Staff in April 1998 and further continuation training will be conducted in financial year 2000/2001. The QAS has widely promulgated policies on Equal Employment Opportunity, Anti-Discrimination and Selection and Appointment of QAS Personnel.

(3) There is evidence of some interpersonal conflict within the Mackay area. This has resulted in a number of complaints which have been formally and

independently investigated including referral to the Criminal Justice Commission when appropriate. Some of these investigations are continuing. All formal complaints or inappropriate behaviour have been and will continue to be fully and independently investigated, and appropriate measures taken where necessary.

#### 654. Ambulance Service

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (21/6/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service and specifically to his response to Question on Notice No. 342 of 13 April 2000—

Will he provide further details as to (3c)—which area's the resources are being targeted to and the form that these resources have taken, (3d)—the demand influencing factors that have been identified, (3e)—what the workforce models are that have been adopted, along with an explanation on how each meets growth and demand and (4)—what financial performance requirements have been agreed to by the regional executive directors in their individual Executive Performance Agreements, which regions have achieved this requirement and outline any action that will be taken against those failing to meet the agreed requirement?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (21/7/00):

(3c) 44 additional staff were provided in the 1999/2000 Budget and those staff allocated to high growth areas. The distribution of these additional staff were:

QAS Northern Region (Townsville)—3 Student Paramedics and 2 ATSI positions for Palm Island;

QAS Central Region (Rockhampton)—2 Communications Operators;

QAS South Western Region (Toowoomba)—2 Student Paramedics;

QAS North Coast Region (Caloundra)—7 Student Paramedics and 2 Communications Operators;

QAS Greater Brisbane Region (Brisbane)—3 Student Paramedics and 1 Patient Transport Officer;

QAS South Eastern Region (Beenleigh)—8 Student Paramedics;

QAS Far Northern Region (Cairns)—2 Student Paramedics; and

Ambulance and Fire Communications Centre (Afcem)—12 Communications Operators.

(3d) The demand for urgent ambulance services in Qld has been increasing over the last five years by an average of 6 percent per annum.

The factors known to influence demand include:

Population size;

Age: demand increases significantly with age; and

Sex: males are higher users of ambulance services than females.

Further research is occurring in this area.

(3e) The QAS Workforce Modelling Project was instigated in 1995 in an effort to develop a more scientific basis for resource allocation which is directly linked to community demand. Professor Jim Butler, Professor of Economics at the Australian National University contributed to an economic analysis including demand and costing analysis.

Ambulance services are provided to patients, who by virtue of their health status require a specialised transport vehicle or the attendance of an Ambulance Officer during transportation. Ambulance services are generally divided into two areas; emergency response and non-urgent transport.

Emergency Response is provided to those patients suffering sudden illness or injury. In Australia, this response is provided by Qualified Ambulance Officers trained to respond and initiate emergency health care. Non-urgent transport is provided to those patients who require specialised transportation. This service requires a lower standard of clinical training.

Factors which should be taken into consideration when allocating resources include:

The level of demand for ambulance services which is influenced by the demographics of the population, their health status, their attitude to service delivery etc.

The degree of isolation for support services will influence service requirements. For example, if no support is available, greater self sufficiency will be necessary.

The availability of health services in the locality and also the average case times.

The availability of Community Support Services will determine the degree of professional isolation and turnover which may impact on resource levels.

Ambulance Services may play a more extensive role in some communities including public education, non-ambulance health transport, extended clinical roles, OH&S and major events.

(4) Within the Executive Performance Agreements of each Regional Executive Director, there are performance measures including revenue and valid debt recovery measures.

Performance against these measures is reviewed for each Regional Executive Director, on an annual basis with interim reviews on a six monthly basis with the Commissioner, Queensland Ambulance Service.

As referred to above, the Queensland Ambulance Service is currently undertaking a Workforce Modelling Project to develop a more systematic approach to the allocation of resources directly linked to community demand.

As part of this process Regional Budgets will be under review.

**655. Mr R. Gibbs, Trade Commissioner**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Premier (21/6/00)—

With reference to the recent appointment of Mr Bob Gibbs as Trade Commissioner—

- (1) What is the total value of Mr Gibbs' remuneration package?
- (2) How much public money has been spent by Mr Gibbs on travel at 21 June 2000?
- (3) How much public money has been spent by Mr Gibbs or his office on entertainment at 21 June 2000?

**Mr BEATTIE** (21/7/00):

(1) Please refer to my answer to Question on Notice No 193 (Mr Borbidge to the Premier).

(2) On the latest available figures, Mr Gibbs has incurred travel expenditure of A\$34,954.

(3) Mr Gibbs has not yet been appointed for 12 months.

However, the vast majority of the expenditure incurred by the Los Angeles Office since Mr Gibbs' appointment relates to the BIO 2000 International Conference held in Boston in March 2000. It includes the costs of associated official functions in Boston, San Francisco and Washington hosted by me, as leader of the largest Australian State delegation (43 delegates) to the Conference.

**656. Condamine/Balonne WAMP**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (21/6/00)—

- (1) Is he aware of the huge backlash regarding the findings of the recent Condamine Balonne River draft WAMP?
- (2) Is he aware that affected reliable farmers and irrigators claim the draft documents lack credibility and that the draft Condamine Balonne WAMP had the potential to impact on the districts cotton industry, regional employment prospects and the financial well being of country towns?
- (3) In view of these concerns, what action has he in hand to alleviate fears of local farmers and townspeople?

**Mr WELFORD** (20/7/00):

(1) I am aware that there have been suggestions that some individual irrigators will be severely impacted if the scenarios outlined in the draft Condamine Balonne WAMP were to be adopted by the Government. I have publicly indicated that this is not the intention and have instructed officers of my Department of Natural Resources to meet with irrigators to work through their concerns.

(2) The more technical aspects of the draft Plan have been based on the best available knowledge of the Basin's streamflows and ecological condition. The environmental flows report and the hydrological model will be independently audited to ensure that the information used is of the highest quality. With respect to the claims that the provisions of the draft

Plan have the potential to adversely impact on local communities, socioeconomic impact assessments of the various scenarios presented in the draft Plan will be undertaken as a matter of high priority.

(3) My Department has completed a series of eight public meetings throughout the Basin to provide an overview of the draft Plan. It is now commencing a series of more targeted and focused workshops with water users at a local level. These workshops will provide for a more detailed discussion of the draft Plan and they will also allow for verification of the information used in the technical assessments.

This is a draft Plan and it is only through in-depth consultation with stakeholders that the information base can be verified and a common understanding of the draft Plan can be gained.

**657. Disability Services**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (21/6/00)—

With reference to the four categories used by Disability Services Queensland in relation to the relative needs of people with disabilities—

- (1) How many Queenslanders are assessed as having needs corresponding to the criteria for each category?
- (2) How many support packages are currently operational in respect of each category?
- (3) How many support packages in each category have been approved in the current financial year?
- (4) What is the annualised value of all support packages now operational?
- (5) What is the average cost of existing packages in each category?
- (6) What is the value of the most expensive package in each category?
- (7) What is the value of the least expensive package in each category?
- (8) What are the comparisons of the numbers in each of the previously mentioned categories as between regions?

**Ms BLIGH** (26/7/00):

(1) The following number of Queenslanders were assessed as having needs corresponding to the criteria for each category as at 31 March 2000:

Priority 1: 1,279  
Priority 2: 841  
Priority 3: 1,295  
Priority 4: 952

(2) There are currently 480 packages operational made up of:

Priority 1: 220  
Priority 2: 164  
Priority 3: 55  
Priority 4: 10

Another 31 packages approved prior to the establishment of the regional priority panels.

(3) There were 261 packages approved from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 made up of:

- Priority 1: 78
- Priority 2: 82
- Priority 3: 15
- Priority 4: 0

Another 86 packages committed to in 1998/1999 but operationalised in 1999/2000.

(4) The annualised value of current support packages provided from 1 July 1999 to 1 June 2000 is \$12,724,422.

- (5) Priority 1: \$49,627  
Priority 2: \$15,078  
Priority 3: \$8,327  
Priority 4: \$11,387

- (6) Priority 1: \$106,188  
Priority 2: \$26,032  
Priority 3: \$65,125  
Priority 4: \$67,504

- (7) Priority 1: \$2,885  
Priority 2: \$2,861  
Priority 3: \$1,405  
Priority 4: \$4,906

(8) See attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 658. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (21/6/00)—

With reference to his responses to Questions on Notice Nos. 132 and 140 of 2000 and 714 of 1998 which make it very clear that officers in various departments/agencies responsible for employing public sector trainees have been given precise directives by his department (DETIR) concerning numbers, quotas and gender balance of trainees to be employed and as his responses indicate that trainees are to be female and "the Department should be careful not to significantly improve on the 50% target as this will adversely affect the intake of male trainees"—

- (1) Why has this clear directive not been complied with? (His answer to Question on Notice No. 138 of 2000 states that 2,183 female trainees had been employed in the public sector up until 1 March and only 1,086 males employed as trainees up until the same date.)
- (2) How will his department rectify what it obviously regards as an "adverse affect" that this gender imbalance has on the intake of male trainees?

**Mr BRADY** (21/7/00):

(1) The establishment of targets for EEO groups was never intended to be an affirmative action program and the clause contained in the Memorandum of Agreement that relates to departments not significantly improving on the 50% target for women supports the intention of the targets. In the selection of trainees, departments and agencies follow a merit

selection process and for that reason it is not always possible to achieve the exact target set. A sample of the traineeship applicant pool shows that the percentage of the women appointed to traineeship positions is proportional to the number of women in the traineeship applicant pool.

(2) I am satisfied that the targets established are appropriate and I do not intend to ask departments and agencies to circumvent merit selection processes.

#### 659. Bruce Highway, Gunalda Range

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/6/00)—

With reference to a new 6.2 km section of the Bruce Highway crossing the Gunalda Range on a new alignment that is currently under construction—

- (1) Has he received any complaints from the residents regarding access to their properties?
- (2) How many changes have been made to the plans regarding these access points?
- (3) Is this project running on time?
- (4) Has this project stayed on budget?
- (5) Has he taken time out to assess the access problems related to the latest changes to the plans?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (24/7/00):

(1) The Minister has only received one complaint from a Mr and Mrs Nicol about the southern access being provided from the Bruce Highway to the Glenwood service road, along which their business is located.

(2) Following the consultation phase with all the stakeholders associated with this project, and prior to finalisation of the design plans, the current service road access arrangements, which have existed since 1991, have been maintained and improved. No change to plans has occurred since the design phase of this project.

(3) The project is still running on time, although it has been affected by wet weather.

(4) The project is still within budget.

(5) Mr and Mrs Nicol have written and their concern is being investigated. I reiterate, there have been no changes to the plans. What is currently being built is what was displayed to the public on finalisation of the design phase of the project, a copy of which was provided to Mr and Mrs Nicol in July 1999.

#### 660. Bus Travel Subsidies

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/6/00)—

With reference to Government subsidised bus routes in Queensland—

- (1) How many subsidised bus routes exist and where are they?
- (2) To what level is each of these bus routes subsidised by the Queensland tax payer?

- (3) What is the total cost per year of these subsidies?
- (4) What guidelines does his department lay down to establish such subsidised bus routes?

**Mr BREDHAUER (24/7/00):** As a general rule, bus services in the State are not subsidised by route. Area based contracts are issued to operators in metropolitan and provincial centres with funding being related to the whole of the contract rather than route by route. Some of these contracts, for example the bus contract in the Member for Whitsunday's own electorate, also require the contract holder to operate services that connect provincial towns and villages over declared routes. The following information is provided in response to Mr Black's four specific questions.

(1) There are 51 of these contracts throughout the State varying from small one bus operations to close to 600 bus operations in Brisbane City. In addition to these contracts for urban or local bus services, the Queensland Government also subsidises three long distance bus services in remote and rural Queensland. These Western Bus Services operate between (i) Dirranbandi and Toowoomba, (ii) Cunnamulla and Toowoomba via St George and (iii) Charters Towers and Townsville.

(2) Funding provided under the 51 urban bus contracts consists of reimbursement of prescribed concessions/discounts (for example pensioners must receive a 50% concession fare) which under the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 must be reimbursed to the operator. Funding is also provided to assist with the purchase of new/accessible buses and to provide services that are required in the public interest but are not commercially viable to operate. The Western Bus Services are currently funded on a rate per kilometre net of fares.

(3) Bus subsidies for 1999/2000 totalled \$52M. Full details of the individual bus operators who receive such subsidies and the amounts of subsidy they receive are published in Queensland Transport's Annual Report.

(4) Urban bus contracts are issued in metropolitan areas and provincial centres with a population in excess of 7,500 with the two main exceptions being Mount Isa and Charters Towers which historically have never had local bus services. The guidelines applying to providing financial assistance to long distance bus services in remote and rural Queensland as established by the previous Borbidge Government are:

the long distance bus service must be an established service providing rural and remote areas of the State with access to major population centres and essential destinations (in particular major hospitals and other specialised health treatment centres) on the eastern seaboard;

data analysis by Queensland Transport demonstrates that the existing long distance bus service is not commercially viable and cannot continue to operate without financial assistance;

the rural communities presently serviced by the long distance bus service have no other effective public transport alternative for accessing essential services as described above; and

the continued provision of the long distance bus service would better meet the Government's social justice objectives at a lower cost to Government than would otherwise be the case.

#### 661. School Buses

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/6/00)—

With reference to overcrowded school buses—

- (1) What action is his department taking in regard to the dangerous situation of overcrowded buses with children standing in buses to and from school?
- (2) Is his department monitoring these school buses; if so, what guidelines are there in place for children standing in buses?

**Mr BREDHAUER (24/7/00):**

(1) As road crash statistics for the last five years show, school bus travel is the safest form of travel to and from school and significantly safer than travelling by car, cycling or walking. Also, the safety issue of most concern for school bus travel is children getting onto and off the bus for example while crossing the road after alighting from the bus. This Government's policy, which has been consistently applied, is to address the safety of school children travelling to and from school through the annual SafeST program which includes a \$3 million subsidy program for infrastructure projects for schools, a \$200,000 Safe Walking and Pedalling Program and a \$600,000 School Bus Routes Review Program. Under this approach, Queensland Transport works closely with local government and individual school communities to identify and prioritise safety issues for students travelling to and from school whether it be by car, bus, bicycle or walking and to formulate an appropriate action plan to address these issues. This approach ensures that valuable resources are provided to communities which have a clear and identified safety need.

With regard to the regulations surrounding the carriage of standing passengers on school buses, in 1994 Queensland Transport introduced a Bus Safety Standards Policy. The Policy addressed a number of bus safety concerns, including overcrowding and standing passengers. The previous practice of allowing one standing passenger for every two seated passengers was replaced with a system of evaluating the capacity of a bus to safely carry passengers based on the bus manufacturer's safety axle limits, the area available to carry standees, and the number of suitable hand holds for the safety and convenience of the passengers. This change took place because of the variance of weight distributions and load capacities between passenger types (i.e. adults versus children). Many buses have had their passenger capacities reduced to comply with the introduced safety standards.



(2) The maximum distance that a standing passenger can travel is 20 kilometres. Bus operators must stay within their load limits, and can only carry standees if the bus is designed for this purpose, with sufficient aisle width and the presence of a suitable number of handholds for the safety and convenience of the passengers.

Queensland Transport conducts safety inspections of buses every six months, and buses, like all vehicles, may be subjected to random safety checks. Inspections can also be conducted in response to public feedback or concerns, and targeted checks have been conducted on some school buses when concerns have been raised regarding overloading.

## 662. Recycled Waste Water

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (22/6/00)—

With reference to the proposed recycled (waste) water development from the Brisbane region to the Lockyer Valley for irrigation purposes—

- (1) Has the interdepartmental group reached a final decision on this proposal; if not, when can we expect a decision?
- (2) Has his department been investigating various proposals for finance of such a project and what type of finance is being investigated?
- (3) As this project will have a potential critical environmental impact on the current pollution of Moreton Bay, does his department fully support this project and its implementation?

**Mr ELDER** (21/7/00):

(1) The interagency committee, chaired by my Department of State Development and comprising representatives of the Department of Health, Department of Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan Councils has met on five occasions since October 1999 to examine and assess all key issues affecting this development proposal.

Under the auspices of the committee, consultancies to investigate the long-term impact of treated effluent on soil structure and to identify opportunities for the private sector involvement in the project have been completed. The former consultancy clearly showed that there were no impacts on soil structures in the region that could not be managed. The output of the latter however highlighted that before a final decision can be made on the viability of the proposal, it is first necessary to resolve the following:

Define more accurately the scope of the project and its capital and operating costs from a whole-of-project life perspective.

Contractual arrangements with the various Councils regarding access to the effluent

EPA licensing requirements

The capacity of end-users to pay for the recycled water

The Department of State Development will shortly commence a major consultancy to address the

project scope and cost issues. It is anticipated that the findings of this consultancy will be available by December 2000. Whilst this work will provide a better indication of the viability of this recycling project it is important to recognise that this project's implementation requires a cooperative approach between the State Government and the Councils and the successful resolution of the EPA's licensing requirements. The revenue to be earned from the sale of the recycled water to end-users is another key factor that will determine this project's future.

(2) Before investigating financing options for this project it is of course necessary to establish the scope of the project and to resolve the other issues outlined in my answer to question 1 since these all will affect this project's capital and operating costs and thus the amount of funding required. It is intended to involve the private sector in partnership with Government in the financing, delivery and operation of this project. This private sector involvement will however need to represent value-for-money on a whole of project life basis and must meet the needs of all stakeholders including the State Government, the Councils and the end-users of the recycled water. I am aware that a number of private sector consortiums are actively examining this project. Further, because of the scale and importance of this recycling project there is likely to be a role for the Commonwealth.

(3) The proposal to take treated effluent from South East Queensland and recycle it for agricultural and industrial purposes has the potential to improve the water quality in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay. My Department is actively working in a cooperative way with other agencies and local Government to establish a framework that will encourage the development of a viable project that meets the needs of the various stakeholders including the end-users of the recycled water.

## 663. Koalas, Runaway Bay

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (22/6/00)—

With reference to an application for a "change of use" at Runaway Bay and the currently frustrated offer from a private developer to invest a large amount of money to assist Wildcare, a group of respected wild life veterinarians and specialists establish a koala research and education centre—

- (1) What are the reasons why he is currently unable to make a ruling concerning the offer of such a valuable resource from a well known and well respected citizen?
- (2) When does he anticipate that he will be able to make a ruling concerning this application?

**Mr WELFORD** (20/7/00):

(1) The application for a "change of use" refers to a portion of Lot 331 on Crown plan WD804825 that is currently leased to Gold Coast City Council, with a sublease to Mr Ron Clark of Runaway Bay Centre Pty Ltd. This particular parcel of land has been the subject of lengthy negotiations between various

agencies, including my Department of Natural Resources, the Office of Sport and Recreation and Gold Coast City Council. It was agreed by all parties including representatives of Runaway Bay Centre Pty Ltd, that the land would be developed as a sporting complex.

Given the agreed land use was to develop a sports complex, specific nominated uses were defined in the conditions of the sublease to Runaway Bay Centre Pty Ltd. The proposed land use as a wildlife half way house in the current application, may not be compatible with a sporting and recreational use of the area as previously agreed by all parties.

While I support the efforts of Wildcare in caring for injured wildlife, I will await the further consideration of the relevant issues by State and Local Government Agencies.

(2) If Council, as the head lessee of Lot 331 on Crown plan WD804825 considers that part of the leased land is excess to the requirements of Runaway Bay Centre Pty Ltd as a sporting complex, it may request that the excess land be excised from the lease. However, this would be acceptable and must be subject to the provisions of the Land Act.

#### 664. Brandon State School

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Education (22/6/00)—

With reference to a letter sent to him dated 17 May 1999 concerning the construction of a new administration building at the Brandon State School and to his reply stating commitment to this project was for planning only and for one reason or another this new administration building has been shelved with teachers, students and parents of the Brandon State School unable to function in an efficient manner due to cramped conditions and in an effort to receive reasonable working conditions, representations have been made to Project Services for alterations to the current administration building known as the school office to which Q-Build has quoted a cost of \$12,239 for these alterations—

Does he consider this to be a reasonable request; if so, will this project be given the high priority it deserves?

**Mr WELLS** (25/7/00): The department informs me that it has received a similar request from the P&C Association of Brandon State School and it is confirmed that the school has received a quote from QBuild for \$12,239 to carry out refurbishment works in the administration area.

Schools are provided annually with funds to undertake projects of this nature by way of a grant for minor works for and a maintenance allocation. Depending upon the school's priorities a combination of these funds can be utilised in the administration upgrade.

Arrangements have been put into place for a North Queensland Facilities Service Centre staff member to meet with the principal of Brandon State School to discuss appropriate strategies with a view of achieving an acceptable outcome.

#### 665. Senior Public Servants, Performance Bonuses

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Premier (22/6/00)—

With reference to the performance bonuses attached to the salary packages of the senior Queensland bureaucrats—

- (1) Will he identify Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and Senior Executive Service officers who have received a performance bonus?
- (2) How much has each been paid and how often (yearly, quarterly)?
- (3) Who determined whether they would or would not be paid?
- (4) What was the basis of the evaluation?

**Mr BEATTIE** (24/7/00):

(1) A system of performance agreements for Departmental Directors-General was implemented in 1998-1999. All departmental Chief Executive Officers, except the Police Commissioner and the Public Service Commissioner, participated in this scheme. At the end of the financial year all eligible Chief Executive Officers received a performance bonus. Any performance agreement for officers below the level of Chief Executive Officer would be arranged with their respective Chief Executive Officer. There is no defined scheme for the payment of performance bonuses other than for Chief Executive Officers.

(2) These performance agreements carried the possibility of a performance bonus payable annually after a review of performance. The specific dollar amounts of the bonuses were calculated within each department and paid from departmental funding.

(3) At the end of the financial year, each Chief Executive Officer provided a written submission outlining their outcomes in terms of the objectives set out in their performance agreement. These submissions were reviewed by a panel comprised of the Public Service Commissioner and an independent consultant with experience in public sector management. After examining the submissions and the assessment by the panel I interviewed each Chief Executive Officer, after which I then made a determination as to the quantum of their performance bonus.

(4) A performance agreement. Each performance agreement contained a number of whole-of-government objectives which were the same for all portfolios, and a number of departmental objectives.

#### 666. Caboolture Oral Health Clinic

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Health (22/6/00)—

- (1) What are the current staffing levels of the Redcliffe/Caboolture Health Service, Caboolture Oral Health (Dental) Clinic?
- (2) How many dentists are employed at the Caboolture Oral Health (Dental) Clinic?

- (3) What are the working hours of each of the dentists employed?
- (4) What is the current waiting period for 'emergent' and 'non-emergent' treatment for dental work?
- (5) What is the current definition for 'emergent' and 'non-emergent' treatment for dental work?
- (6) How many people are on the waiting list at the Caboolture Oral Health (Dental) Clinic for emergent and non-emergent treatment?
- (7) What is currently being done to decrease the waiting lists and waiting time at this facility?
- (8) Considering the numbers of persons queuing for treatment at this facility each day, some in the order of 30—40, with patient numbers recorded on one day at 70 waiting in line, when are the current staffing levels going to be increased?
- (9) When is the size of the facility going to be increased to cope with these ever-burgeoning numbers of patients attending for treatment?

**Mrs EDMOND (24/7/00):**

- (1) The Caboolture Dental Clinic is currently staffed by six Dentists, six Dental Assistants, three Dental Technicians, and two Administration Officers. School Dental Therapists and Oral Health Therapists are also rostered to work at the Caboolture Dental Clinic to provide services to school children.
- (2) See (1) above.
- (3) The standard working hours for the dentists are Monday to Friday from 7.45 AM to 4.30 PM with 45 minutes for lunch.
- (4) The Queensland Health standard is that eligible clients are offered emergency or immediate dental care within 24 hours. The priority at the Caboolture Dental Clinic is to meet this standard and in most cases patients who come to the clinic before 9.00 AM are seen on the same day. If this is not possible on a particular day, they are offered treatment in the early part of the next day. Therefore, there are no current waiting periods for emergency care because patients are generally offered treatment within 24 hours.
- (5) There is no hard and fast definition of emergency or immediate dental treatment. It is a matter of clinical judgment as well as the perception of the patient. I am advised that patients with acute pain, facial swelling or traumatic injuries receive priority but all patients presenting with urgent problems are able to access the emergency sessions. Routine general dental care includes non-urgent treatment and includes examination, routine fillings and cleaning.
- (6) There are not current waiting periods for emergency care because patients are generally offered treatment within 24 hours. As at 20 June 2000, there were 3242 patients on the waiting list for general treatment.
- (7) The District is aware of concerns regarding the waiting list and attempts to implement various strategies to reduce the time to wait for routine treatment while at the same time providing same day service for those clients in need of immediate or

emergency treatment. I am advised that in response to the increased demand for immediate and emergency services, the hours allocated to the emergency clinic have been increased and all available clinical staff are rostered every morning to provide treatment. The majority of patients have their treatment completed within three hours of the clinic opening.

(8) The District advises that there are no records of any day on which 70 persons attended the dental clinic for emergency treatment. In recent years, the number of surgeries at Caboolture has been increased.

(9) The Queensland Government provides the most comprehensive public oral health services in Australia for both adults and children. Queensland was the only State to provide full supplementary funding following the cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program by the Howard Government in December 1996. This was valued at \$20 million per annum.

Queensland has joined with other States and the Australian Dental Association in urging the Commonwealth to once again fund the Commonwealth Dental Health Program which provided dental care to eligible clients.

#### **667. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Development Programs**

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/6/00)—

With reference to the advertisement headed "Leadership in 2000—Continuing the learning" which the Premier's Department is running in Sector Wide and elsewhere—

- (1) As the advertisement indicates that the program costs \$6000 per participating public service officer and includes a 9-day live-in workshop, has he yet advised the Premier that immediately upon taking office he abolished such leadership development programs, based on concepts such as "continuous learning" in a "learning organisation", labelling them a gross waste of public money when they were conducted in DETIR, at far less cost, during the Coalition's term in office?
- (2) How many senior staff, at \$6,000 each, has DETIR so far enrolled in this program being advertised by the Premier's Department?
- (3) How many of those have attended the 9-day retreats (previously referred to by the Minister as "love-ins")?

**Mr BRADDY (14/7/00):**

(1) I advised the Parliament that the Director-General of DETIR abolished a range of management consultancies, leadership and staff development programs which had cost \$1.727M in consultancy fees in 1997/98 and \$1.777M in 1996/97, including the payment of consultants at rates of up to \$6,750 per day.

- (2) No core DETIR staff have attended the program since 26 June 1998. 18 staff from semiautonomous TAFE Institutes which determine their own staff development programs have attended the program.
- (3) 18.

### 668. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/6/00)—

- (1) As he has previously provided information in relation to attrition rates for public sector trainees and apprentices and described the retention rates as being exceptionally good, why is he now claiming, in part 2 of his response to Question on Notice No. 292 that his department cannot distinguish between public sector and private sector apprentices and trainees and so he can no longer provide the same information without massive diversion of resources?
- (2) Is he in fact now trying to hide the current attrition situation?

**Mr BRADY** (24/7/00):

- (1) The information sought in relation to Question 2 of Question on Notice 292, 12 April 2000 could not readily be answered as the question was framed in a format asking for data that is not consistent with the method of storage of data on public sector trainees and apprentices.
- (2) Information on the overall attrition rate can be provided but not in the break-up originally sought, that is, during probation and subsequent to probation.

### 669. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends—Statistics Report

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/6/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 702 of 21 October 1998—

What is the number and status of additional staff appointed by DETIR to monitor compliance and provide rigorous enforcement of the 10 per cent policy first introduced in 1993?

**Mr BRADY** (24/7/00): 2 permanent public service staff have been appointed to monitor compliance with the 10% Training Policy.

### 670. Community Renewal Program

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (22/6/00)—

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 1999-2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (1/8/00): See Attachment A for the breakdown provided by the Department of Housing of all non-housing construction/upgrades/maintenance projects under the Community Renewal Program for 1999/2000. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 671. Ambulance Service, Far Northern Region

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/6/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service—Far Northern Region—

- (1) Why are officers-in-charge being paid unlimited hours loading in this region and have not been paid correctly in accordance with the negotiated EPA?
- (2) Will he detail the number of officers that have been underpaid and will he indicate the total amount that is owed at 18 June 2000?
- (3) Will he identify when these officers will be paid these outstanding moneys?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (24/7/00):

- (1) Officers in charge are paid unlimited hours loading in accordance with the Queensland Ambulance Service Employees Award—State and the Queensland Ambulance Service Enterprise Partnership Agreement 1999 (EPA). Both the Award and the Agreement provide that Officers in Charge of stations, if required to work unlimited hours, be paid a 20% loading of the appropriate Station officer weekly rate. Such loading is in recognition of time spent on call for clinical responses and to compensate employees for any absence of limitation upon ordinary working hours on 5 days of the week.

Arrangements prior to the negotiation of the EPA, applied the award provision including the requirement that Officers be paid the full 20% loading for no limitation on ordinary working hours on five days of the week. Where Officers in Charge worked four ten hour days or any other roster arrangement, a pro rata payment of the 20% loading applied because Officers were providing less out of hours availability due to the rosters they were working.

During negotiations over the EPA, the QAS and the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers' Union (LHMWU) agreed that the 20% loading be paid on the basis of 20% of the weekly wage and was not to be determined by roster arrangements. However, some employees in Far Northern Region who were on pro rata arrangements continued to claim the rate of the 20% loading.

- (2) There are seven Officers in Charge concerned and an audit of each Officer's timesheet is being undertaken to determine any underpayment. Three Officers in Charge have submitted underpayment claims that are being processed. The total amount of any outstanding moneys cannot be quantified until these claims are properly processed.

- (3) Payment of any outstanding moneys will be processed by the Queensland Ambulance Service once the audit of timesheets is complete. Payment of

underpayment claims are being processed as they are submitted. Officers who believe they have been underpaid can submit a claim for back payment and each claim will be given due consideration. If an underpayment exists then the officer will be paid immediately.

#### **672. Education Department, Strategic Policy Branch**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Education (22/6/00)—

With reference to the expenses for the Strategic Policy Branch which will not otherwise be publicly disclosed—

For the period since 1 July 1999 (a) how much has this branch spent on wages and salaries, (b) how much has this branch spent on contracts, (c) how much has this branch spent on consultancies, (d) how much has this branch spent on entertainment (including morning and afternoon teas and lunches), (e) how much has this branch spent on domestic travel, (f) how much has this branch spent on international travel, (g) how many people are employed in this branch, (h) what was the budget for each of (a)—(g) above and (i) what is the total budget for this branch for 1999-2000?

**Mr WELLS** (25/7/00): The department informs me that the Strategic Policy Branch was established using existing public service numbers within Education Queensland to give Education Queensland greater capacity for effective policy development and strategic planning. Previously there was limited capacity in Education Queensland to appropriately coordinate these vital functions.

Over the past 18 months, the Strategic Policy Branch has been responsible for the development of Queensland State Education—2010 (QSE—2010), a statement of policy and direction for public education over the next ten years. Queensland State Education—2010 was launched on 4 April this year. The Branch is driving implementation of and monitoring progress towards achievement of the objectives and strategies outlined in QSE—2010. The Branch is also responsible for strategic policy development, research to underpin the strategic directions of Education Queensland, Commonwealth/State relations and coordination of the budget process.

The department informs me that in response to (a) to (g), expenditure is as at 31 May 2000.

- (a) \$932,143.76
- (b) \$107,569.35
- (c) \$487,152.28
- (d) \$8,850.68 (this includes catering for two rounds of public consultations around the state on Queensland State Education—2010)
- (e) \$45,621.18 (includes the cost of consultations on QSE—2010)
- (f) \$525.08 (reimbursement of accommodation expenses for one trip which was undertaken in late 1998-99)

- (g) 15 plus one trainee
- (h) (a) \$1,070,758  
(b) and (c) \$775,500  
(d) \$14,454  
(e) \$51,000  
(f) NIL  
(g) 15 staff
- (i) \$2,304,691.79.

#### **673. Students with Special Needs**

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Education (22/6/00)—

With reference to the number of students ascertained with special needs—

- (1) How many are enrolled in mainstream P-12 classes?
- (2) What are the details of (1) listed by ascertainment level, year level and district?

**Mr WELLS** (25/7/00): The department informs me that the number of students in P-12 classes identified with high educational needs arising through a disability is 7,758. Some of these students have more than one area of impairment and may require additional programs and services to meet the complexity of their educational needs. The work involved in providing data of ascertainment level by year, level and district would take an inordinate amount of administrative time and effort to collate in this form.

Note: Students within the 50 special schools have not been identified within the above numbers.

#### **674. Public Housing**

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (22/6/00)—

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** (1/8/00): See Attachment A for the breakdown provided by the Department of Housing, by program and electorate, of proposed expenditure for 1999/2000.

It should be noted that a further amount of \$612,227 from an approved budget of \$925,000 was spent during the 1999/2000 financial year on the installation of evaporative Air Cooling into Long Term Community Housing dwellings throughout western Queensland.

This expenditure combined with individual project expenditure and a contingency amount of \$43,430 totals \$8.463M for the 1999/2000 financial year.

The Honourable Member should also note that the grants listed are not necessarily spent on projects within each electorate. Attachment A has been prepared on the basis of the electorate in which the head office of an organisation is located.

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

### 675. Studies of Society and Environment Syllabus

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (22/6/00)—

With reference to the Studies of Society and Environment Years 1—10 syllabus from the Queensland School Curriculum Council and given the concerns expressed in the media (The Courier Mail of 10 June 2000) about this document—

What action does he intend to take in order to provide a more balanced set of examples under the learning outcomes in the Core Content section and will he clarify the fact that the examples given in the documents are not mandatory to be taught?

**Mr WELLS** (25/7/00): In accordance with an outcomes approach to education, the new syllabus is presented in terms of intended learning outcomes, that is, it identifies what students should know and be able to do in the Study of Society and Environment learning area.

The syllabus also recognises that learning outcomes cannot be achieved in a content-free environment. Accordingly, it specifically identifies the core content that students will need to address to demonstrate the core learning outcomes in the syllabus.

The syllabus clearly states, in the introduction to the core content section, that examples of specific individuals, groups, events or phenomena are provided to further clarify the content. These examples, which are identified in parentheses, are illustrative and do not cover all content choices. Clearly it will not be mandatory to teach all these examples.

In terms of Mr Quinn's reference to the need to provide a more balanced set of examples, it needs to be noted that, under the Education (School Curriculum P-10) Act of 1996, introduced by the his administration, the Council was not only given the function of developing syllabuses, but also source books for Years 1 to 10, where source books are defined as "materials to facilitate the ongoing implementation of an approved syllabus".

The draft source book, which will be available in final form to schools later this year, includes a large range of additional examples for each of the outcomes under the "elaborations" section. In terms of the outcome relating to the contribution of people in Australia's past, these range from Captain James Cook to Albert Namatjira, from Henry Lawson to Sister Kenny, and from Burke and Wills to Sir Robert Menzies.

This matter has therefore been referred to the Queensland Schools Curriculum Council for their consideration.

### 676. Goodwill Games 2001

**Mr HEALY** asked the Premier (22/6/00)—

At 22 June 2000, what is the latest estimated total cost of staging the Goodwill Games 2001, including

Federal, State and Local Government responsibilities?

**Mr BEATTIE** (24/7/00): 2001 Goodwill Games Brisbane Limited has been established by this Government as the entity to manage and deliver the responsibilities under the agreement with Ted Turner's Goodwill Games Inc (a subsidiary of Time Warner).

Revenue for the Games operating budget will be derived from three key sources—Goodwill Games Inc, the Queensland Government and through commercial arrangements such as corporate sponsorships, merchandise and ticketing sales.

The projected support provided by the State government is over four financial years, from 1998/1999 to 2001/2002. This contribution includes cash and in-kind Government services.

Local Government organisations such as Brisbane City Council and Gold Coast City Council will be providing in-kind services support including free hire of some competition and training venues, a contribution to capital works at venues, signage and pageantry, and other advisory and infrastructure support. The extent of these services is currently being determined.

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Australian Defence Force will provide ceremonial and personnel services to the Games. Additionally, the Federal Government will ensure expedited visitor and equipment passage through Customs.

The economic benefit to Queensland from the Goodwill Games is estimated at \$167m and the Games is expected to generate 1700 jobs for Queenslanders.

### 677. Emergency Services, Resources

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/6/00)—

With reference to the Emergency Services Department contract for the six prototype fire trucks (American-built La France Eagles chassis and European Scania-based vehicles) which are being trialled at Queensland Fire Stations—

- (1) What efforts did the department undertake to determine whether major components of the pumper tankers could be produced by Queensland or Australian-owned manufacturers?
- (2) When and where was the tender advertised?
- (3) Did any local contractors tender for this work?
- (4) In line with the Government's new State Purchasing Policy, which indicates that procurement officers could "identify opportunities to encourage the participation of local firms", will his department seek to further better inform and involve local heavy vehicle manufacturers in ongoing contracts?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (24/7/00):

- (1) The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) carried out extensive investigations in relation to the types of vehicles and equipment in

use with other Fire Services throughout Australia. Investigations were also completed into industry's ability to supply those vehicles and the various components required by QFRA.

(2) The tender for the supply of the vehicles was advertised in the Brisbane Courier Mail on 2 September 1998. Offers were received from Brisbane Isuzu (Isuzu), Zupps Truck Centre (Mitsubishi), Daimler Chrysler (Freightliner and Mercedes Benz), Scania (Scania), Bill Rich (Ford), Superior Industries (Ford) and Maracoonda (Ford). A preferred supply list was approved and vehicles are being supplied under this arrangement.

The tender for the supply of the bodies was advertised in the Brisbane Courier Mail on 3 February 1999 and a Standing Offer Arrangement was entered into in May 1999. This arrangement is with Mills-Tui (Brisbane, Queensland), Liquip (Brisbane, Queensland), Varley (Brisbane, Queensland) and Skilled Equipment Manufacturing (Ballarat, Victoria).

(3) As the Member for Burnett will note, several local contractors did tender for this work and were successful. This has led to improved employment opportunities for Queenslanders.

(4) The QFRA has and will continue to work with all suppliers to identify opportunities and encourage their participation in the delivery of services to the Authority.

#### **678. Ambulance Service, South Western Region**

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/6/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service—South Western Region—

- (1) Is he aware that the only two primary response ambulance vehicles located at Toowoomba Ambulance Station were recently put 'off the road' by ambulance officers due to safety reasons?
- (2) Why did officers have to resort to such action when both conditions were easily correctable and had been reported to the officer-in-charge and mechanic for two weeks prior to the event?
- (3) Will he detail the reasons why the vehicles were put 'off the road' and identify why these ambulance vehicles were not being adequately maintained?
- (4) Beyond normal servicing requirements only, will he identify how many ambulance vehicles have been put 'off the road' due to safety or mechanical reasons in the South Western Region since 1 July 1999 detailing vehicle type, age, fleet number and reason?
- (5) How many times have ambulance units broken down in the South Western Region since 1 July 1999 detailing vehicle type, age, fleet number, reason for breakdown and whether patients were on board or not?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (24/7/00):

- (1) Toowoomba Ambulance Station has five primary response vehicles. On Saturday 17 June 2000 tyres

on Unit 3220 and Unit 3221 were inspected by the Queensland Ambulance Service, Toowoomba Area Manager, and found to be defective. The defective tyres were immediately replaced.

(2) It is normal operational procedure for ambulance crews to check their assigned vehicle at the commencement of shift and to report any defects to the Officer-in-Charge of the station. Prior to 17 June 2000 the condition of the tyres on Unit 3221 was reported to the Regional Fleet Coordinator. The Regional Fleet Coordinator advised the reporting officer that the tyres were within legal limits but he continued to monitor their condition.

(3) The vehicles were non-operational for approximately three hours while the tyres were fitted. These and all other ambulance vehicles in the South Western Region are serviced and maintained on a regular basis. Repairs to rectify faults that develop between scheduled services, including the replacement of tyres, are carried out when they are reported by officers using the vehicle.

(4) The following vehicles were 'put off the road' due to safety or mechanical reasons in the South Western Region since 1 July 1999.

Ford F 250—2 years old—Unit 3221. Shudder in front end. The vehicle has had wheel alignments, steering components replaced and a chassis brace designed and fitted. The shudder is eliminated.

Ford F Series—7 years old—Unit 3246. No equipment restraining straps fitted. This vehicle was 'fitted' to 1990 design specifications. Changes in equipment required different restraints to secure the equipment.

Toyota 1+1 four wheel drive—1 year old—Unit 3320. Rough ride and poor handling. The vehicle has been fitted with an upgraded suspension package to improve ride and handling.

(5) The following ambulance units have broken down in the South Western Region since 1 July 1999.

Ford Transit—2.5 years old—Unit 3291. Faulty injector pump in two instances with patients on board. Transmission fault in one instance with no patients on board.

Ford F 250—1 and 2 years old respectively—Units 3220 and 3221. Battery failures. There is no record of patients being on board in either vehicle.

Ford F Series—5 years old—Unit 3244. Burst heater hose—patient on board. This was a hose newly fitted at a 'vehicle service'.

Ford F Series—5.5 years old—Unit 3230. Electrical failure in the 'Engine Management Computer'—patient on board.

Ford F Series, 7 years old, Unit 3246. Overheating faulty radiator cap—no patient on board.

#### **679. Building Tribunal, Domestic Building Disputes**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for

Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (22/6/00)—

With reference to the performance of the Queensland Building Tribunal for 1999-2000—

- (1) How many domestic building disputes have been lodged with the tribunal since 1 July 1999?
- (2) How many domestic building disputes lodged with the tribunal since 1 July 1999 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 tribunal prior to 1 July 1999 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 1 July 1999 and (b) lodged prior to but finalised by hearing after 1 July 1999?
- (5) What was the average cost of each domestic building dispute (a) lodged and finalised by mediation since 1 July 1999 and (b) lodged prior to but finalised by mediation after 1 July 1999?
- (6) What was the average time taken by the tribunal to finalise domestic building disputes lodged since 1 July 1999 through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?
- (7) What was the average time taken by the tribunal to finalise domestic building disputes lodged prior to 1 July 1999 but finalised since 1 July 1999 through (a) hearing by tribunal members (not including mediation) and (b) mediation?

**Ms SPENCE** (24/7/00):

1. 539 domestic building disputes (dbd) have been lodged between 1 July 1999 and 22 June 2000. In addition, the Tribunal received 160 Review applications and 201 Disciplinary applications within this period.

2. (a) 85 dbd lodged since 1 July 1999 had been finalised through hearing by Tribunal Members at 22 June 2000.

(b) 213 dbd lodged since 1 July 1999 had been finalised by mediation at 22 June 2000.

In addition, 50 dbd have been withdrawn, settled, etc with the assistance of the Tribunal making a total of 348 lodged and finalised within that time.

3. (a) 57 dbd on hand at 1 July 1999 were finalised by hearing as at 22 June 2000.

(b) 24 dbd on hand at 1 July 1999 were finalised by mediation as at 22 June 2000.

In addition, 28 dbd were withdrawn, settled, etc with the assistance of the Tribunal making a total of 109 on hand at 1 July 1999 and finalised by 22 June 2000.

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 since 1 July 1999 would be \$1,310.00.

5. (a) Average cost of dbd lodged since 1 July 1999 and finalised by mediation is \$263.

(b) Average cost of dbd on hand at 1 July 1999 and finalised by mediation is \$319.

(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 1 July 1999 finalised by hearing in an average of 110 days.

(b) Dbd lodged since 1 July 1999 finalised by mediation in an average of 43 days.

7. (a) Dbd on hand at 1 July 1999 finalised by hearing in an average of 249 days.

(b) Dbd on hand at 1 July 1999 finalised by mediation in an average of 78 days.

#### **680. Disability Services, Staff**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (22/6/00)—

With reference to the staffing arrangements in Disability Services Queensland—

(1) How many new positions at and above the AO7 level have been created since the commencement of Disability Services Queensland as a separate agency?

(2) Which positions at and above the AO7 level have been upgraded since the commencement of the new agency and at what annualised cost?

(3) What are the annualised salary costs for all existing positions at and above the AO7 level in Disability Services Queensland and what were the comparable costs in 1997-98 and 1998-99?

**Ms BLIGH** (26/7/00):

(1) Two.

(2) No positions at and above AO7 level have been upgraded since the establishment of the new agency.

(3) It is anticipated that the annualised salary costs for DSQ positions at and above the AO7 level in 2000/01 will be \$3, 482,872. It is not possible to provide comparable costs for previous years as some positions had shared non-disability functions with the previous Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland staffing arrangements.

#### **681. ATSI Construction Program**

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (22/6/00)—

With reference to the ATSI construction program (which includes the carryover from 1998-99) (22/6/00)—

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** (1/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the breakdown of capital expenditure and 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)

### 682. Education, Staff

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Education (22/6/00)—

With reference to teacher salaries and payments—

What is the 1999-2000 budget for teacher salaries and payments and how much of that budget has been expended to date?

**Mr WELLS** (25/7/00): The information that the Honourable Member has requested is available in the Ministerial Portfolio Statement (MPS), which will be available when the Budget is handed down shortly.

### 683. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/6/00)—

With reference to his department which has constantly reminded those officers in Government departments/agencies responsible for employing apprentices/trainees in the public sector, the EEO target is to employ 50 per cent females—

- (1) Why has the Government's public sector employment program fallen so far short of this target by employing only 22 female apprentices (but 529 male apprentices) up until 1 March?
- (2) How many females had applied for available apprenticeships?
- (3) How many of the 22 female apprentices who started are still employed?

**Mr BRADY** (24/7/00):

(1) The establishment of targets for EEO groups was never intended to be an affirmative action program and all departments and agencies recruit apprentices through merit selection processes. It is an established fact that attracting women to take up non-traditional occupations has been difficult. The setting of targets is to establish the objective of achieving a gender balance in apprenticeships and was not designed to circumvent merit selection processes.

(2) There is no central recruitment process for the selection of apprentices and therefore it is not possible to ascertain the number of females who have applied for available apprenticeships.

(3) 18.

### 684. Gulf of Carpentaria, Fishing Licence Buy-back Scheme

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (22/6/00)—

With reference to the Gulf of Carpentaria commercial fishing licence buy-back scheme—

- (1) Will he provide a breakdown of the licences purchased with the \$220,000 that has been utilised from the initial \$500,000 start-up fund allocated by the former Coalition Government?
- (2) Why hasn't the remaining \$280,000 been utilised and what has it been used on instead?
- (3) Will he honour the dollar for dollar funding agreement between the gulf fishermen and the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) and match those fishermen's \$102,000 1998-99 contribution?
- (4) Will he maintain the scheme on the agreed dollar for dollar basis; if not, will he refund those fishermen the \$1,000 they have been invoiced by the QFMA for 1999-2000 and amend the regulation that requires them to pay this levy?
- (5) Will he rule out allowing any more commercial fishing licences to be issued in the Gulf of Carpentaria?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (20/7/00):

(1) Three licence packages were purchased for a total of \$210,000 and a separate N3 Fishery Symbol was purchased for \$10,000.

Offers of five other licences were rejected because the Independent Assessment Committee considered the prices being asked for them to be too high.

(2) The original arrangement was for up to \$500,000 to be available on a one-off basis. Because any unused funds would have had to be returned to the Treasury, the remaining money was spent purchasing licences from other areas and fisheries.

(3) It was never agreed that a dollar for dollar arrangement would be an ongoing feature of the management arrangement for the Gulf.

The QFMA Board resolved to match the \$102,000 1998-99 industry contribution and has recommended that the Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS) implement this arrangement. There was, however, never any indication of Government funding beyond 1998-99.

(4) No and no.

(5) Yes.

### 685. TAFE

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/6/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 290—

How does he justify one TAFE institute paying almost a million dollars to one software manufacturer and effectively limiting its IT teachers and students to one brand of software for at least the next three years?

**Mr BRADY** (24/7/00): I am advised that this agreement does not limit in any way the students or the teachers to a single brand of software.

**686. Education, State School Statistics**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Education (22/6/00)—

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 (a) primary schools, (b) high schools, (c) special schools and (d) 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 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** (25/7/00): The department informs me that given the significant variation in the numbers of students enrolled in schools (from as few as 5 students up to 2000 students), the calculation of an average enrolment provides very limited useful information and is not a standard calculation performed by Education Queensland. The department informs me that figures on ratios & class sizes would not take into account composite classes, preschools, or secondary year levels and to provide such data could be misleading. The department also informs me that average enrolment forecasts is not a standard calculation performed by Education Queensland as there is limited meaning to these statistics.

**687. 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 (22/6/00)—

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 1 July 1999?

**Ms SPENCE** (24/7/00): Prior to 1 February 2000, the Auctioneers and Agents Committee comprised Sandra Deane as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Molly Robson, Wendy Hilditch and Pauline McLaughlin as members. From 1 February 2000, the Committee comprised Wendy Cull as Chairperson, Barry Vickers as Deputy Chairperson, Jean Hamer, Eric Eastment, Molly Robson, Wendy Hilditch, Edward Clarke and Pauline McLaughlin as members.

The Registrar of Auctioneers and Agents is also a member of the Committee and its Subcommittees and is represented at meetings by a Deputy Registrar.

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 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000. 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)

**688. Traineeships**

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/6/00)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement of 16 March 2000 wherein he states "We have recognised too that auditors require formal training and have now ensured that training is available"—

Why did he not recognise this need until after his untrained and unqualified 'auditors' had carried out a significant number of very dubious 'audits' which led to punitive action against private training providers?

**Mr BRADY** (24/7/00): This Government has a commitment to appropriate auditing and any action against private training providers has been warranted in every instance to protect the interests of trainees and apprentices and public moneys.

This is in marked contrast to the previous government, which undertook no audits.

At all times, staff conducting User Choice and Competitive Purchasing contractual audits have the appropriate skills and experience to do their job.

The audit training that commenced after 4 October 1999 was a result of recommendations stemming from the Schofield Report. This audit training was undertaken to increase the numbers of trained staff.

**689. Hope Vale, Alcohol and Drug Strategy**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (22/6/00)—

Will she provide funding and staff and know how for the provision of a centre at Hope Vale that could deal with needs of men—early teenage training to teach young men the evils of drugs, violence, alcohol and other associated problems and give men of all ages tuition in how to enhance their lives and in so doing enhancing the lives of others?

**Ms BLIGH** (26/7/00): The Queensland Government provides a range of services to men in the Cooktown/Hope Vale community. Under Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland, the Hope Vale community presently receives a total of \$270,000. The Cooktown Family Resource Centre receives \$180,000 of this funding, which is primarily utilised to employ an Indigenous Child and Family Support worker, a qualified counsellor and a Coordinator of the service as well as covering operational costs of the service. All positions are based at the Cooktown Family Resource Centre and

cover the Hope Vale, Cooktown, Laura and Wujal Wujal areas.

In addition, Hope Vale is one of the targeted communities in the Far North Queensland Youth Development Strategy auspiced by the Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council. Hopevale was successful in obtaining funding of \$10,000 from this program to provide activities to prevent young people participating in antisocial or self-harming behaviour during the wet season.

Hopevale also receives the services of a Social Worker and Mental Health nurse both from Queensland Health who visit Hope Vale once a week. Apunipima Aboriginal Corporation have Life promotion officers, that visit Hope Vale and provide information and support to families and young people, on issues such as suicide, depression, helplessness and cultural isolation. Further details about services provided by Queensland Health can be obtained from the Minister for Health.

In addition, assistance is also available through the Men's Infoline. This Statewide telephone service is specific to issues for men (such as relationship and health issues), and can be contacted toll-free on 1800 600 636.

#### 690. Goodna, Community Health Centre

**Mrs MILLER** asked the Minister for Health (22/6/00)—

With reference to the new Community Health Centre at Goodna—

- (1) How much will be spent on the construction of the new building?
- (2) Will the Department of Health be working with the local community and community organisations to promote the new centre?
- (3) Will the Department of Health be working with local community organisations and training organisations in the landscaping of the centre?
- (4) Will the conference facilities be made available to community organisations?
- (5) When is the anticipated date of completion of the building?

**Mrs EDMOND** (24/7/00):

(1) Tender price for construction of the building by Project Coordination (Australia) Pty Limited is \$2,539,000. The total project cost is \$3 million.

(2) Meetings to promote the new centre have already been held with numerous community organisations and consultations taken place in a range of areas throughout the community.

Meetings will continue to be held with the community groups for promotional purposes.

(3) It is the intention of West Moreton Health Service District to look at the options of engaging local community groups/service clubs and training organisations to assist with landscaping requirements.

(4) Yes, the conference room facilities will be made available to community groups and organisations.

(5) The anticipated date of completion of the building is mid-October 2000.

#### 691. Maroochy Planning Scheme

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (22/6/00)—

With reference to the Sunshine Coast Daily of 21 June 2000 report that home builders in Maroochy Shire could be forced to pay up to \$1,000 extra in application costs following the introduction of 24 new building fees under the new Maroochy Planning Scheme and as he has only recently approved the Maroochy Planning Scheme and it is one of only three so far approved under the IPA (the IPA has received bipartisan support because the IPA was to streamline and simplify the approval process and therefore less costly to the community) (22/6/00)—

Why did he approve this plan that will have more process and cost more to home owners?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (19/7/00): The schedule of fees for development applications in Maroochy Shire does not form part of the Maroochy Shire Planning Scheme which I approved on 23 December 1999 for adoption by the Maroochy Shire Council. Application fees are set by local governments independent of the plan making process. In the case of Maroochy Shire, the new fee schedule was finalised by Council just prior to commencement of the new scheme on 1 June 2000.

My Department is monitoring—and will continue to monitor—all aspects of the implementation of new planning schemes developed under the Integrated Planning Act 1997, including matters such as fees set by Councils for development applications.

#### 692. Dental Clinics

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (22/6/00)—

- (1) Is she aware of lengthy waiting lists for dental care in the public sector?
- (2) How long is the wait for non-emergency work at each of the Sunshine Coast public dental clinics?
- (3) How many emergency patients are seen by public dentists on average each clinic day on the Sunshine Coast?
- (4) How many emergency dental patients are not treated on the Sunshine Coast each day, despite presenting to public clinics?
- (5) How long can emergency dental patients have to wait in the waiting room to be treated on the Sunshine Coast?
- (6) Is she aware of the discomfort this waiting is causing the elderly and frail and mothers with young children?
- (7) Is she aware of what the lack of dental services is having on the nutritional intake of the elderly?

**Mrs EDMOND (24/7/00):**

(1) I recognise that there is an increasingly heavy demand for public dental services across the State. However, the Queensland Government continues to provide the most comprehensive public oral health service in Australia for both adults and children. Queensland was the only State to provide full supplementary funding following the cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program by the Howard Government in December 1996. This was valued at \$20 million per annum.

Queensland has joined with other States and the Australian Dental Association in urging the Commonwealth to once again fund the Commonwealth Dental Health Program which provided dental care to eligible clients.

(2) The waiting times for non-emergency work at Sunshine Coast public dental clinics varies, but remains above the desired benchmarks.

(3) The average number of emergency patients seen each clinic day by Sunshine Coast clinics is approximately 49.

(4) Numbers of patients presenting for emergency dental treatment at Sunshine Coast clinics and not being seen are generally very low. On average across the Clinics, 97.3% are seen. The rate varies between clinics from 100% being seen down to 91% being seen. The lower percentage is reflective of staff absences earlier in the year.

(5) On average 89% of emergency patients are seen within two hours and 95% are seen within three hours.

(6) It is recognised that waiting for emergency treatment can cause difficulties for some patient groups. Strategies are in place to minimise waiting times and the associated distress. They include prioritisation of treatment for the elderly, frail or children; making appointments for later in the day if convenient for the patient; provision of special arrangements for those who have genuine difficulty attending emergency sessions; and providing patients with an expectation of the waiting time if they prefer to leave and return closer to the expected treatment time.

(7) If appropriate, medical concerns (nutritional or otherwise) are communicated to the Senior Dentist by the Medical Practitioner and patient care is prioritised following clinical assessment. The Self Propelled Mobile Dental Facility is extensively utilised to treat the elderly in a variety of aged care settings rather than at dental clinics.

### **693. Gladstone, Gaming Machines**

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Treasurer (22/6/00)—

- (1) What level of gaming machine revenue has been collected from the electorate of Gladstone?
- (2) What level of funding has been returned to the electorate of Gladstone?
- (3) How does he monitor the relativities between collections and disbursements of gaming machine taxes?

**Mr HAMILL (31/7/00):**

(1) Details of gaming machine revenue are not collected on the basis of electorates.

(2) Gaming machine revenue collected by the Government is returned to the Queensland community both through public sector expenditure and allocations to specific funds which invest in community services and infrastructure, including the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund; the Charities & Rehabilitation Benefit Fund; and the Sport & Recreation Benefit Fund.

The contribution from gaming machine revenue to general Consolidated Fund expenditure within the Gladstone region cannot be specifically isolated when allocations are made.

Within my own portfolio, the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund has distributed \$955,963 in the form of 134 grants to community groups in Gladstone since its establishment in 1994. This form of direct funding for small community-based groups is recognised as providing important assistance to communities throughout the State.

The Charities & Rehabilitation Benefit Fund is administered within the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and the Sport & Recreation Benefit Fund is administered within the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport.

(3) That part of gaming machine taxes allocated to the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund is subject to guidelines which ensure a fair disbursement of grants across the State. The Community Benefit Fund Annual Reports indicate these guidelines are working quite well. However, as part of the historic reforms to gambling regulation introduced by this Government in its consultative, Policy Direction on Gambling, the Government has undertaken to review the guidelines to ensure the grants continue to be disbursed fairly. The disbursement of funds from the other Benefit Funds is monitored by the relevant Departments. The allocation of funding from the Consolidated Fund is monitored in the Budget process and approved by Parliament.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****694. Mother of Millions**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/7/00)—

With reference to the control of Mother of Millions and as I am aware of the Department of Natural Resource's research to find a natural predator to destroy this pest and as yet research is incomplete—

Will he have his officers take urgent action to chemically treat the Mother of Millions in the Burra Burri and Canaga districts of the Chinchilla Shire as the plants are currently in full flower and, if not destroyed, will surely spread down the local creeks into the greater Condamine Basin?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00): Staff from the Dalby Office of my Department of Natural Resources recently spent 20 days spraying infestations of the weed in this locality. The adjoining landholders who have infestations on their properties indicated an interest in adopting the control methods for use on their properties.

A controlled burn in the areas of infestation has been organised for September 2000, with the adjoining landholders participating.

In regard to the recent developments in biological control, officers of my Department are currently conducting information sessions in Miles and Goondiwindi on the biological control possibilities emerging from research being undertaken by my Department. The date for the Miles session was 21 July 2000 at the Leichhardt Centre.

**695. Ningi Intersection**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/7/00)—

With reference to the concerns raised by Ningi Progress Association and Pebble Beach Preservation and Progress Association and due to the number of recent traffic incidents, two last week and two previously, serious almost fatal incidents at the intersection of Bestmann Road East and Bribie Island Road, Pebble Beach, Ningi—

- (1) Will he commit to the building of a roundabout at the intersection of Bestmann Road East and Bribie Island Road, Ningi?
- (2) Will he commit to the reduction of the speed limit from 80 kph to 60 kph on Bribie Island Road near this intersection?
- (3) Will he outline the plans the Department of Main Roads have with respect to allowing better traffic flow from Bestmann Road East onto Bribie Island Road reducing the fear of traffic incidents?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (17/8/00):

- (1) In response to a previous request from Ningi residents, the Department of Main Roads recently appointed specialist highway consultants to undertake a long-term planning study to determine how the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road may be progressively upgraded between Browns Road and

Pumicestone Passage. This study includes consideration of options for a bypass of Ningi which could affect the Bestmann Road East intersection and the type of intersection proposed.

(2) The speed limit on this section of Bribie Island Road was reviewed recently in accordance with procedures agreed between Main Roads, Queensland Transport, the Queensland Police Service and other stakeholders. These procedures consider the function of the road, prevailing vehicle speeds, road environment and accident history.

The speed limit also has been discussed at the Caboolture Speed Management Committee Meeting with representatives from Queensland Transport, Caboolture Shire Council, Queensland Police Service and Main Roads. All parties agreed that the existing limit of 80 kilometres per hour on the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road is appropriate.

(3) As part of the public consultation program for the planning study, all residents in the area were invited to a workshop, by advertisement and letter, to advise the consultants of their specific concerns so that these could be addressed during the study. Bestmann Road East intersection was one of the concerns raised and discussed at the recent workshop.

The outcome of the planning study will be to provide layouts and cost estimates for future upgrading of the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road, including the intersection with Bestmann Road East. This will then allow Main Roads to program upgrading works, in the future, as funding allows.

**696. Gaming Industry**

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Treasurer (18/7/00)—

- (1) Are funds from the gaming industry directed to any other area apart from the Community Benefit fund; if so, to what areas, and in what percentages?
- (2) Is money from the gaming industry ever channelled into health, roads and education; if not, why not and can this be considered?

**Mr HAMILL** (17/8/00):

- (1) Currently, the distribution of funds from the gambling industry is:

1% of gross revenue from Queensland casinos is directed to the three (3) casino community benefit funds (Jupiters, Breakwater Island and Reef);

8.5% of taxes from interactive gambling, wagering and gaming machines and 4% of keno taxes are allocated directly to the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund; with

the remainder of taxes going to the Consolidated Fund to be used to fund important Government services such as disability services, education, health and police.

Under the Gambling Legislation Amendment Bill 2000 currently before the House, 8.5% of taxes on interactive gambling, wagering, lotteries, keno and gaming machines will be set aside to provide funding for the new Community Investment Fund (CIF).

Further, 1% of gross revenue from Queensland casinos will continue to be directed to the three (3) casino community benefit funds (Jupiters, Breakwater Island and Reef), which will continue to operate unchanged.

The CIF will allocate moneys to:

Gambling research and dealing with social issues arising from gambling (including research into the effectiveness of responsible gambling initiatives);

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund (formerly the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund at the current level of funding); and

Programs of Statewide significance, including job creation, community renewal and crime prevention.

(2) Yes as per (1).

### 697. Water Allocation, Warrill Valley

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/7/00)—

With reference to water allocations from the Moogerah Dam to urban, industrial and Warrill Valley irrigation projects—

- (1) What are the allocations per year for urban use (a) to the Boonah Shire Council and (b) the Ipswich City Council?
- (2) What are the allocations per year for industrial use (a) to Swanbank Power and (b) other industrial users?
- (3) What is the yearly allocation per year for the past five years to the Warrill Valley farmers?
- (4) What are the current charges per megalitre to the above entities?
- (5) What are the expected charges for each entity by 2006-2007?
- (6) By what methods have these charges been projected for each entity?
- (7) What are the current maintenance costs for this dam and infrastructure and what are the projected costs for the next six years per year?
- (8) What are the local, regional and central costs estimates in his department for this dam currently and yearly for the next six years?
- (9) How has his department estimated these costs?
- (10) With respect to the current downturn economically in the rural sector, how does he justify these projected extra charges to farmers?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00):

- (1) The allocation per year to Boonah Shire is 890 ML and to Ipswich City Council is 1250 ML.
- (2) The total allocation per year for the industrial sector is 7000 ML. This allocation is entirely for Swanbank power station.
- (3) Irrigation allocations for the last five years were as follows:

Year—Allocation (ML)

95/96—17264  
96/97—20758  
97/98—20758  
98/99—20758  
99/00—20758

(4) The current charges per megalitre are as follows:

Irrigation: Part A: \$5, Part B: \$8.70 or \$10.15 in the supplemented section.

Where the Part A charge is a charge for the granted nominal allocation and the Part B charge is the charge per megalitre consumed

Urban: Capital charge—ranges from \$0 to \$40

Usage charge—\$15.15

Industrial: \$34.09 (including \$7.30 capital charge).

(5) The proposed charges for irrigators by 2006/07 are: Part A: \$19.25, Part B: \$12.46

As for all irrigation projects in the State, these charges are currently under review after consultation with local users and are yet to be considered by Government. Government agreements for urban and industrial customers will be negotiated as agreements become due for renewal.

(6) The methods of projection for these charges included:

a full analysis of the cost of irrigation water service provision, incorporating an independent determination of efficient costs based on benchmarking assessments;

the projection of scheme revenues based on estimated future water use and tariff structure scenarios;

an analysis of the economic impacts of alternative price paths on irrigator businesses, especially with regard to key industries in each irrigation area; and

through all phases of the process, consultation with other relevant Government departments, industry peak bodies and irrigators at the local level.

(7) The total operation and maintenance costs for the dam and associated infrastructure in 98/99 was approximately \$320 000. These costs are expected to be relatively constant in real terms for the next six years. It should be noted that not all of these costs are attributable to the provision of rural supplies.

(8) The estimated local, regional and central costs for the next six years are as follows:

Year—Local, Regional and Central Office Costs  
2000/01—\$463,289  
2001/02—\$460,537  
2002/03—\$425,018  
2003/04—\$425,018  
2004/05—\$425,018  
2005/06—\$425,018

(9) My Department of Natural Resources has estimated each scheme's share of the total Central Office cost using the scheme share of total operations and maintenance costs less 90% of electricity costs. This method was chosen because of its simplicity, applicability, comparability and to

minimise any anomalous cost levels or biases for any particular scheme. Local office costs were apportioned to schemes using the scheme share of labour and operating costs. Regional costs were apportioned to schemes using a weighted average of revenue, the written down value of infrastructure and the number of customers.

(10) In finalising the charges, it is recognised:

dairy industry deregulation may result in a 20% drop in dairy farm incomes in 2000-01 and that this will have an impact on irrigating dairy farms in Warrill Valley;

in recognition of the effects on farm incomes, the price paths have incorporated a pause or 'soft-start' in pricing increments for 2000-01 in relevant schemes;

it is also proposed that the Warrill Valley scheme be given an extended period of 6 or 7 years to reach full "lower bound" cost recovery; and

for most dairy farmers, water costs are a small component of total farm costs and will not be a deciding factor in their survival. Most dairy irrigators have relatively small allocations compared with other irrigators.

#### 698. Fraser Island

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/7/00)—

With reference to Fraser Island National Park—

- (1) Has he approved the changing of the uniforms and logos for the rangers on Fraser Island?
- (2) What has this change cost and what cost will be incurred for the changes for stationery to match?
- (3) How much money will be allocated to the urgent repairs to the Fraser Island central station?
- (4) Will he make the \$86,000 available immediately for the work (as quoted by Q-Build) to be carried out before any tourist is hurt in the up and coming season?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00):

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) One set of barracks at Central Station, Fraser Island has been assessed by Q-Build. All urgent and/or safety related issues identified in the Q-Build inspection report of 13 March 2000 have been rectified.
- (4) Given that all safety issues have been addressed there is no intention to spend further money on these facilities.

#### 699. Official Misconduct

**Mr BLACK** asked the Premier (18/7/00)—

With reference to his reply to Question on Notice No 504 in which he has declared that Ministers of the Crown are not obliged to report all suspected official

misconduct pursuant to section 37 of the Criminal Justice Act 1989—

- (1) Will he inform the House that as Section 37(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1989 implies that Ministers of the Crown may—but not shall—report suspected official misconduct, does he accept that if Ministers in his Government, including himself, become aware of suspected official misconduct in the course of their public duties, that they may ignore such suspicions and not report them to a proper authority because there is no mandated duty to report such conduct as applies to principal officers under section 37(2)?
- (2) If he accepts that Ministers in his Government, including himself, may not report suspected official misconduct while principal officers are mandated to do so, how can he assure the public that Queensland has not returned to the pre-Fitzgerald era, and that Ministers in his Government, including himself, are conducting themselves honestly, ethically and impartially while holding the position of trust as a Minister of the Crown?
- (3) If he accepts that Ministers in his Government, including himself, may not report suspected official misconduct if they so desire while principal officers are mandated to do so, how can he assure the public that Ministers of the Crown, including himself, are not sitting on suspected official misconduct for political or other purposes?
- (4) If he accepts that Ministers in his Government, including himself, may not report suspected official misconduct if they so desire while principal officers are mandated to do so and that if he accepts there is a duty on the Crown to ascertain and obey the law and to not cover up suspected corruption, how does such conduct properly sit with the Oath of Office sworn before the Governor that each Minister will "in all things honestly, zealously, and impartially discharge and exercise the duties, powers and authorities appertaining to me (ie him or her) in the said Office," will and does he require of Ministers in his Government, including himself, that all suspected official misconduct must be reported to a proper authority for impartial examination?

**Mr BEATTIE** (17/8/00): (1-4) While the duty to report established in the legislation does not extend to Ministers, I have confidence in the integrity of my Ministers and their conduct in upholding their Oaths of Office.

#### 700. Australian Meat Holdings, Dinmore

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/7/00)—

With reference to Australian Meat Holdings (AMH), Dinmore—

- (1) How many complaints have been received and recorded by the environmental agency over the past two years?

- (2) What complaints have been received by the Ipswich City Council and referred to his department for environmental protection?
- (3) Has there been an increase in the last twelve months of complaints concerning the meatworks at Dinmore?
- (4) How is his department addressing these complaints with AMH?
- (5) What action is being taken against the company by his department for breaches of their licence conditions?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00):

- (1) 102.
- (2) Fifteen complaints have been referred to my Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Ipswich City Council.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) My EPA is addressing these complaints through extensive negotiations with AMH and the community, and utilising the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.
- (5) My EPA has proposed a series of measures for AMH to assist the achievement of good environmental practice for the operations of the abattoir. The detail of the measures is the subject of ongoing negotiations with AMH.

#### **701. Burdekin, Roadworks**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/7/00)—

- (1) Why is the upgrading of the Yellow Gin Bridge crossing not listed on the Main Roads Five Year Works Program?
- (2) Why is the Burdekin being denied funding assistance for both the upgrading of Yellow Gin Bridge and an 8.6 km gravel stretch of Barratta Road that is heavily used by transport, farmers, tourists, the Australian Tropical College of Agriculture and residents of Clare?
- (3) Is he aware that Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have allocated one third of the funding to surface this road while both DNR and local government are awaiting Main Roads to allocate their fair share of the cost?
- (4) Is he aware of how dangerous this road becomes during the wet to it many users?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (17/8/00):

- (1) The 1999-00 to 2003-04 Roads Implementation Program, which details the Department of Main Roads five-year program, only includes major projects on the National Highway for which funding has been approved by the Federal Government.

The Yellow Gin Creek Bridge upgrade is currently not funded by Federal Government and therefore does not appear in the Roads Implementation Program.

- (2) Yellow Gin Creek Bridge is the funding responsibility of the Federal Government. Barratta Road is not a State controlled Road but is the

responsibility of Burdekin Shire Council contrary to your assertions Main Roads has been proactive in assisting Burdekin Shire Council to prepare its submission for future Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) funding assistance for the upgrade of Barratta Road.

(3) I am aware that the Department of Natural Resources has an agreement with Burdekin Shire Council covering the Burdekin River Irrigation Area which requires Natural Resources to commit to funding a third of part of the Barratta Road upgrade in question. Main Roads will consider a contribution to the upgrade through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS), on a 50/50 cost sharing arrangement with local government.

(4) Drivers have an obligation to drive in accordance with road conditions and drive with due care and attention. Provided road users and road authorities are meeting their respective obligations, then the associated risks can be minimised.

#### **702. Criminal Offenders, Sentences**

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/7/00)—

- (1) How many people entered Queensland jails to serve a sentence for each month since 6 December 1999 and how many of these people—for each month since 6 December 1999, entered jails to serve a sentence for defaulting on unpaid fines?
- (2) What was the total number of prisoner nights spent in jail for unpaid fines for each month, since 6 December 1999 and what has been the estimated cost to Queensland Corrective Services for each month?

**Mr BARTON** (17/8/00):

- (1)(i) The number of people who entered Queensland jails (secure and open custody) to serve a sentence was:

December 1999—802  
 January 2000—760  
 February 2000—802  
 March 2000—895  
 April 2000—650  
 May 2000—655  
 June 2000—531  
 July 2000—460

- (ii) The number of people who entered Queensland jails (secure and open custody) to serve a sentence for fine defaulting only was:

December 1999—397  
 January 2000—376  
 February 2000—350  
 March 2000—382  
 April 2000—293  
 May 2000—264  
 June 2000—213  
 July 2000—159

- (2)(i) The total number of prisoner 'nights' spent in jail by persons who entered Queensland jails (secure and open custody) to serve a sentence for fine default only was\*:



December 1999—8,439  
 January 2000—7,791  
 February 2000—8,369  
 March 2000—8,892  
 April 2000—8,779  
 May 2000—7,463  
 June 2000—5,504  
 July 2000—4,346

\* This information is based on data from the Corrections Information System—persons in prison at midnight.

(ii) The estimated cost to the Department of Corrective Services of prison nights spent in jail by persons who entered Queensland jails (secure and open custody) to serve a sentence for fine default only was\*\*:

December 1999—\$1.276M  
 January 2000—\$1.194M  
 February 2000—\$1.272M  
 March 2000—\$1.350M  
 April 2000—\$1.318M  
 May 2000—\$1.103M  
 June 2000—\$0.807M  
 July 2000—\$0.648M

\*\* Estimated cost based on \$ per prisoner per day rates for secure and open custody as advised in the MPS.

### 703. Ibis Dam

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (18/7/00)—

With reference to work carried out in 1996 by the then Member for Tablelands and Minister for Mines and Energy (Mr Gilmore) on the Ibis Dam at Irvinebank under his portfolio as a Minister and as the dam has slowly fallen to pieces, formed leaks and in general, is structurally unsound since that work and many attempts have been made to gain access to the concrete tests for this dam but no results have been forthcoming to date—

Will he provide (a) the concrete tests for the Ibis Dam, (b) a copy of the contract between the Department of Mines and Energy and the company that constructed the dam, (c) a budget for the construction of the dam, (d) information relating to the heritage listing of the previous dam that was destroyed by the work on Ibis Dam and (e) any surveys of construction that the department may hold?

**Mr McGRADY** (17/8/00):

(a) The testing of the concrete during the construction phase was the responsibility of the project manager, Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd.

(b) The contracts requested are commercially confidential.

(c) Payments of approximately \$1.07 million were made in the 1996 and 1997 years.

(d) In 1997, the matter was thoroughly investigated by the then Department of Environment and no evidence was found to support that the Ibis Dam was, or ever had been, heritage listed.

(e) I am advised that construction surveys are not held by the department.

### 704. Sun Metals, Atmospheric Monitoring

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/7/00)—

With reference to the recent commencement of Sun Metals' refinery and the growing industrial development of Townsville/Thuringowa and to the potential for possible problems caused by sulphur dioxide and other emissions increasing as self-monitoring by industries has proved to be insufficient and to the National Environment Protection Measure which requires State Governments to initiate a dedicated and properly equipped program of atmospheric monitoring in cities with a population of more than 25,000 (at present there is no independent atmospheric monitoring station available for the Townsville region) (18/7/00)—

Will the Government fulfil its obligation by providing an independent, suitably equipped program of atmospheric monitoring in appropriate locations around the Townsville region?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00): My Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) currently operates two particle-monitoring stations in the Townsville Region and manages a third one on behalf of the Townsville Port Authority.

My EPA is currently developing a monitoring plan that will set out how the Agency proposes to monitor air quality in Queensland for the purposes of reporting and evaluating performance against the Air National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) standards and goals. The National Environment Protection Council is yet to finalise standards for the monitoring station location. It is not anticipated that more than one station will be required under the monitoring protocol.

My EPA will be commissioning a mobile station this financial year to be used in regions that are not covered by the existing comprehensive monitoring network. The mobile station will be located for periods up to 12 months within regions. The first priority for the deployment of the mobile station this financial year will be in the Townsville Region.

### 705. Indigenous Health, Sunshine Coast

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Health (18/7/00)—

(1) How much money has been provided to the Sunshine Coast District Health Service intended to be spent on indigenous health needs of the region for the period 1 July 1995 to 30 June 2000?

(2) Where was the money spent during each year?

(3) How many staff were employed during each year under the program and (a) what were the staff job descriptions, (b) what were the periods of employment of the staff, (c) how long were staff positions vacant, (d) when were staff positions advertised and (e) when were staff positions filled?

- (4) How was the indigenous health service delivered when staff positions had been advertised and not filled?
- (5) What services were delivered by the staff?
- (6) Was all the money allocated to this program spent; if not, where did the surplus money go?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/8/00):

(1) Commonwealth and State funding provided to the Sunshine Coast Health Service District for the provision of Indigenous Health programs are as follows:

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

(2) Money was spent on salaries, on-costs, programs and service delivery within the community. Prior to 1997 the services provided were mainly policy development and liaison in nature.

In 1997 the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Health Workers Career Structure facilitated the evolution of the program from a primarily policy and liaison focus to a service delivery focus which included:

- planning and development
- program evaluation
- one to one services (eg counselling)
- delivery of community development programs
- health promotion.

(3) Staff numbers in the program have progressively increased since 1995 and staff categories have changed. Two staff were employed in the program under the Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority in 1995 and 1996. In 1997/1998 the introduction of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Health Workers Career Structure led the development of a collaborative model for the provision of Indigenous Health on the Sunshine Coast. The major stakeholders of the collaborative model were Queensland Health, the Sunshine Coast/Gympie Division of General Practice, and an Incorporated Community Controlled Health Council. The focus of the Team changed to clinical, replacing the AO6 A&TSI Coordinator position with an OO7 Team Leader position. The staff member who previously held the A&TSI Coordinator position was redeployed to another AO6 position in the District. The total number of staff in the program increased to three. In 1999 the introduction of two Commonwealth-funded temporary full-time positions increased the program staff level to five. The staffing of the program remains at five in 2000.

(a) Each position is supported by a comprehensive position description that outlines their primary responsibilities and accountabilities.

(b), (c), (d) and (e) Over this time period there has been considerable difficulty recruiting staff to vacant positions, particularly since the introduction of the Career Structure, which requires mandatory qualifications of an Associate Diploma in Primary Health Care or equivalent. Where possible, positions unable to be filled were covered by a variety of staff available for short-term employment to ensure maximum service delivery from within the program. The additional position in 1997 was advertised on 16

October 1997 and filled on 12 January 1998 and then vacated. The position was readvertised on 24 August 1998 and filled on 18 January 1999. The position was backfilled prior to being filled permanently.

A temporary full-time position for two years was advertised on 4 April 1999 and not filled. The position was advertised again on 2 July 1999 and filled. A second temporary full-time position for two years was advertised on 2 July 1999 and not filled. It was readvertised on 26 November 1999 and filled on 21 January 2000. The 007 Indigenous Team Leader position has been filled in an acting capacity for some time. This position was advertised on 23 June 2000. It is anticipated the recruitment process will be completed by the end of July 2000.

(4) Initially gaps in service delivery were filled by mainstream service providers. More recently a close collaborative relationship has been developed with the Sunshine Coast Indigenous Corporation and other community-based Indigenous groups. Gaps in service delivery are now covered with a negotiated mix of these services and mainstream service providers.

(5) Duties are in accordance with individual position descriptions and are directed towards best practice in the provision of an Indigenous Health Program. Duties include planning, development, and evaluation of programs; one to one services (eg counselling), delivering community development programs, and health promotion activities. In addition to the generalist services, a range of specialist services are now provided including hospital/community liaison aimed at increasing access to mainstream services, dedicated mental health support and liaison, and nutrition support and education. All services are delivered in collaboration with indigenous community organisations.

(6) Funds not expended from the cost centre were used to offset expenditure incurred in providing mainstream services when staff vacancies occurred in the Indigenous Program and on the provision of accommodation for the expanded Indigenous Team.

#### **706. HOME Trust, HOME Shared Trust and Housing Trust No. 2**

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/7/00)—

With reference to the HOME Trust, HOME Shared Trust and the Queensland Housing Trust No. 2—

What was the debt to equity ratio of each of these accounts at (a) 30 June 2000 and (b) 1 July 2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): The information provided by the Department of Housing on the debt to equity ratio of each of the trusts is outlined below.

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

#### **707. HOME Trust, HOME Shared Trust and Housing Trust No. 2**

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/7/00)—

With reference to the HOME Trust, HOME Shared Trust and the Queensland Housing Trust No 2, for each of these trusts—

What was the (a) total assets of each trust, (b) total liabilities of each trust and (c) total net equity of each at the opening of the accounts at 1 July 2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): The information provided by the Department of Housing on the assets, liabilities and net equity of each trust at 1 July 2000 is outlined below.

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

#### 708. Public Housing

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing capital works program on existing dwellings (excluding the urban renewal and community renewal programs) (18/7/00)—

Will he provide a breakdown of capital expenditure by State Electorate for 2000-2001?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): Information provided by the Department of Housing indicates that in regard to the public housing capital works program on existing dwellings, the general upgrades program budget of \$36.498M is allocated by Area Office, and cannot be reported on a State electorate basis as many Area Office boundaries include multiple electorates.

However, see Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing for a breakdown of capital expenditure by Area Office boundary. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 709. Public Housing

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/7/00)—

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 2000-2001?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): The total capital expenditure for 2000-2001 within the urban renewal program is budgeted at \$23.8M.

The total expenditure for 2000-2001 within the community renewal program is budgeted at \$20.332M. As this is a grants program it is not possible at this stage to determine the amount of capital expenditure by State Electorate.

See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the breakdown of capital expenditure for the urban renewal program by State electorate. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 710. Public Housing

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/7/00)—

With reference to the carryover of capital works within the public housing program—

What was the carryover of capital works for (a) new construction, (b) acquisition, (c) maintenance and (d) upgrades (including urban and community renewal) for 1999-2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): Information provided by the Department of Housing indicates that, as at 30 June 2000, forecast committed funds of \$57.821M within the public rental capital works program are to be carried forward into 2000/01. Information provided by the Department of Housing on the breakdown of the carryover of capital works is that:

- (a) \$53.918M is committed for the completion of 516 dwellings;
- (b) \$1.276M is to be carried forward for land development, land and spot purchase contracts to be settled in 2000/01;
- (c) there is no carryover expenditure for maintenance into 2000/01; and
- (d) \$2.627M is to be carried forward for capital works on existing dwellings (upgrades and urban renewal programs) into 2000/01. There is no carryover of capital works for the Community Renewal Program.

All the public rental capital works carryover commitments are exclusive of GST costs to be incurred during 2000/01.

#### 711. Public Housing

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing capital works program—

Will he provide a breakdown of the proposed expenditure and number of land acquisitions for 2000-2001 for each State Electorate?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): As per the 2000/2001 Ministerial Program Statement, there is no allocation for land acquisitions for the public housing program. Over the past two financial years, the Department of Housing has purchased a significant amount of land, and at this stage intends to use these land resources for the new construction program in forthcoming years.

#### 712. Public Housing

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the timeframe between 1 July 1999 and 30 September 1999 for attached apartments (by bedroom count) (18/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest purchase/construction cost for attached housing and apartments in relation to the period 1 July 1999 to 30 September 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 713. Community Housing Program

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/7/00)—

With reference to the carryover of capital works within the community housing program—

What was the carryover of capital works for (a) new construction, (b) acquisition, (c) maintenance, (d) capital grants and (e) upgrades for 1999-2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): The details provided by the Department of Housing of the carryover of capital works within the Community Housing Program for 1999-2000 are:

- (a) \$12.004M;
- (b) Nil;
- (c) Nil;
- (d) \$7.470M; and
- (e) Nil.

### 714. ATSI Housing Program

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/7/00)—

With reference to the carryover of capital works within the ATSI housing program—

What was the carryover of capital works for (a) new construction, (b) acquisition, (c) maintenance, (d) capital grants and (e) upgrades for 1999-2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): The details provided by the Department of Housing of the carryover of capital works within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing for 1999-2000 are:

- (a) \$2.379M;
- (b) Nil;
- (c) Nil;
- (d) \$8.824M; and
- (e) Nil.

### 715. Private Health Insurance

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (18/7/00)—

Does she have private health insurance?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/8/00): Yes.

### 716. State Emergency Service, Mr D. Buchanan

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (18/7/00)—

With reference to the resignation of Don Buchanan as Director of SES and VMR—

- (1) Will this destabilise the expectations of the volunteer SES and VMR members in Queensland?

- (2) Was Mr Buchanan's resignation brought about as a result of his push to have extra resources dedicated to SES?
- (3) Will he ensure that SES and VMR are not disadvantaged by inappropriate appointments?
- (4) Does the recent SES recruitment brochure indicate the SES recruits must fundraise for their units as part of their role as SES volunteers?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (17/8/00):

- (1) No.

(2) Mr Buchanan's letter of resignation from the position of Director of SES and VMR provided no explanation as to his reason for resigning nor is Mr Buchanan required to provide a reason. Mr Buchanan was aware, prior to his resignation that the Government intended to make additional funds available to support the SES in this year's budget. Mr Buchanan and his staff provided recommendations as to how the funds could best be expended to maximise the benefit for SES and VMR services to the community.

(3) All appointments to permanent positions in my Department are based on merit in accordance with Guidelines issued pursuant to the Public Service Act.

(4) The current brochure on the SES was developed at the direction of Mr Buchanan while he was Director SES & VMR Support. The brochure includes a list of activities that SES Volunteers may be involved in, not what they must do. This list includes a reference to fundraising along with a number of other activities. The brochure also states "You will never have to take part in any activity or training in something that you do not like or are afraid of." It is not mandatory for SES Volunteers to undertake fundraising activities, however, many Volunteer SES Units and affiliated support organisations are involved in such activities as are most volunteer organisations.

### 717. Departments of State Development and Trade Tourism Project Team

**Mr SLACK** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (18/7/00)—

With reference to the Department of State Development and Trade Tourism Project Team, which is described as working out of leased space on Level 9, 80 Albert Street—

- (1) (a) What is the name of the lessee of floor space on Level 9, 80 Albert Street, from whom the Department of State Development and Trade, as lessor, leases the space occupied by the DSDT Tourism Project Team, (b) total amount of floor space leased under this arrangement and the total amount of floor space occupied by the Tourism Project Team, (c) commencement date of the lease, or if the original lease has been renewed, commencement of the original lease and the starting and finishing dates of the lease now in place and (d) total rent and/or lease payments made, by payment period and in total, in return for occupation of this space?

- (2) To whom are these payments made and when and how are these payments made?
- (3) Why is the Tourism Project Team housed in private leased premises at 80 Albert Street rather than in Government office space?
- (4) What is the total number of people on the Government payroll employed as members of the Tourism Project Team, what are their designations and employment levels?
- (5) What is the total number of Government employees ordinarily deployed to work within the space occupied by the Tourism Project Team at Level 9, 80 Albert Street?
- (6) What is the total number of people ordinarily working within the space leased by the Department of State Development and Trade at Level 9, 80 Albert Street?

**Mr ELDER** (24/8/00):

- (1)a. The lease of these premises is between the State of Queensland and the building owner.
  - b. The total area of the lease is 159m<sup>2</sup>. This area has been allocated in total for use by the Tourism Development Taskforce.
  - c. The commencement date of the lease was 1 May 1999. The lease is for a defined period of two years, upon which no options have been specified.
  - d. Rental of these premises is \$3,208.12 per month. The total rent associated with this lease is \$77,007.00
- (2) Rental associated with these premises is paid monthly in advance to the Department of Public Works. The payment is made by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).
- (3) No government owned accommodation suitable to the task forces requirements was available at the time of inception. This area was the most effective office space available that would meet the task force's operational requirements. This office accommodation was sourced by the Department of Public Works.
- (4) The total number of people on the Government payroll employed by the Department of State Development and working in the Tourism Development Team is seven (7) as follows:
- Head, Tourism Development Team—SES 3
  - Director, Tourism Projects—SES 2
  - Senior Tourism Officer—AO6
  - Tourism Officer—AO5
  - A/Executive Secretary—AO4
  - Tourism Officer—AO3
  - Tourism Officer—AO3
- (5) Seven.
  - (6) Seven.

#### 718. Building Services Authority, Advertising

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (18/7/00)—

With reference to the recent advertising campaign of the Building Services Authority on termites—

- (1) What is the total budgeted or anticipated cost of the entire advertising campaign (including television, brochures, radio and any other material produced)?
- (2) What has been the total expenditure on television advertising for this campaign at 18 July 2000?
- (3) What has been the total expenditure on printed material for this campaign at 18 July 2000?
- (4) What is the source of funding for this advertising campaign?
- (5) What is the anticipated length of this advertising campaign?

**Ms SPENCE** (18/8/00):

- (1) The anticipated cost of the entire campaign is \$135,370.
- (2) The total expenditure for the television campaign is \$111,120.
- (3) The total expenditure for the print component of the campaign was \$24,250. Approximately 730,000 flyers were printed. In excess of 650,000 flyers were disseminated by Local Governments to ratepayers. Should demand for the flyer continue then further stocks of the flyer will be produced.
- (4) The funds for the advertising campaign were drawn from the Education Reserve contained in the BSA's General Fund.
- (5) The campaign was run across Queensland from 16 July 2000 to 12 August 2000.

#### 719. 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 (18/7/00)—

With reference to the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund—

What is the (a) total assets of the fund, (b) total liabilities of the fund, (c) total net equity and (d) total quantum of payments to the Department of Housing of the fund at the closing of the account at 30 June 2000?

**Ms SPENCE** (18/8/00):

- (a) As at 1 July 2000, the balance of the Fund was \$40.653m
- (b) As all claims that had been authorised by the Auctioneers and Agents Committee up until 30 June 2000 had been paid before 1 July 2000, there were no liabilities against the Fund.
- (c) The net equity of the Fund was, therefore, \$40.653m
- (d) The total of the payments to the Department of Housing since 1991 has been \$121,238,000.

#### 720. Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (18/7/00)—

With reference to the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund—

What is the (a) total assets of the fund, (b) total liabilities of the fund, (c) total net equity and (d) total quantum of payments to the Department of Housing of the fund at the opening of the account at 1 July 2000?

**Ms SPENCE** (18/8/00):

(a) As at 1 July 2000, the balance of the Fund was \$40.653m.

(b) As all claims that had been authorised by the Auctioneers and Agents Committee up until 30 June 2000 had been paid before 1 July 2000, there were no liabilities against the Fund.

(c) The net equity of the Fund was, therefore, \$40.653m.

(d) The total of the payments to the Department of Housing since 1991 has been \$121,238,000.

### 721. Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (18/7/00)—

With reference to the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund for 1999-2000—

- (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** (18/8/00):

(1) There were 145 claimants in respect to real estate agent transaction in 1999-2000.

(2) The amount of \$292,497 was paid from the fund to claimants in 1999-2000.

(3) 37 claims were disallowed by the Committee in 1999-2000.

(4) There were 80 claimants in respect to motor dealing transactions in 1999-2000.

(5) The amount of \$627,347 was paid to those claimants in 1999-2000.

(6) There were 30 claims relating to motor dealers disallowed in 1999-2000.

### 722. Termite Taskforce

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (18/7/00)—

With reference to the Termite Taskforce—

- (1) What was the expenditure of the taskforce for 1999-2000 as well as the funding source for this expenditure?
- (2) Will she list the meeting dates of each meeting of the taskforce and who was present at each of these meetings?
- (3) What is the proposed budget as well as the funding source for the taskforce for 2000-2001?

**Ms SPENCE** (18/8/00):

(1) Members of the originally-formed Termite Working Party and the current Termite Taskforce which works under the direction of the Policy Committee of the Queensland Building Services Board are salaried representatives of their organisations and receive no additional remuneration from the Queensland Building Services Authority for their work. There was no expenditure by either group apart from the time and efforts of their members in studying this issue and developing strategies to address it.

(2) Meetings

26 August 1999

Mr Ian White (Chairman), Queensland Building Services Authority

Mr Trevor Rieck, Housing Industry Association

Mr Kelvin Cuskelly, Housing Industry Association

Mr Peter Osterhage, Queensland Master Builders Association

Mr John Duncalfe, Queensland Master Builders Association

Mr Brenton Peters, Department of Primary Industries

Mr Peter Rourke, Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport

Mr Geoff Cornish, Australian Institute of Building Surveyors

Mr Steve Broadbent, Insurance Council of Australia

Mr Richard Kingsley, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association

Mr John McCarron, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association

Mr Tony DiBetta, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association

14 December 1999

Mr Ian White (Chairman), Queensland Building Services Authority

Mr Trevor Rieck, Housing Industry Association

Mr Kelvin Cuskelly, Housing Industry Association

Mr Peter Osterhage, Queensland Master Builders Association

Mr John Duncalfe, Queensland Master Builders Association

Mr Brenton Peters, Department of Primary Industries

Mr Col MacKenzie, Timber Research and Development Advisory Council

Mr John Wilson, Australian Institute of Building Surveyors

Mr Steven Broadbent, Insurance Council of Australia

Mr Graham Hellier, Insurance Council of Australia

Mr Richard Kingsley, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association

Mr David Howe, Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport,  
Ms Sheena Niven, Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport

Mr Russell Brandon, Building Designers Association of Queensland

Mr Chris Boyle, Queensland Building Services Authority

17 February 2000

Mr Ian White (Chairman), Queensland Building Services Authority

Mr Trevor Rieck, Housing Industry Association

Mr Kelvin Cuskelly, Housing Industry Association

Mr Peter Osterhage, Queensland Master Builders Association

Mr John Duncalfe, Queensland Master Builders Association

Mr Brenton Peters, Department of Primary Industries

Mr Peter Rourke, Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport

Mr Geoff Mitchell, Australian Institute of Building Surveyors

Mr Graham Hellier, Insurance Council of Australia

Mr Richard Kingsley, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association

Mr Tony DiBetta, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association

Mr Paul Florian, State Department of Health

Mr Russell Brandon, Building Designers Association of Queensland

Mr Chris Boyle, Queensland Building Services Authority

15 March 2000

Mr Ian White (Chairman), Queensland Building Services Authority

Mr Trevor Rieck, Housing Industry Association

Mr Kelvin Cuskelly, Housing Industry Association

Mr John Duncalfe, Queensland Master Builders Association

Mr Brenton Peters, Department of Primary Industries

Mr Stan Spyrou, Australian Institute of Building Surveyors

Mr Graham Hellier, Insurance Council of Australia

Mr Paul Florian, State Department of Health

Mr Richard Kingsley, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association

Mr Tony DiBetta, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association

Mr Russell Brandon, Building Designers Association of Queensland

Mr Ron de Veer, Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport

Mr Brian McCulloch, Timber Research and Development Advisory Council

Mr Chris Boyle, Queensland Building Services Authority

29 May 2000

Mr Ian White (Chairman), Queensland Building Services Authority

Mr Kelvin Cuskelly, Housing Industry Association

Mr John Duncalfe, Queensland Master Builders Association

Mr Brenton Peters, Department of Primary Industries

Mr Graham Hellier, Insurance Council of Australia

Mr Richard Kingsley, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Assoc

Mr Tony DiBetta, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Assoc

Mr Russell Brandon, Building Designers Association of Queensland

Mr Brian McCulloch, Timber Research and Development Advisory Council

Mr Chris Boyle, Queensland Building Services Authority

Mr Chris Healey, Dept of Health

At this meeting it was agreed that the original working party had achieved its purpose and would meet again on an "as needs" basis.

22 June 2000

Representatives of key industry, Government and consumer organisations met to discuss the Building Services Authority promulgated proposal on the elimination of sprayed chemical barriers as a means of preventing termite infestation of homes. Present were:

Mr Garry Rossow, Queensland Building Services Board

Mr Ray Potts, Queensland Building Services Authority

Mr Ian White, Queensland Building Services Authority

Mr Greg Quinn, Qld Master Builders Association

Mr Kevin McLoughlin, Housing Industry Association

Mr Graham Wolfe, Technical Services, Housing Industry Association

Mr Richard Kingsley, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Assoc

Mr Tony DiBetta, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Assoc

Mr Ain Kuru, Building Codes Qld

Mr Ron De Veer, Building Codes Qld

Mr Cherie Dalley, President, Qld Consumer Association

Mr Graham Hellier, Insurance Council of Australia

On the recommendation of the Policy Committee of the Queensland Building Services Board, the Board endorsed the formulation of a small taskforce representing of key stakeholders to pursue a number of issues which are considered important to minimising termite infestation in the short to medium term as well as the continued use of chemical barriers in the long term. It was decided that the Working Group would comprise the following organisations:

Queensland Building Services Authority—Chair  
 Queensland Master Builders Association  
 Housing Industry Association  
 Insurance Council of Australian  
 Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association  
 Building Codes Queensland  
 Queensland Consumer Association  
 Working Group Meetings  
 4 July 2000  
 Mr Ian White (Chair), Queensland Building Services Authority  
 Mr Max Howard, Queensland Consumers Association  
 Mr Graham Hellier, Insurance Council of Australia  
 Mr Greg Quinn, Queensland Master Builders Association  
 Mr Tony DiBetta, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association  
 Mr Ron De Veer, Building Codes Queensland  
 Mr Trevor Reick, Housing Industry Association  
 13 July 2000

Mr Ian White, Queensland Building Services Authority  
 Mr Ray Potts, Queensland Building Services Authority  
 Mr Max Howard, Queensland Consumers Association  
 Mr Peter Osterhage, Queensland Master Builders Association  
 Mr Tony DiBetta, Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association  
 Mr Ain Kuru, Building Codes Queensland  
 Mr Trevor Rieck, Housing Industry of Australia

(3) There is no budget for expenditure by the taskforce and therefore no source of funds required. Key industry stakeholders will fund their own research and development in relation to this issue.

### 723. Tourism Queensland and Queensland Rail, Advertising

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/7/00)—

With reference to the recent advertising campaign, funded by Tourism Queensland and QR Traveltrain and aimed at promoting travel in outback Queensland—

- (1) What was the total cost of the campaign including all costs involved in campaign advertising, planning, material preparation, production and placement?
- (2) What was the breakdown of costs in TV, press, radio, direct mail etc?
- (3) What areas of the State were targeted during the campaign and how were those areas targeted?
- (4) What was the total cost of consultants, including advertising agencies, involved in this campaign?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/8/00):

(1) The total campaign budget was \$280,000. Campaign funds were from an existing budget and no new funds were provided. The advertising campaign is a joint initiative between Queensland Rail (QR) and Tourism Queensland. Tourism Queensland contributed \$80,000 towards the total cost, with QR funding the remaining \$200,000.

(2) The cost breakdown of the campaign is:

TV—\$160,000

Press—\$120,000 (this includes newspapers/magazines, brochures and direct mail)

(3) Campaign activity was targeted to south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales to an age 45+ demographic. The campaign was comprised of television advertising in the Brisbane and Northern Rivers region, direct mailing of an eight-page brochure using the combined QR/Tourism Queensland database, and the insertion of this brochure into Brisbane News and retail press advertising.

(4) QR's existing advertising agency, Clemengers, was used. No other consultants were engaged.

### 724. Regional Forest Agreement

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (18/7/00)—

- (1) Will he provide the most recent results from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Forestry's yield modelling for the crown native forest within the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) area under the Government's planned RFA?
- (2) Will he also provide projections of total wood supply demand in total and for each of its wood supply agreements from the RFA area for the duration of the Government's planned RFA?

Mr PALASZCZUK (17/8/00):

(1) The details sought by the Honourable Member contains thousands of entries which would be extremely taxing on the Hansard resources.

These results however, can be accessed by appointment with the Executive Director, Forestry of my Department.

(2) The total sawlog supply level committed under the Queensland Government Plan for the SEQ Forests for 25 years is 186,695 cubic metres.

Individual supply arrangements with millers are confirmed through a "Sale Permit for the Sale of Hardwood Sawlogs". Each of these Sale Permits contains a confidentiality clause. Details of the individual Sales Permits, therefore, cannot be disclosed without the consent of the respective Sale Permit holders.

### 725. Brothels, Licensing

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/7/00)—

With reference to reports which indicate that a large number of people have called Queensland's new



Prostitution Licensing Authority seeking information on how to open a brothel under the State's new prostitution laws—

How many applications have been submitted from the Gold Coast in general and the Burleigh Electorate in particular and what are the site locations for these applications?

**Mr BARTON** (17/8/00): The Prostitution Act 1999 (the Act) requires the Registrar of the Prostitution Licensing Authority (the Authority) to maintain a register of licences and certificates issued under that Act. The register must contain a range of information, including the names of licence and certificate holders and the addresses to which the licences or certificates relate.

The Act requires that this register is open to public scrutiny and any member of the public may inspect the register during office hours. On payment of a fee (currently twenty dollars plus fifty cents for each page supplied) any member of the public may obtain a copy of all or any specific entries in the register. At this time, no licences or certificates have been issued and the register has not commenced.

It is important to note that the register relates to licences and certificates which have been issued, it does not include details of applications under consideration. For a range of quite valid security and privacy reasons, the Act does not permit the disclosure of information relating to undecided applications or applications which are refused.

Section 133 of the Act creates an offence for an official to disclose information obtained in the administration of the Act. There are a range of exceptions to this offence including:

- disclosure for purposes associated with the administration of the Act; and
- disclosure with the consent of the person from whom the information was obtained.

It is clear that the intention of this Parliament was that information relating to undecided applications should remain confidential and only be disclosed in a limited range of circumstances. For this reason I have not sought from the Prostitution Licensing Authority any information relating to applications it may have received.

#### **726. Port Authorities, CEO Remuneration**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/7/00)—

What is the remuneration package for each Chief Executive Officer of port authorities at 30 June 2000?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (17/8/00): On the 26 October 1999, the Premier made a Ministerial Statement in the House regarding the remuneration of executives of Government Owned Corporations (GOCs). He also mentioned to the House that State Cabinet had approved tight new guidelines for the salary packages of senior executives employed by GOCs as of the 25 October 1999.

In accordance with the Remuneration Guidelines and with the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977, CEO remunerations packages will definitely be an

item registered in each Transport GOCs Annual Report, which will be tabled with their Statement of Corporate Intent no later than the statutory requirement of the 14 November 2000.

The remuneration packages for the Chief Executives of each port authority are:

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

#### **727. Police Resources, South Eastern Police Region**

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/7/00)—

How many police officers from the South Eastern Police Region were on long term sick leave (that is of one week or more) at 1 July 2000?

**Mr BARTON** (17/8/00): As at 1 July 2000, twenty-five (25) police officers from the South Eastern Police Region were on sick leave of one week or more duration.

#### **728. Disability Services**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (18/7/00)—

What checks and how regularly have they been undertaken by departmental officers for community based care prior to the placing of a person with impaired capacity into a community situation such as privately operated hostels and units/houses and what ongoing checks are carried out to ensure the continued safety and well being of these clients?

**Ms BLIGH** (17/8/00): Before a client is referred by Disability Services Queensland (DSQ) to a community living situation, the regional community support team undertakes a needs assessment to determine the level of support required by the client. DSQ staff then maintain regular personal contact with the client to monitor their arrangements and support clients to achieve identified goals. This may mean visiting the client in their living environment (hostel/unit/house), or contact may occur at another venue. Contact made with clients will vary according to their individual needs and this can change over time. Depending on the needs of clients, contact may vary from weekly visits to every three months.

#### **729. Queensland Health Enterprise Bargaining Agreement**

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Health (18/7/00)—

With reference to the non-finalisation of the Queensland Health Enterprise Bargaining Agreement which has a negative impact on staff, patients and families—

What process does she propose to ensure meaningful negotiation occurs with a view to the early agreement of all parties being reached?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/8/00): Intensive negotiations between Queensland Health and all the public sector health unions to focus on resolving the

limited number of outstanding items have been continuing.

To ensure Queensland Health employees are aware of the progress of negotiations, authorised meetings of employees are being held around the State to enable the public health sector unions to consult with their members.

I am confident that the Government's offer will be welcomed by Queensland Health employees at these meetings.

### 730. TAFE

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/7/00)—

- (1) At 30 June 2000, what was the financial status of each TAFE institute and college (ie, which overspent their budget, which underspent and by how much)?
- (2) By how much was each institute subsidised by other injections of moneys including the transfer of moneys from other departmental programs and other TAFE Queensland institutes and other TAFE Queensland program budgets?
- (3) Which, if any, institutes were overspent for the third successive financial year?

**Mr BRADY** (17/8/00):

- (1) Estimated Net Operating Position for 1999-2000:
 

Institute—Estimated Net Operating Position	
Southbank Institute—	(1,978,168)
Brisbane Institute—	927,249
Northpoint Institute—	(2,272,016)
Moreton Institute—	(1,438,164)
Yeronga Institute—	(274,223)
Open Learning Institute—	3,702,201
Logan Institute—	(448,578)
The Bremer Institute—	186,860
Southern Queensland Institute—	(3,997,442)
Gold Coast Institute—	3,311,329
Cooloola Sunshine Institute—	158,029
Central Queensland Institute—	(3,526,100)
Barrier Reef Institute—	(617,672)
Mount Isa Institute—	(137,533)
Wide Bay Institute—	525,272
Tropical North Queensland Institute—	(6,443)
TOTAL—	(5,885,399)

1999-2000 was the first full year of operating in an accrual output budgeting environment. Meaningful comparisons between years based on these figures are not possible at the Institute level due to changed accounting treatments. The figures are based on information taken from the SAP system on 2 August 2000 plus prior year adjustments. These figures have been adjusted from information provided in the Question on Notice to the Estimates Hearing following later advice received from the Bremer Institute. As indicated previously, these figures are liable to change as the end of year financial position will not be finalised until the ledger closes on 31 August 2000.

The deficit is inflated due to the changed treatment of certain items under accrual accounting.

The estimated additional expense incurred in 1999-2000 in providing for annual leave, annual leave loading and teachers non attendance leave is \$3.86 million for TAFE Queensland. This has been derived by estimating the increase in respective provision accounts over the closing balances as at 30 June 1999.

An estimated short fall in State base funding of up to \$1.0 million for superannuation costs for TAFE Queensland which is the subject of ongoing discussion with Treasury.

The introduction of 1.5 per cent Long Service Leave levy is estimated to be approximately \$400,000 in excess of the original estimate provided by TAFE Institutes.

- (2) No Institutes were subsidised with injections of other moneys.
- (3) It is not possible to make comparisons across three financial years as 1997-98 and 1998-99 end of year positions are reported as a cash position. The Department's financial systems are no longer configured to provide cash reporting at the Institute level.

### 731. Burton Coal Project

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (18/7/00)—

With reference to the Burton Coal Project (Mining Lease No 70109)—

- (1) Has the Environmental Management Overview Strategy (EMOS) for this project been varied; if so, when and to what extent?
- (2) What was the process followed and/or the guidelines used by the department in considering and granting the variation to the original EMOS?
- (3) Who were the stakeholders/interest groups consulted prior to the granting of such variation?
- (4) In granting such variation, were other documents required to be lodged to ensure the granting of such variation did not significantly differ to or vary from the documents required to be lodged for the mining lease application eg. the mining program or the compensation agreement?
- (5) What is his department's standard process (procedures and/or guidelines) used when faced with a request to vary an EMOS?
- (6) Were departmental processes followed and procedures and guidelines adhered to in this case?

**Mr McGRADY** (17/8/00): I am aware of all the issues surrounding the Burton Coal Project EMOS. However because I am party to a Judicial Review proceeding currently before the Supreme Court in Mackay, I do not believe it is appropriate for me to make further comment at this stage.

**732. Ipswich Western Bypass**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/7/00)—

With reference to the Ipswich western bypass proposal—

- (1) To allay residents' fears and pressure being applied to people in the affected area of the proposal that is also affecting property values, will he clearly indicate when a decision will be made on an option out of the three options proposed?
- (2) Will he indicate a target date for any commencement of works?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (18/8/00):

(1) The current Analysis of Corridor Options, is expected to be finalised in September this year. This would be followed by a detailed Impact Assessment Study on the preferred option.

(2) No date for commencement of construction has been set, and no funds have been allocated at this time. The purpose of this study is to identify and preserve a corridor and provide planning certainty for the community into the future.

**733. Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme**

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Health (19/7/00)—

With reference to the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme which ran out of funding for incontinent pads in January 2000 and as no new clients have been included for this subsidy for the last six months and there are now 297 people on the waiting list in the northern zone alone—

Will she advise when funding will be available to meet their requirements?

**Mrs EDMOND** (18/8/00): In 2000/2001 additional funding of \$1.2 million has been made available for the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS), which is expected to assist in the reduction of continence waiting lists.

**734. Charter Boats, Effluent Discharge**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/7/00)—

With reference to the charter boats eg whale watching boats and fishing charter boats—

- (1) What are the restrictions for effluent discharge into the ocean from these vessels?
- (2) Is this problem being policed; if so, by whom; if not, why not?

**Mr WELFORD** (23/8/00): I would like to thank the member for the Question, however these matters fall within the portfolio for the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads.

**735. Police Resources**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/7/00)—

- (1) What is the current policy within the Queensland Police Service with respect to the provision of unmarked police vehicles for traffic enforcement work?
- (2) Does he consider that the provision of unmarked police vehicles to district traffic branches will be of benefit in the reduction of traffic complaints in residential areas experiencing a high amount of "hoon" related activity?
- (3) How many district traffic branches are currently allocated unmarked police vehicles on a permanent basis?
- (4) When will resources be made available to enable provision of unmarked police vehicles to district traffic branches?
- (5) Is he aware of repeated requests from the Redcliffe traffic branch for the provision of an unmarked police vehicle for traffic enforcement duty in the Redcliffe district traffic branch area that extends from Redcliffe to Moore?

**Mr BARTON** (17/8/00):

(1) The use of unmarked police vehicles by the Queensland Police Service is considered on a regional basis. The Service generally supports the use of marked police vehicles for traffic patrols to support the general deterrence philosophy of traffic enforcement. Unmarked police vehicles are utilised for traffic patrols throughout the state and are operated by uniformed police officers.

(2) Unmarked vehicles compared with marked police vehicles are considered more suited for specific driver behaviours. Unmarked police vehicles are particularly effective as an enforcement and compliance tool for problematic young drivers who drive recklessly when there is no visible police presence.

(3) Large traffic branches are generally allocated unmarked police vehicles on a permanent basis. The service has 64 marked and 18 unmarked dedicated traffic vehicles (this does not include motor cycles) The Service has other unmarked vehicles that can be utilised for specific traffic patrols if required.

(4) The proportion of marked and unmarked police vehicles is a regional decision.

(5) The Redcliffe Traffic Branch is located at the Deception Bay police station and does not have an unmarked police vehicle allocated on a permanent basis. The Branch utilises V8 pursuit vehicles which are marked. High performance traffic vehicles are marked for safety reasons according to service policy.

The Redcliffe Traffic Branch falls within the North Coast Regional command. Traffic branches within the North Coast Region have access to resources including police motor cycles, marked and unmarked vehicles.

The Redcliffe Traffic Branch has previously requested approval for an unmarked traffic vehicle. These requests have been considered on a regional priority needs basis.

### 736. Student Safety on School Buses

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/7/00)—

With reference to constituents who have approached me concerning the lack of seat belts in school buses and considering it is illegal to have a child over a certain age unrestrained in a vehicle—

- (1) Why are school bus operators not compelled to fit seat belts?
- (2) What can be done to ensure children are seated in buses instead of standing, as has been known to happen?
- (3) What are the reasons why seat belts in school buses were not enforced at the same time they were enforced in cars?
- (4) If the age of the vehicle has some bearing, as I believe is the case in trucks, will he guarantee children in an old bus will not be seriously hurt in the event there should be an accident?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (18/8/00):

(1) The Australian Design Rules and vehicle standards require that all buses heavier than 5 tonnes gross vehicle mass (GVM), manufactured after 1 July 1994, and designed to travel long distances on highways, must be manufactured with seat belts for all occupants. Similarly, buses over 3.5 tonnes and under 5 tonnes GVM, manufactured after 1 July 1995, and designed for long distance operation must be equipped with seat belts. The design and construction of many older buses does not allow for the retro-fitting of seat belts. However, in the future there will be a progression of newer buses with improved safety features entering the Queensland school bus fleet, as older buses leave the fleet.

(2) Standees may be carried on buses that are designed for that purpose, up to a distance of 20 km. To provide seating for all school children, it has been estimated that an additional 500 buses would be required to be added to the school bus fleet, at an approximate cost of \$70 million. As the majority of buses in Queensland are run by private operators, this cost would be borne by the operators, and in turn, passed on to the parents of children travelling on the buses.

In some areas of the State, Queensland Transport has recognised that the risks for passengers standing on buses are increased, such as on steep and winding routes. This issue is addressed as part of the Safe School Bus Routes program. If the route is found to be unsafe for standees after a review, steps are taken to ensure that enough seats are provided for general circumstances.

(3) While seat belts were introduced into passenger cars from 1969 to deal with the increasing road toll from car crashes, buses have always been the safest form of road passenger transport, even without seat belts. As a result of a few, but serious, long distance coach crashes, seat belts were introduced for Australian long distance buses in 1994, which was a world first that many countries have yet to mandate. School buses are used on short distance, route service operations that are not exposed to the same level of risk and are not required to be fitted with seat belts.

(4) Queensland Transport's bus safety standards policy recognises that new buses are safer and imposes maximum bus age limits to ensure that the fleet is continually upgraded. In addition, the policy requires safety upgrades to in-service buses such as safety padding and improved braking. The policy reduces the risk to the lowest level given the resources available.

### 737. Limitation of Storm Water Run-off

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/7/00)—

With reference to the Clean Seas Act which encourages the limitation of storm water flowing into the seas and as the proposed Water Bill discourages farmers from harvesting storm water and thus stopping it flowing into the ocean and as turbidity is a major problem in our inland waters thus these policies appear to be contradictory especially for graziers such as I (any surface floodwater I do not harvest flows directly and immediately into the Sandy Straits. My catchment is 20,000 acres with a high run off coefficient) (19/7/00)—

Will he explain this discrepancy and explain his remedial action?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00): I am not sure what legislation is being referred to as no legislation of this citation can be found. But clearly he has in mind some legislation that seeks to limit storm water flowing to the sea.

Nevertheless, such an approach could be seen to be encouraged through such State legislation as the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Integrated Planning Act 1997, and Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 and Federal initiatives like the Coasts and Clean Seas Initiative and the Clean Seas Program.

These Acts and initiatives seek to limit the quantity of pollutants which are carried to the sea by storm runoff. They do not seek to limit the volume and frequency of water flowing to the sea. On the contrary, it is widely recognised that there is a need to maintain natural flows to the sea as much as possible in order to maintain marine and estuarine ecosystem processes.

Officers of my Department of Natural Resources ensure that, in the development of a Water Allocation and Management Plan for a coastal basin, for example, the environmental flow needs of the estuaries and beyond are considered in consultation with my Environment Protection Agency and DPI Fisheries.

The proposed Water Bill 2000 is not in conflict with these other Acts and initiatives. Indeed, it is strictly aligned with them in seeking to achieve ecological sustainable development.

The Water Bill does not discourage farmers from harvesting storm water. I assume that the incorrect claim refers to the overland flow provisions of the Bill. These provisions will limit the capacity of farmers to capture overland flow only in those areas of the State where the extent of development is such that river flows are severely impacted, to the detriment of

both river health and those water users who have authorised access to river flows. The application of these provisions is subject to the criteria and planning processes outlined in the Bill. Under the Bill, regulatory control of the taking of overland flows can only be introduced after an extensive planning and consultation process, involving all those who might be affected. Also, under the Bill, such regulatory control cannot limit owners of land from taking the water necessary for their domestic purposes or for the watering of their stock. Graziers have no reason for concern in regard to the overland flow provisions of the Bill.

### 738. Mackay, High School for Northern Beaches

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Education (19/7/00)—

With reference to the proposed new high school for the northern beaches area of Mackay—

- (1) What is the proposed commencement date of this project?
- (2) When will the project be completed?
- (3) What will be the cost?
- (4) How many students will the proposed high school cater for?

**Mr WELLS** (18/8/00): Consultation with the community regarding the new school in the Northern Beaches area began on 14 July 2000. Wide-ranging consultation will be undertaken by Education Queensland, to determine the community's preferred pattern of schooling at the proposed site.

The department informs me that research already undertaken indicates that the area is in need of a new high school, but exactly what type of school still needs to be determined. The community need to also consider the implications for existing schools in the area whilst arriving at their preferred option. It is expected that a steering committee will deliver its recommendations from the community consultations by the end of the year.

Once the community has determined its preferred educational pattern a start date will be considered. Community consultation will play an important part in the delivery of a new high school in the Northern Beaches area, and that process needs to be completed to ensure that the community's needs regarding the type of school required are addressed prior to the department setting a start date.

### 739. Molongle Creek

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (19/7/00)—

With reference to the Molongle Creek Boat Club Inc, a volunteer non-profit community service group which has been trying to provide a safer and improved boating access for a totally supportive boating community for safety reasons and which has been established and maintained over 20 years—

- (1) Has his department and all others involved with the issue of maintenance of the Molongle Creek channel not honoured their commitment to work

towards finalising the situation at Molongle Creek facility by Christmas 1999?

- (2) Has the Government put at risk the tens of thousands of users of the facility in not allowing maintenance while the approval process occurs?
- (3) What proof does he have to back up the claim by his department that environmental damage will occur if the permits are not in place?
- (4) Why did his department ignore the consultation decision with the Molongle Creek Boat Club in declaring a Fish Habitat Area covering the existing channel?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (17/8/00):

(1) Officers of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) have been working with staff from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transport (DoT) for more than twelve months to facilitate assessment of an application by the Molongle Creek Boat Club for the required statutory approvals. The final information to be provided by the boat club was the acid sulfate soil results which were received in mid July this year.

(2) I am advised that access to and from the facility remains possible prior to the proposed dredging although the access is currently not available for all stages of the tide. Increased access time is recognised as a benefit of the proposed dredging.

(3) The assessment and approval process being conducted by DPI provides for the identification of potential and real impacts of the proposed dredging of the Molongle Creek mouth on fisheries resources of the area. Impacts identified include the leaching of acid runoff and possible fish kills as a result. Any approvals granted will condition the works to ensure that impacts are avoided or managed in a manner which reduces the effects on local fisheries resources. The DoT is overseeing and financing the execution of the acid sulfate management plan and the subsequent dredge spoil disposal plan.

(4) Declaration of the channel within the Burdekin Fish Habitat ensured that future management of the maintenance works and disposal of dredge spoil were compatible with the purposes of the FHA. Approvals under the Fisheries Legislation would be applicable irrespective of whether the channel was outside of or within the declared FHA.

### 740. George Street, Kalbar

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/7/00)—

With reference to the poor state of repair of the State owned road (George Street) through the township of Kalbar and as approximately three years ago consultations occurred between his department, the Boonah Shire Council and the residents of Kalbar and the results of these discussions were to replace the broken concrete roadway with a new concrete surface to retain the road's character—

- (1) When can the residents of Kalbar expect this road to be repaired?
- (2) At what cost will the repairs be carried out?

- (3) Who will carry out these repairs to the roadway?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (18/8/00):

(1) Under the Department of Main Roads' Routine Maintenance contract with Boonah Shire Council, the road is inspected weekly and any defects noted. When justified, some of the 200 concrete slabs have been replaced and will continue to be replaced under minor works. Slabs currently cracked are not preventing the road from fulfilling its function and do not represent a safety hazard.

(2) Repairs and slab replacement are carried out on an "as needs" basis under an RMPC with Boonah Shire Council valued at \$1.035 million. \$15,000 has been allocated to George Street Maintenance under the RMPC.

(3) As the department's preferred supplier for Routine Maintenance and Minor Works, Boonah Shire Council would carry out any repairs on Main Roads' behalf.

#### 741. Disclosure of Easements

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (19/7/00)—

With reference to the residents of Munruben Forest who state that when they purchased land for residential development they were advised by developers representatives that an easement required by Powerlink was in fact a wildlife corridor and to the residents' belief that any policy of prudence by Powerlink has not been followed—

- (1) Will he request all local governments to incorporate the policy of prudent avoidance into the integrated planning program to ensure that the problems of Munruben Forest do not occur again?
- (2) Will he instigate changes to legislation to require that developers agents and real estate agents, disclose all easements within 500 metres of any property and the easements current and future purpose before the signing of any contracts?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (17/8/00): It is the responsibility of every purchaser to undertake the appropriate cadastral search of the property they are proposing to purchase. Information regarding the location of existing easements can be obtained through a search of cadastral information held at the Titles Office of the Department of Natural Resources. Information pertaining to the use of a particular easement is detailed in the Survey Plan which created the easement.

#### 742. Moreton Bay Islands

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/7/00)—

With reference to an earlier Question on Notice to the Minister, No. 1156 on 25 August 1999, regarding the massive devaluation of land (Residential A Freehold) on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands

(Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra) from 1996 to 1999—

- (1) What have his investigations discovered, having regard to the extraordinary difference in values (\$47,000 to \$500 in 6 months and similar valuations) as stated by himself?
- (2) Was this extraordinary difference in values as a result, directly or indirectly, of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning Strategy/Study between the Redland Shire Council and State Government?
- (3) Was this extraordinary devaluation of Residential A Freehold properties on the islands an accident, coincidence or a carefully planned policy or process by the Government, in coalition with the Redland Shire Council, to massively devalue landowners Residential A Freehold land before compulsory acquisition that was originally proposed in the study and detailed in a recent letter to 14,000 landholders by the Hon Terry Mackenroth's department?
- (4) In view of the above, will he order an inquiry into these massive devaluations of island properties and an immediate valuation review, thus to correct some of the damage caused to thousands of landowners through stress, worry and concern about their investments and life savings in their land?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00):

1. My Department of Natural Resources valued one parcel of land on Russell Island (Lot 965 on RP 122553) at \$47000 then later reduced it to \$500. Redland Shire Council identified this block as having a drainage problem. As this lot and others classified with drainage problems are unlikely to receive building approval, nominal unimproved values were applied.

2. My Department of Natural Resources received advice from Redland Shire Council, the planning authority for the area, about the categorisation of individual lots. My Department is required to consider planning information that may impact on various lands when reviewing valuations for rating purposes. Where it was doubtful that building approvals would be issued, nominal values were applied to the land.

The information obtained by my Department from Redland Shire Council was also published by the Council on the internet, and was publicly available.

3. My Department of Natural Resources values land for rating and taxing purposes, independent of the Redland Shire Council. Planning information is supplied by local governments and considered as part of the valuation process. There was no agenda by my Department to deliberately devalue land to accommodate compulsory acquisitions on the Bay Islands. Valuations for acquisition purposes are approached on an entirely different basis to those for rating and taxing purposes.

4. My Department can only prepare a new valuation on individual blocks of drainage-affected land on the Bay Islands following notice from Council that the land in question has been assessed as suitable for building purposes. An owner who considers a

property has been incorrectly dealt with in a Council planning process can have a site-specific report prepared and request that Council reconsider the matter. My Department is willing to review and amend the valuation of any property in the area where the Council indicates the land is suitable for building purposes.

The issue of a substantial reduction in unimproved values generally for land not subject to drainage problems has been dealt with on a number of occasions including the appeal process to the Land Court where it was found that Valuers had correctly applied market sales evidence in arriving at the various levels of unimproved value.

The Government has announced it will adopt a modified implementation package to address the various issues on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. This package reflects the Government's view that current landowners should be able to personally exercise existing development entitlements subject to satisfying normal engineering requirements. The proposed planning actions will help to resolve landowners concerns about the future of the Islands and lead to a stabilisation of the property market in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

#### 743. Public Housing

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the time frame between 1 October 1999 and 31 December 1999, for attached apartments (by bedroom count) (19/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest purchase/construction cost for attached housing and apartments in relation to the period 1 October 1999 to 31 December 1999.

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

#### 744. Public Housing

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the time frame between 1 January 2000 and 31 March 2000, for attached apartments (by bedroom count) (19/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest purchase/construction cost for attached apartments in relation to the period 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.

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

#### 745. Public Housing

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the time frame between 1 April 2000 and 30 June 2000, for attached apartments (by bedroom count) (19/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest purchase/construction cost for attached apartments in relation to the period 1 April 2000 to 30 June 2000.

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

#### 746. Public Housing

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the time frame between 1 July 1999 and 30 September 1999, for detached houses (by bedroom count) (19/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest purchase/construction cost for detached houses in relation to the period 1 July 1999 to 30 September 1999.

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

#### 747. Public Housing

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the time frame between 1 October 1999 and 31 December 1999, for detached houses (by bedroom count) (19/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest purchase/construction cost for detached houses in relation to the period 1 October 1999 to 31 December 1999.

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

#### 748. Public Housing

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the time frame between 1 January 2000 and 31 March 2000, for detached houses (by bedroom count) (19/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest purchase/construction cost for detached houses in relation to the period 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.

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

#### 749. Public Housing

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the time frame between 1 April 2000 and 30 June 2000, for detached houses (by bedroom count) (19/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest

purchase/construction cost for detached houses in relation to the period 1 April 2000 to 30 June 2000.

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

#### 750. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Housing

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the ATSI construction program—

Will he provide a breakdown of capital expenditure and the number of dwellings to be commenced and/or completed by State Electorate for 2000-2001?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the breakdown of capital expenditure and number of dwellings to be commenced and/or completed by State electorate for 2000-2001. As is the case with all construction projects, this capital works program is subject to change for a variety of reasons.

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

#### 751. Public Housing

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction program—

Will he provide a breakdown of capital expenditure and the number of dwellings to be commenced and/or completed by State Electorate for 2000-2001?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): As per the Ministerial Program Statement 2000-2001, \$87.924m has been allocated for the public housing construction program. This allocation will fund the commencement of 500 new dwellings, and the completion of 580 dwellings from current and previous financial years. See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the breakdown of proposed expenditure, dwelling commencements and dwelling completions by State electorate for 2000-2001. As is the case with all construction projects, this program is subject to change for a variety of reasons.

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

#### 752. HOME Trust, HOME Shared Trust and Housing Trust No. 2

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the HOME Trust, HOME Shared Trust and the Queensland Housing Trust No. 2—

For each of these trusts what was the (a) total assets of each trust, (b) total liabilities of each trust and (c) total net equity of each at the closing of the accounts at 30 June 2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): The information provided by the Department of Housing on the assets, liabilities and net equity of each of the trusts



at 30 June 2000 is outlined below. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 753. Community Housing Capital Grants

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the community housing capital grants—

Will he provide a breakdown by each program and State Electorate of the proposed expenditure for 2000-2001?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (18/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the breakdown of proposed expenditure by program and State Electorate for community housing capital grants in 2000-2001. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 754. South East Transit Project

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/7/00)—

Which of the following classes of vehicles will be able to use the South East Transit project facilities (a) tourist and charter coaches, (b) intercity buses eg Airport to Gold Coast, (c) courtesy and community coaches, (d) school buses and (e) taxis and limousines?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (18/8/00): I am pleased to advise that all these vehicle types will benefit from the South East Transit project.

The South East Busway will be used principally by Scheduled Urban Public Transport Services that have a contract with Queensland Transport. This will ensure maximum benefits for public transport users. Intercity buses will be allowed to use the Busway between Eight Mile Plains and Woolloongabba and use the Captain Cook Bridge to reach the Roma Street Transit Centre.

Periodic services such as charter buses, community buses, school services, taxis and limousines will not be permitted to use the Busway. However, these vehicles will be able to use the transit lanes. By using the T3 transit lanes, vehicles will gain significant travel-time advantages over single-occupant private vehicles, using road space more efficiently and bypassing congestion.

### 755. Newborn Hearing Screening Program

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Health (19/7/00)—

Will she advise the present status of the investigation on introducing a Newborn Hearing Screening Program at the Royal Women's Hospital and what the timeframe is for the introduction of this program?

**Mrs EDMOND** (18/8/00): Queensland Health has recently completed an initial investigation in relation to introducing universal neonatal screening using Automated Auditory Brain Stem Response

(AABR) testing equipment. The investigation revealed that there are a number of complex issues involving equity of access, supply of an adequately trained workforce, the establishment of an evidenced based screening protocol and capacity for appropriate intervention. These issues would require further consideration prior to the introduction of a new service.

A working group was formed in May 2000 to further investigate high-risk infant and universal screening models. It is anticipated that an internal discussion paper will be made available to key stakeholders by the end of this year.

### 756. Cairns District, Radiation Therapy

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (19/7/00)—

How many patients from Cairns and district are travelling to Townsville to access radiation therapy and specialist outpatient services per year and how many treatments as well as appointments are involved?

**Mrs EDMOND** (18/8/00): On reviewing data relative to the catchment area of Cairns Base Hospital, the following information has been obtained for the 1999/2000 period:

273 new patients travelled to Townsville for radiation oncology outpatient clinic and treatment services.

189 new courses of treatment were commenced for patients in this group.

3771 subsequent treatments were given.

### 757. Sugar Industry

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (19/7/00)—

With reference to the submission by Canegrowers, the Australian Cane Farmers' Association and the Australian Sugar Milling Council to the State and Federal Governments for a sugar industry assistance package to assist growers survive the serious downturn in the industry—

What contribution will the Government be making to this assistance package and when?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (17/8/00): The State Government announced on 7 August the Sugar Assist Program which is directed to aiding the sugar industry at the current time. The Queensland Government's contribution to the Program is \$10 million.

### 758. Fine Defaulters, Sentences

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/7/00)—

Will he detail the number of fine defaulters placed in custody for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

**Mr BARTON** (17/8/00): The number of fine defaulters placed into custody for 1998-1999 was 4,369. The number of fine defaulters placed into custody for 1999-2000 was 3,896.

**759. Sugar Industry**

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (19/7/00)—

With reference to the dire situation facing the Queensland sugar industry as a result of a succession of unfavourable growing seasons and low world prices and the immediate need for Government assistance—

- (1) Has any funding been allocated for sugar industry assistance; if so, how much?
- (2) Specifically, what assistance measures will the State Government provide to assist growers to survive this downturn?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (17/8/00):

(1) \$10 million has been allocated to the Sugar Assist Program to fund cane replanting and establishment loans for the sugar industry.

(2) The State Government has announced the Sugar Assist Program which will provide concessional loans to cane growers to assist them in replanting and establishing cane. The program will also provide for a more coordinated delivery of existing government programs that apply to the sugar industry.

**760. Health Department, Director-General**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Premier (19/7/00)—

When is the contract for the Director-General of Queensland Health due to expire and will there be a nationwide advertising campaign?

**Mr BEATTIE** (17/8/00): As per the response to Question on Notice No. 393 by my colleague, the Honourable Wendy Edmond MLA, I can assure the Member that the provisions of the employment contract signed by the then Premier, Mr Borbidge, still apply.

The employment contract for Dr Robert Stable, Director-General of Queensland Health is due to expire on 24 January 2001.

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Act 1996 and the terms of Dr Stable's contract, if his appointment continues until the end of the term, he may be reappointed. Such reappointment does not require the role to be readvertised.

Dr Stable's contract is the same as the standard chief executive contract. Clause 7(2) of this contract states that in order to be considered for reappointment a notice must be given to me at least two months before the contract's due date for completion.

**761. Tourism Works for Queensland**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (19/7/00)—

With reference to the production and distribution of the publication "Tourism Works for Queensland"—

- (1) How many copies of the publication were printed?
- (2) How was the publication distributed and to whom?

- (3) What has been the total cost of distribution to date and how many copies have been distributed?
- (4) What was the total cost of production including all design and printing costs and in-house expenses?
- (5) Which outside consultants/suppliers worked on the publication and what were their individual total charges?
- (6) Is she aware of any internal or external criticism of the value and relevance of the publication on a cost/benefit ratio?

**Mrs ROSE** (22/8/00):

- (1) 10,000 copies.
- (2) The brochure has been promoted via email, in newsletters, through Regional Tourist Organisation (RTO) distribution systems and by other government agencies in their newsletters. It has been distributed by mail to every Mayor and Councillor elected at the March 2000 local government elections. Subject to the needs of the individual RTOs, bulk supplies were forwarded by Tourism Council Australia (TCA) to all RTOs. Copies were also distributed to interested members of the public. I am in the process of distributing the brochure to all Queensland Members of Parliament.
- (3) To date, approximately 1500 copies have been distributed by Tourism Queensland. The cost for postage of these brochures is approximately \$1350.00. TCA has distributed over 600 copies at their own cost.
- (4) TCA met all costs involved in producing the brochure, except printing costs. Outlays by Tourism Queensland for printing and associated costs totalled \$15,150. However, these costs were reduced significantly by private sector sponsorship.
- (5) Tourism Queensland did not engage any outside consultants.
- (6) No. Feedback has been very positive and complimentary with more than 30 written responses from Councils around Queensland, in addition to verbal feedback. Some examples include:
  - "Great assistance to Council on its deliberations on tourism". Mayor, Nanango Shire.
  - "Your role in producing this publication and the collaborative support from TCA and Tourism Queensland is greatly appreciated". Mayor, Logan Shire.
  - "This publication will certainly be a useful tool for tourism planning and promotion." Mayor, Maroochy Shire.

**762. Burnett Catchment WAMP**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/7/00)—

With reference to the recent release of the draft WAMP for the Burnett Catchment—

- (1) As in the reply to Question on Notice 792, he stated "Consultants will be engaged to carry out the necessary studies for the raising of Bucca and Jones Weirs" and that "studies

should be completed by March 1999", were these studies ever completed?

- (2) Will he make these studies available for perusal?
- (3) As he has also stated that "If approved by the Government, both the raising of Jones Weir and the raising of Bucca Weir could be completed during next year (1999), on what date was the decision made not to proceed with these infrastructure developments?"
- (4) Under the terms of his draft WAMP and time frames established over public consultation, debate and final draft release, when is the earliest possible date that work could begin on any water infrastructure augmentation project in the Burnett region, that is, should the community approve construction of Bucca and Jones Weirs, when could work begin and when would it finish?
- (5) In relation to several Priority Research Areas (Draft WAMP, table 4, pages 26-28) does the State Government intend to make some financial commitment to more advanced environmental monitoring and research into the most pressing issues raised; if so, when?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00):

- (1) Review of Environmental Factor (REF) studies were undertaken to determine the probable impacts of raising Bucca and Jones Weirs and the draft REF documents were circulated for stakeholder comment by April 1999.

A decision was taken to finalise these studies after the release of the draft Burnett WAMP and, in the case of Jones Weir, after the release of the Burnett catchment wide study into available water resources.

In the case of Bucca, considerable additional work has been undertaken to progress studies into the groundwater rescue study, gallery vine forests and fish populations in the inundation area. Studies are currently under way to determine downstream effects of the raising following finalisation of the daily flow model which was unavailable in mid 1999.

Considerable effort is being expended to finalise the Supplementary Report for the Bucca raising which will incorporate issues arising from the public review and information obtained from the studies I mentioned before.

- (2) The draft REF reports have been publicly available since mid 1999 and the finalised REFs, incorporating the Supplementary Reports, will be available in the near future.
- (3) A decision not to proceed with these projects has not been made. However, it has been deemed advisable, in the case of Bucca, to await the findings of the groundwater and amended surface water hydrology analysis. In the case of Jones Weir, it was considered imperative to await the outcomes of both the WAMP and the Burnett Regional Studies. There are alternative sites that may be preferable.
- (4) Subject to completion of the studies mentioned previously, both Bucca and Jones weirs could physically be constructed in a year. However, any decision to proceed is dependent on the completion of the WAMP and a decision on how much additional

allocation of water can be made sustainably. This will then lead to a possible decision on a preferred development scenario and the possible selection of a preferred water service provider through a competitive process. It will also be necessary to reach agreement with water users about contributions to the capital cost of works.

(5) Considerable funds have been allocated to lungfish, turtle, macroinvertebrate, macrophyte and general fishery studies in the Burnett Basin over the past four years. The draft WAMP has drawn attention to a number of areas deserving further research. The development of a coordinated research framework for the region will be commenced within six months of the finalisation of the Plan as stated in the draft WAMP. The Government has committed additional funding to my Department of Natural Resources for implementation of the water reform agenda, and some of these funds will be used for enhanced monitoring and research of aquatic ecosystems.

### 763. Foster Carers

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (19/7/00)—

What (a) are the guidelines issued to foster carers for children in their care, (b) are the details of support given to foster carers by the department, (c) is the regularity of visits to foster carers by departmental officers such as visits weekly, monthly, etc, and (d) is the number of foster carers in each district of Queensland?

**Ms BLIGH** (18/8/00): The Queensland Government recognises the invaluable contribution made by foster carers in looking after children and young people. In particular, the Department views this contribution as a cornerstone in the protection of children in this State. The response to each specific question follows:

- (a) Foster carers are provided with the Careprovider Handbook, which provides a comprehensive set of guidelines. Carers are also able to seek further information from the Department at any time.
- (b) Details of support provided to foster carers is as follows:

extensive training about alternative care and the roles and responsibilities of foster carers;

improved payments and an increase in carer allowances in line with the Consumer Price Index and to compensate for the effects of GST;

a Statement of Commitment to provide ongoing support was negotiated with foster carers in March 2000:

funding of peak non-government organisations such as the Foster Parents Association of Queensland, the Queensland Association of Fostering Services and PeakCare Queensland; and

the Foster Carer Excellence Awards to recognise the valuable work of Foster Carers.

- (c) Home visits are undertaken in response to the needs of the carer and the needs of the child. The minimum contact, including telephone, mail and visits, that the Department maintains with carers is according to the following guidelines:

fortnightly contact for short term placements;  
 monthly contact for medium term placements; and  
 three monthly contact for long term placements.

More frequent contact occurs when carers require additional support, when there is a change in the carers circumstances, or in accordance with the agreed case plan.

- (d) As at 16 July 2000, there were a total of 1,494 families actively fostering children subject to statutory intervention. A breakdown of these figures across the Department's operational regions is as follows:

Region—No. carer families
Remote & North West—45
Brisbane City—275
Caboolture & Redcliffe—97
Cairns & Tablelands—112
Central—73
Gold Coast—234
Ipswich & Logan—252
Mackay & Whitsunday—39
Sunshine Coast—63
Toowoomba & South West—83
Townsville & Hinterland—109
Wide Bay & Burnett—112
TOTAL—1,494

#### 764. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/7/00)—

With reference to the allocation schedules forwarded by his department to other departments, agencies, statutory authorities, etc to advise them of the quota of apprentices and trainees they are to employ as part of the Government's public sector employment initiative and as some allocation schedules forwarded to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Councils advise them that their Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) targets are women 50 per cent, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders 5 per cent, non-English speaking background 5 per cent and people with a disability 5 per cent and other allocation schedules, to other community councils state: "The Jobs Policy Council has established EEO targets. It is expected that apprentices and trainees employed under this initiative will be from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. It is anticipated that the Community Council will strive to employ a reasonable mix of male and female apprentices and trainees and to achieve a target of 5% employment for people with a disability."—

Why do his department's allocation schedules convey inconsistent EEO advice?

**Mr BRADY** (18/8/00): The Department has not provided inconsistent EEO advice in the allocation schedules for traineeship and apprenticeship places to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils.

All agencies receive consistent advice. Four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Councils misplaced correspondence and required a further Agreement. The second Agreement did not outline the EEO targets.

As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Community Councils serve a population that is predominantly indigenous, it is anticipated that they would recruit mainly indigenous people. For that reason, there is no point in stipulating the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' EEO targets provided to mainstream councils and other Government organisations.

The most recent census data indicates that the unemployment rate in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities is over 40 per cent. It is obvious that the priority of the community, particularly in these remote areas, is to employ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

#### 765. Private Training Providers, Audit

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/7/00)—

Based on the massive quality shortcomings listed in the few user-choice compliance audits conducted in TAFE (and obtained by the Coalition through Freedom of Information) (19/7/00)—

- (1) How does he justify the fact that 97 such audits of private training providers were conducted but only two or three were conducted in TAFE?
- (2) How does he allay the suspicion that he has called off any further user-choice compliance audits in TAFE because he knows that other institutes would exhibit similar quality shortcomings?

**Mr BRADY** (18/8/00):

(1) Currently in Queensland, there is over 200 Registered Training Organisation with contracts, either User Choice and/or Competitive Purchasing Program contracts, to deliver training. There are 16 TAFE Institutes across Queensland.

The TAFE integrated audit program was established during the last financial year. TAFE Institutes are covered by this ongoing integrated audit program, which is much more comprehensive than the audit arrangements that cover private providers of training. The integrated audit program – reflecting the Resource Agreement which TAFE Institutes have with the Department – covers every aspect of the business of an Institute and the Institute Director is personally accountable for the provision of quality training and quality service to the community and to the individuals the Institute serves.

Under the Integrated Audit process in place across the 16 TAFE Institutes in Queensland, priority is given to User Choice and Competitive Purchasing Program contracts. These audits are being overseen by Training Quality and Regulation, Division of

Training, to ensure consistency of audits conducted with all providers.

In addition, TAFE Institutes, unlike private providers, are subject to an intensive program of internal audit and to external scrutiny by the Queensland Audit Office. Extensive audits are conducted throughout Institutes each year. We cannot replicate this with private providers.

All audits of private providers that have occurred have resulted from either complaints against the training providers by trainees or incorrectly reporting their activity as required under the User Choice contracts. In addition, the Department has taken a risk management approach to audit due to the large value of contracts in place with some private training providers. Audits of either private providers or TAFE Institutes are prioritised in accordance with the level of risk exposure to Queensland public moneys.

(2) The position of the Department is that TAFE Institutes are treated as rigorously as other providers. No User Choice compliance audits have been called off at TAFE Institutes.

#### 766. Community Jobs Plan

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/7/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No 262 of 11 April 2000—

- (1) Why is he so insensitive to the plight of the long term and disadvantaged unemployed that he describes, as an excellent result, the fact that 57.8 per cent of participants in community jobs plan projects are "churned" into other training programs or returned to the ranks of the unemployed at the conclusion of their program?
- (2) Rather than raise, then dash, the hopes of the unemployed through such short-term programs, wouldn't he and his department serve the unemployed better by delivering on the Government's promise of jobs, jobs, jobs, so that more than 42.2 per cent of CJP graduates can find employment?

**Mr BRADY** (18/8/00): May I remind the Honourable Member that in contrast to the strong record of achievement of my Government, the Coalition abolished all employment programs, leaving those most vulnerable in the labour market to fend for themselves. Therefore, it is with great surprise that through this question, the Opposition is claiming that the current Government is "insensitive" to the plight of the long-term unemployed.

It is now up to this Government to do something constructive for those people who have been unemployed for more than 12 months. The reality, which seems to have escaped the Honourable Member, is that if this Government had not invested money, time and effort into the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative, many of those people employed in Community Jobs would still be standing in the unemployment line.

I stand by my comment that the outcomes achieved are an excellent result considering that this program

targets the most disadvantaged people in the labour market. Also it is an excellent result when you consider that similar programs, which have been previously run by governments, have achieved on average a 30 per cent employment outcome for participants.

I find the Honourable Member's comment that participants are "churned" into other training programs at the conclusion of the program confusing. These participants choose to enter into training programs to further enhance their employment opportunities. In fact, a number of these participants may not have ever considered the benefits of undertaking training if it were not for their experience on a Community Jobs Plan project.

This Government believes that market forces alone are not enough and that the active labour market programs that we have implemented under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative are needed to assist those who are most disadvantaged in the labour market.

Governments in the past have mistakenly believed that when economic growth and unemployment rates started to fall they could withdraw special assistance measures to the long-term unemployed. However, experience has shown that the incidence of long-term unemployment has remained high, even during periods of strong growth and a falling unemployment rate. As a result, there is a need to continue labour market intervention programs to assist the long-term unemployed well into the economic recovery period to ensure they are able to compete for jobs created.

Through the Community Jobs Plan, and other employment programs administered by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, thousands of additional jobs have been created in Queensland to assist the unemployed. The Government's commitment to 'More Jobs for Queenslanders' is being realised, and Queenslanders are benefiting from the increased opportunities being provided through the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative.

#### 767. TAFE and Training Organisations, Audits

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/7/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 560 which indicates that, "the (TAFE) Institute Director is personally accountable for the provision of quality training and quality service to the community and to the individuals the institute serves"—

Will he indicate any instance where any institute director has been (a) reprimanded by way of fine or demotion or (b) lost their job, vehicle and/or house as a consequence of an unsatisfactory user-choice compliance audit; if not, why does he maintain that "TAFE institutes and private providers are subject to the same conditions?"

**Mr BRADY** (18/8/00): TAFE Directors performance are discussed as part of annual resource agreements and periodic reviews of progress.

No outcomes of User Choice audits in TAFE have warranted disciplinary action against Institute Directors under the provisions of the Public Service Act.

The Department is unable to apply sanctions personally to the managers, owners or operators of Registered Training Organisations, so while the standards to be achieved by Registered Training Organisations are the same under User Choice, the conditions which apply where these standards are not met inevitably differ.

If the Department believes that illegal activity may have taken place then the matter will be referred to the police or Criminal Justice Commission as appropriate, regardless of the nature of the provider.

#### 768. Private Training Providers, Audits

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/7/00)—

- (1) Why did it take his department's financial managers until June 2000 to decide that they had made a mistake in paying training providers holding user-choice extension contracts at the user-choice rates for 2000 in relation to trainees/apprentices previously enrolled in 1999?
- (2) What was the total amount of overpayments made to private training providers prior to their notification in June that the financial goal-posts were being moved back?
- (3) What was the corresponding total of overpayments to TAFE institutes holding user-choice extension contracts?

**Mr BRADY** (18/8/00):

- (1) The Department's officers did not make a mistake in relation to User Choice price changes between 1999 and 2000.
- (2) No overpayments to training providers occurred on the 1999 User Choice Extension Contract as a result of the 2000 User Choice price changes.
- (3) No overpayments to training providers occurred on the 1999 User Choice Extension Contract as a result of the 2000 User Choice price changes.

#### 769. Condamine and Balonne Rivers WAMP

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/7/00)—

With reference to the draft WAMP for the Condamine-Balonne and bearing in mind local governments, irrigators and agricultural producer bodies in the middle reaches of the Condamine, between Dalby and Surat, are calling for equity in water allocations in the Condamine Catchment—

Will he guarantee this section of the river will be assured its fair share of water allocations, rather than use the water sourced in this area, to address overuse in the lower reaches of the Balonne?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00): The draft Condamine-Balonne WAMP was launched on 14 June 2000 in Dalby and public submissions on it are

now being received. Officers from my Department of Natural Resources are also working with stakeholder groups throughout the Basin to further explain provisions of the draft Plan and to further explore arrangements for its finalisation.

Addressing overuse in the Lower Balonne is not about taking more water from upstream but more about dealing with the overuse where it occurs.

It cannot be guaranteed that the middle reaches of the Condamine-Balonne will receive increased allocations. The WAMP process offers a more flexible water allocation management regime which will provide amongst other things tradeable water allocations. If the market forces are such that the mid reaches of the Condamine offer investment advantages over other sections then some movement of water could be expected.

Given the reality of current water allocations and their locations, it may not be possible for the State to redistribute the resource. Market mechanisms will develop as an outcome of the WAMP process to provide this opportunity.

#### 770. Rail Freight Distribution Centres

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/7/00)—

With reference to the table on page 1-11 of the Ministerial Portfolio Statements—

- (1) Why is the data on Rail Freight Distribution Centres not presently available?
- (2) When does he expect that this information will be available?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (23/8/00): (1 & 2) For the first time the Beattie government has agreed to fully fund Queensland Rail for its Community Service Obligation services. Rail transport services will be purchased directly by Queensland Transport under Rail Service Agreements, e.g. City train, Travel train, Below Rail Infrastructure, and Regional freight rail services. Where Government believes there are overwhelming regional, social and economic benefits for supporting non-commercial Q-Link activities, including FDCs, these services will continue to be funded through a separate agreement between Shareholding Ministers and the QR Board. In this context the number, level and method of funding FDCs has yet to be determined. It is expected that a final determination will be available by the end of 2000.

#### 771. Caboolture State High School

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Education (20/7/00)—

- (1) As the Caboolture State High School (which was built in 1961 and celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2001) has missed out on Round 2 of the Secondary School Renewal Program Capital Expenditure, and as he is aware of the capital works needs of this school following his visit on 29 June 2000, when will this much needed capital work be done?
- (2) Concerning his recent visit to the Caboolture State High School where the Parents and

Citizens Association (that has already raised some \$320,000 since 1995 for capital works and maintenance) outlined the massive capital works needs of the school, when will maintenance work on the high priority classroom flooding problem be addressed?

- (3) When will the refurbishment needs of the two science blocks be addressed?
- (4) When will the needs of the special education unit be addressed?
- (5) When will the issues relating to the facilities in agricultural education, such as no classrooms, no toilet facility, no drinking fountains and no staff area be finally addressed?
- (6) When will the bus interchange area and staff car park and other safety issues be addressed?

**Mr WELLS** (21/8/00): The Honourable Member asked the same or similar questions during Estimates Committee meeting on Friday 4 August. I refer the Honourable Member to Hansard (Estimates Committee D).

#### **772. Fraser Island Police Station; Bay Central Shopfront**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (20/7/00)—

With reference to the recent announcement of the allocation of \$800,000 towards a police station on Fraser Island and to the Bay Central police shopfront—

- (1) Will he advise if there is a start date for construction?
- (2) Is there a completion date for this project?
- (3) Will the Fraser Island Police Station have its own allocation of officers to man it or will they be taken from other stations?
- (4) How many officers are going to be based at the Fraser Island station and for how many days a year?
- (5) Considering the amount of money allocated towards a police station on Fraser Island and with reference to previous correspondence from him regarding the police shopfront proposal for Bay Central, what progress has been made towards this police shopfront?
- (6) Could he consider shared resources between the police shopfront at Bay Central and the police station on Fraser Island eg vehicles and other portable equipment?

**Mr BARTON** (17/8/00):

- (1) An exact start date has not been determined for the new police station at Fraser Island however it is currently anticipated that construction will commence late in the 2000-01 financial year.
- (2) It is anticipated that the completion date for this project will be approximately six months after construction commences.
- (3) The proposed Fraser Island police station will be designed as a three man station. As part of this project residential accommodation will be provided for two officers. As a new station, Fraser Island will be given its own allocation of staff.

(4) It is expected that two officers will be permanently attached to this station and provide a full time police presence on the island.

(5) The decision to open a police shopfront in Bay Central is currently subject to a regional evaluation in order to establish the need and priority of such a shopfront in the area.

The Maryborough District Officer is currently conducting this evaluation and will report his findings to the North Coast Regional Committee in due course.

(6) Any decision to share resources between Fraser Island station and the proposed Bay Central shopfront cannot be made at this time. The decision will be dependent on a number of issues including the result of the evaluation mentioned in item (5) and the hours of operation of each establishment.

#### **773. Laidley Shire, King Real Estate Pty Ltd**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (20/7/00)—

With reference to King Real Estate Pty Ltd and its dealings in the Laidley Shire—

- (1) Is she aware of the false promises that this real estate company uses to attract buyers to the Laidley Shire?
- (2) How many complaints has her office received regarding the activities of this real estate company in the Laidley Shire for the last five years?
- (3) How many of these complaints has her office taken up on behalf of the buyers for the last five years?

**Ms SPENCE** (21/8/00):

- (1) This agency is currently the subject of an investigation, and it would not be appropriate to comment until the investigation is complete.
- (2) 10.
- (3) 8, with the remaining 2 currently subject to investigation.

#### **774. Australian Meat Holdings, Dinmore**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/7/00)—

With reference to the Australian Meat Holdings (AMH) meatworks, Dinmore and to reports which suggest that AMH plans to, in defiance of the Environmental Protection Agency, move to seven day operations at Dinmore and that compliance of their licence is not being achieved—

- (1) Are paunch contents being composted on at least two sites and causing loss of public amenities through odour?
- (2) Is paunch content from Cannon Hill being conveyed from Cannon Hill to Dinmore for disposal as Cannon Hill has no more facilities for disposal of this product?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00):

(1) Paunch content is being composted at the Australian Meat Holdings (AMH). My Environmental Protection Agency is negotiating measures with the company to prevent odour generation from composting leaving the boundaries of the AMH site. The only paunch composted at AMH is that generated there.

(2) No, paunch content is not being conveyed from Cannon Hill to Dinmore.

### 775. Rural Water Use Efficiency

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/7/00)—

With the release of the Budget and the allocation of \$11.5m, will he define the type of water use efficiency program to be put in place?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00): In May 1999, I launched the Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative. It is a partnership between industry and Government to improve the use and management of Queensland's available irrigation water.

The Initiative's key benefits are:

- an increase in agricultural production of \$280 million by July 2003 (equivalent to what would be achieved by supplying an additional 180,000 megalitres of irrigation water annually);
- the creation of 1,600 jobs in regional Queensland;
- improved farm profitability and viability of Queensland's rural industries; and
- reduced run-off of pesticides and nutrients into rivers and streams.

Over four years, commencing in July 1999, \$41 million will be spent on the Initiative. The \$11.5 million referred to is the second year's expenditure on the Initiative.

The four major elements of the Initiative are:

- adoption or extension programs to improve water use efficiency on farms;
- measures to reduce water losses from storages on farms;
- financial incentives to assist farmers to achieve best practice irrigation water management; and
- reduction of water losses in large-scale irrigation water supply and distribution systems.

On 26 July I launched the dairy and pastures adoption program, which is the last of four industry-managed adoption programs. The one for the sugar industry commenced in September 1999, the cotton and grains program began in March 2000, while I launched the horticultural program in April 2000.

Key points about these programs are:

- by July 2003, between 40 percent and 70 percent of the growers in each industry will have achieved best practice in irrigation water management;
- they have the potential to increase agricultural production by the same amount which would be obtained by supplying an additional 164,000 megalitres of irrigation water;

they have identified opportunities to achieve improvements in farm profitability and farm viability;

they will be supported by a portfolio of targeted research and development projects which I will announce later this year; and

projected expenditure on the four programs and related activities will be approximately (\$23 million of the total \$41 million) over four years.

The Initiative's second element focuses on reducing water losses from water storages on farms. The annual failure rate of these structures is three to five percent. Also, many storages are built to less than their optimum height resulting in increased water losses due to evaporation than would otherwise be the case.

In 2000/01:

new regulatory arrangements will be introduced for these storages. (On average, they will lessen the time needed to obtain approval to build storage, once a water allocation has been obtained);

development of updated guidelines for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of farm dams, ring tanks and stormwater/tailwater retention systems will proceed; and

development of easy-to-use computer models to enable the speedy calculation of the optimum depth for farm water storages will be investigated.

The third element of the Initiative will be a financial incentives program to assist farmers to achieve best practice irrigation water management. Many useful possibilities were identified while developing the adoption programs.

Industry groups are working with my Department of Natural Resources to develop possible financial incentive programs.

### 776. Brisbane Markets

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (20/7/00)—

With reference to the many farmers who send their fresh fruit and vegetables to market through the Brisbane Markets—

What assurance can he provide to farmers that, when they send their fresh fruit and vegetables to the Brisbane Markets for sale, that they will receive payment within 10 working days and not have to wait many weeks?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (17/8/00): Up to 30 June 2000 the Farm Produce Marketing Act 1964 has provided a regulated environment for transactions between growers and Queensland wholesalers. However a recent review of the legislation concluded that for a number of reasons its relevance and effectiveness had greatly diminished, and recommended that the legislation be repealed.

This formed the basis of the Government's decision to repeal the legislation. However as part of the Government's decision it was determined that a



training program for growers be conducted in all key areas of the State to improve the business skills within the industry. 12 meetings have subsequently been held throughout the State in June and July and have been well received by industry.

The review also recommended that a non-statutory, voluntary, Statewide framework for farm produce transactions be developed. Industry has put substantial work and effort into developing such a framework, in the form of a Code of Practice for Queensland fruit and vegetable wholesalers.

Brismark, the representative body for Brisbane Market fruit and vegetable wholesalers, developed the Code with input and support from the growers' organisation, Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers (QFVG), and the Department of Primary Industries.

Wholesalers in Queensland who subscribe to the Code will become accredited and must comply with a number of responsibilities in relation to terms of trade and conditions, quality assurance and food safety, disposal of product, communications and dispute resolution.

To support compliance with the Code, a Disputes Resolution Committee consisting of two Complaints Officers appointed by Brismark and two by QFVG, as well as an independent Chair, will adjudicate on disputes involving an accredited wholesaler.

The fruit and vegetable growing and wholesaling sectors have in the main recognised the need for the change and been very supportive of the developments—the repeal of the legislation, the training program, and the Code of Practice. Growers' and wholesalers' support for the Code will determine its success.

#### 777. Eumundi-Noosa Road

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/7/00)—

With reference to my previous advice regarding the dangerous and deteriorating state of the Eumundi/Noosa Road—

- (1) When will work commence to improve the level of safety on this road?
- (2) What is the extent of the proposed works?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (23/8/00): (1 & 2) In recent months, a 500-metre section of the Eumundi-Noosa Road between Justin and Grays Roads has been repaired as part of routine maintenance activities.

Further major pavement maintenance works are programmed during November 2000 on sections of the Eumundi-Noosa Road between Emu Mountain and Beckmans Roads. In total, another 1.0 kilometre of pavement will be strengthened and resurfaced at an estimated cost of \$80,000.

Priorities for other road improvements on this link will be considered within the funds available, as part of the current development of the 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 Roads Implementation Program.

#### 778. Brisbane Light Rail Project

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/7/00)—

- (1) What was the total amount expended on the Brisbane Light Rail Project (a) in 1998-99 and (b) in 1999-2000?
- (2) Specifically, what was the cost in each financial year of (a) running the project office, (b) publicity and public consultation, (c) design work, (d) production of tender documents and supervision of the tender process and (e) overseas travel?
- (3) What, if any, other costs were incurred?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (24/8/00):

(1) (a & b) The total amount expended on the Brisbane Light Rail (BLR) project in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is made up of costs directly incurred by the project team and the South East Transport (SET) project. Costs directly attributable to the BLR project team were \$2,234,000 in 1998-99 and \$3,939,000 in 1999-2000.

(2) (a-e) The specific project team's cost breakdowns in the two financial years are set down below—

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

(3) Two overseas trips were undertaken specifically to address light rail planning, construction and operational issues. These were not charged to the Brisbane Light Rail Project because the benefits also applied to other transport planning activities. Details are included in the following table:

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

The costs incurred by the SET project in accommodating possible future light rail is approximately \$5 million over 1998/99 and 1999/2000. These design changes will still allow for future light rail initiatives should they eventuate.

In addition, in 1998-99 \$82,000 was expended on planning and design for upgrading of the workshops at the Brisbane Tramways Museum.

#### 779. Beaudesert Shire, High School

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Education (20/7/00)—

With reference to the decision on the position of a new high school in the northern part of Beaudesert Shire—

- (1) Is he aware of the Department Planning Standards which state that at least 70 per cent of prospective enrolments be within five kms of the new high school?
- (2) Will he take note of this policy when making a decision on the position of the new school?

**Mr WELLS** (21/8/00): The department informs me that there is nothing in Education Queensland's draft departmental planning standards that suggests how many prospective students should live within five kilometres of a new high school. The Honourable Member can be assured that all available advice will be taken into account in making a decision about the position of a new high school in the northern Beaudesert Shire that will service the needs of the community now and into the future.

**780. Public Housing**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the timeframe between 1 October 1999 and 31 December 1999, for seniors units (by bedroom count) (20/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/8/00): Information provided by the Department of Housing indicates that there were no construction commencements or purchases of seniors' units within the period 1 October 1999 to 31 December 1999.

**781. Public Housing**

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the timeframe between 1 July 1999 and 30 September 1999, for seniors units (by bedroom count) (20/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest cost to purchase/construct seniors' units for the period 1 July 1999 to 30 September 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

**782. Public Housing**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the timeframe between 1 April 2000 and 30 June 2000, for seniors units (by bedroom count) (20/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest cost to purchase/construct seniors' units for the period 1 April 2000 to 30 June 2000.

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

**783. Public Housing**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the timeframe between 1 January 2000 and 31 March 2000, for seniors units (by bedroom count) (20/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest cost to purchase/construct seniors' units for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.

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

**784. Aged Care Facilities**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (20/7/00)—

With reference to the 12 months to 30 June 2000—

- (1) How many people under 65 years of age with a disability were placed in an aged care facility including nursing homes?
- (2) What were the numbers involved in each of the towns and cities where these facilities are located?
- (3) What are the age brackets for these people in each city or town?

**Ms BLIGH** (21/8/00): The latest Commonwealth data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (June 1999) indicates that there were 1167 residents of aged care facilities in Queensland aged less than 65 years. As this is a Commonwealth responsibility, I refer you to the Commonwealth Minister for Aged Care if further information is required.

**785. Moreton Bay Islands, Police Resources**

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (20/7/00)—

With reference to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands in my electorate and the announcement in the Budget of several hundred extra police officers to be sworn in this year—

- (1) What additional police services can be directed to the island communities?
- (2) Are there any plans to build a police station on any of the islands?
- (3) What capital and recurrent costs would be associated with the permanent presence of officers stationed on the islands?

**Mr BARTON** (17/8/00):

(1) Police officers are currently tasked each Tuesday and Wednesday to perform duty on Macleay Island. A police vehicle is transported to the island by the Redland Bay Water Police Barge for police at this time. The officers perform police shop front duties at the Ambulance Centre as well as general patrols.

Police officers from the Redland Bay Police Station perform police inquiry duties on the southern Moreton Bay Islands. Specific patrols on all the islands and surrounding waterways are undertaken with assistance from officers at the Redland Bay Water Police.

Two Neighbourhood Watch programs operate on Macleay and Coochiemudlo Islands with regular communication maintained between the Queensland Police Service and the community in this partnership. Uniformed officers also attend to community policing initiatives at the primary school on Macleay Island.

Police officers from both the Wynnum District Traffic Branch and Redland Bay Water Police actively perform enforcement duty on the various islands as operational requirements permit.

Detectives and Scenes of Crime officers from Cleveland attend the islands on both a reactive and proactive basis.

The commissioning of the police vessel 'JF Power' has greatly enhanced the ability of the Queensland Police Service to respond to calls for service from residents on all southern Moreton Bay islands. The effect of this is an increase in enforcement operations conducted on the southern bay islands. The previous police vessel operated for 300 hours per year. The 'JF Power' operates for approximately 780 hours per year. The primary function of the 'JF Power' is to transport officers and vehicles to all bay islands.

Random patrols by Cleveland, Redland Bay and Water Police personnel utilising the police vessel 'JF Power' will continue in conjunction with other strategies to ensure that offenders and their activities are closely monitored. If there is evidence of an offence, prosecution action will be taken.

The Redland Bay Water Police have the function of transporting vehicles and police to the islands as well as other enforcement action. Transport regulations require two water police officers to remain on the barge when it visits the islands.

(2) I am surprised at your question on this matter given your comments in the Bayside Bulletin on 18 July, 2000 "It doesn't need a police station on the islands."

Presently calls for service from residents on the southern bay islands are being managed utilising existing strategies and resources (both human and equipment) available at both the Cleveland and Redland Bay Police Stations. There are currently no immediate plans to establish a permanent police presence on any of the southern bay islands. I am pleased that you also support this position based on your media comments on this issue.

(3) The following costs are provided on the basis of a single officer police establishment on the vacant land

on Russell Island currently owned by the Queensland Police Service:

Capital Costs: \$436,000

Recurrent Costs: \$86,600.

#### **786. Red Brook Centre**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (20/7/00)—

Will she guarantee the Red Brook Centre will have continued funding support from Queensland Health to provide much needed mental health support services and will she boost staff support?

**Mrs EDMOND** (21/8/00): The Beattie Labor Government made an election commitment to:

prioritise Mental Health Services; and  
increase funding to mental health non-Government organisations.

In keeping with this commitment, \$1 million extra funding was provided to existing NGOs in the 1998/99 budget—I believe the first increase in several years. A further \$1 million increase was provided in the 1999/2000 State Budget to fund new mental health services. The Red Brook Centre has received funding through this commitment.

Queensland Health financially assists the Red Brook Centre with recurrent State funding to provide services targeting the needs of people with mental disorders or severe mental health problems, their families and carers within the Princess Alexandra Hospital District.

Red Brook Centre's funding was allocated through Mental Health funding, with applications being recommended and approved through an open and transparent merit based process consistent with the Queensland Government purchasing policies.

In line with the Managing for Outcomes framework, funding is contingent on meeting performance requirements as described in the contractual arrangements between Queensland Health and the non government agency.

In line with the Managing for Outcomes Framework, Queensland Health purchases health services to meet defined community needs, rather than focusing on an input based funding model. Funding is therefore linked to the achievement of service delivery outcomes for the client group, providing agencies with the flexibility to utilise resources in the most appropriate manner to provide the required services as defined by Queensland Health.

#### **787. Rosslyn Bay Harbour**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/7/00)—

- (1) Is he aware of silting seriously affecting the entrance to the Rosslyn Bay Harbour to the point that at low tide vessels with keels are often unable to leave or enter the harbour?
- (2) Bearing in mind a passenger boat was stuck in sand for several hours recently with 14 passengers on board, will he urgently make funds available to alleviate the problem?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (23/8/00):

(1) Queensland Transport has commenced planning for dredging to be undertaken in the 2000/2001 financial year.

(2) Funding to cover the dredging costs has been included in the current year's Maritime Infrastructure Maintenance Program. Queensland Transport is arranging for dredging tenders to be called in October 2000 and is also in the process of applying to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage (Environment Australia) for a sea dumping permit to allow the dredged material to be relocated to an offshore dumping area. Dredging is expected to be completed in March 2001.

#### **788. Domestic Violence Orders**

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (20/7/00)—

With reference to Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs) (20/7/00)—

- (1) Why have violent women who shot, stabbed or otherwise severely assaulted their men not had DVOs imposed on them?
- (2) If this is not a factual statement, will he provide statistics of (a) the number of women so charged, (b) the number of such women exonerated and (c) the number of such women who have been subjected to DVOs?

**Mr BARTON** (17/8/00): The decision whether or not to initiate proceedings against a person with respect to an application for a domestic violence order (DVO) is based on the 'sufficiency of evidence' and 'public interest tests'.

The Queensland Police Service does not maintain specific data on the number of applications for DVO's made against females or maintain a central database which records the total results of all prosecutions initiated by police. The Queensland Police Service database only maintains data on individual offenders.

In cases where a person commits an act of domestic violence and the injuries to the aggrieved person are such that they constitute a more serious offence, the offender would be charged accordingly and be subject to a committal proceedings.

The purpose of the committal proceedings is to establish the sufficiency of the evidence for referral to a more superior court such as the District or Supreme Court. In this case the presiding Judge, subject to a guilty verdict by a jury, has the discretion to determine what punishment will be imposed. It should be pointed out that the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is responsible for prosecuting these more serious criminal offences. The DPP have guidelines in place concerning what matters will be proceeded with to these superior courts.

As the Member for Barambah requires specific information in relation to applications for DVO's, she may like to redirect her question to the Honourable Anna Bligh, Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services

or the Honourable Matt Foley, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts.

#### **789. Toowoomba State High School**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Education (20/7/00)—

Given that Toowoomba State High School was not included in phase 1 of the Secondary Schools Renewal Program, will he confirm that the school has been included in phase 2?

**Mr WELLS** (21/8/00): Yes. This was announced on May 28.

#### **790. Bundaberg Health District, Oral Health Services**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Health (20/7/00)—

With reference to the review of oral health services of the Bundaberg Health Service District which was conducted almost 12 months ago—

- (1) What is the current full time equivalent (FTE) staff at the Bundaberg adult services division?
- (2) In relation to recommendation one, which indicates that the Bundaberg District Health Service should immediately pursue the establishment of additional facilities to house fifteen surgeries and increase staff to 12 FTE staff, (a) what has been done to bring about these changes, (b) when does she anticipate expansion of these facilities and (c) have the additional staff positions been advertised and when?
- (3) Has the service been able to establish a permanent 1:1 operator:assistant ratio as detailed in recommendation 2?
- (4) As outlined in recommendation 16, have the Childers Dental Clinic service arrangements been changed to incorporate two full days a week?
- (5) What was the full time equivalent staff for the Bundaberg District Health Service at 30 June 2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (21/8/00):

(1) The current full time equivalent (FTE) staff at the Bundaberg adult Oral Health Service is 32.18 FTE as compared to 23.77 FTE staff as at 30 June 1998.

(2) The District's current capital works planning priorities include an upgrade of these facilities, and this will be considered in the context of the Department's next round of capital works planning.

Since the release of the report there have been significant improvements in reducing waiting times at Bundaberg. In the past six months, over 1000 patients or 20% have been removed from the waiting list. The situation is being closely monitored and further improvements in service are anticipated.

(3) The School Dental Service is continuing to operate a 1:1 operator:assistant ratio.

(4) The Childers Dental Clinic is presently operating four full days per week, thereby reducing pressure on Bundaberg Clinic.

(5) The FTE staff for all Oral Health Services at Bundaberg Health Service District at 30 June 2000 was 49.27 FTE compared to just 34.6 FTE positions as at 30 June 1998.

#### 791. Taxidriviers, Transport Workers Union

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/7/00)—

- (1) Is he aware of the move by the TWU to unionise self employed taxidriviers?
- (2) Does he endorse the moves by the TWU and does he expect that the unionisation of self employed drivers can be supported by the present fare levels?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (23/8/00):

1. Yes, I am aware of the efforts of the TWU to achieve the unionisation of self-employed taxidriviers.
2. The work and remuneration conditions of taxidriviers has been raised with me by a number of people, including the TWU.

I and my department are happy to work with all stakeholders in the taxi industry, including the TWU, in an attempt to achieve mutually agreeable outcomes for owners, operators and drivers, without impacting on the provisions which establish present fare levels.

#### 792. Vegetation Management

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/7/00)—

With reference to his knowledge in respect of farming and vegetation management and his department's keen interest in prosecuting land owners for their commonsense boundary maintenance and fire breaks that the department, as a landholder and neighbour is unwilling or unable to do—

- (1) Will he and his department accept liability when his vegetation, ie. tree, destroys the integrity of a landholders boundary fence between the landholder's property and the roadway, allowing livestock to wander on to the highway or road and are killed or maimed in a collision with traffic?
- (2) Will he and his department pay compensation for any loss or injury to said livestock?
- (3) Will he and his department pay compensation to any traveller injured or killed in a collision with said livestock due to mismanagement by his department in respect of roadside vegetation.

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00):

- (1) Vegetation on local government administered roads is controlled under the Forestry Act 1959 and is managed by my Department of Natural Resources.

The long established legal requirement (since 1959) is to obtain authority to clear vegetation on local government administered roads. Upon application, my Department gives consideration to applications having regard to:

public safety;

the need for fair and reasonable maintenance clearing;

the significance of vegetation on local government administered roads providing wildlife corridors; and

other values of local government administered roads, eg access.

The Forestry Act 1959 does not prohibit the clearing of vegetation on local government administered roads but it provides a mechanism for authorising responsible clearing.

The current protocols of requiring authority for any vegetation clearing works ensures my Department meets its current responsibilities with respect to the management of vegetation in Queensland and prevents the clearing of unnecessarily wide corridors of vegetation for simple fence line maintenance.

(2-3) As a procedure is in place to authorise fair and reasonable roadside clearing it is the Government's view that the question of compensation does not arise.

#### 793. Property Offences

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (20/7/00)—

- (1) How many property crimes were reported in 1998-99 and how many had been successfully prosecuted by 1 July 2000?
- (2) How many property crimes were reported in 1999-2000 and how many had been successfully prosecuted by 1 July 2000?

**Mr BARTON** (17/8/00): The number of reported offences against property for the fiscal years of 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 were 281,442 and 302,877 respectively.

As Mr Horan requires specific information in relation to prosecutions, he may like to redirect his question to the Honourable Matt Foley, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts. The Queensland Police Service statistical database does not contain this information.

#### 794. Gladstone and Callemondah, Queensland Rail

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/7/00)—

With reference to Gladstone and Callemondah Queensland Rail bases which are being restructured and additionally Q-Link is being reviewed—

- (1) Will these restructures in any way result in job losses to the Gladstone region?
- (2) Will these restructures in any way result in a loss of services?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (23/8/00): (1 & 2) A review of current Coal and Mainline Freight operations in Gladstone was carried out in June/July of this year.in consultation with State and local unions. It highlighted a number of areas where QR's Coal and Mainline Freight could improve the way it carried out certain functions.

QR is currently consulting with local unions on the best way to implement the review findings, with a view to achieving implementation over the next couple of months.

The review will not result in any reduction to train services currently provided to the public. Some positions will be reviewed, but there will be no forced relocations, with existing staff being reallocated to areas where work is available.

QR's Metropolitan and Regional Freight Group's Q-Link Division may be relocating its operations within the port facility at Gladstone, to better service its customers and meet the requirements of the intermodal business with common user trains. These common user trains will reduce overall costs in line haul for freight forwarders like Q-Link.

### 795. Creeping Lantana

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/7/00)—

With reference to the activities of the Creeping Lantana Action Group (CLAG) at Monto—

- (1) What assistance is his department providing to assist this group to combat the increasing threat of creeping lantana?
- (2) Will this assistance continue in the immediate future?
- (3) What strategy does he have to combat the spread of this weed and find effective control mechanisms?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00):

(1) The Creeping Lantana Action Group (CLAG) was assisted by my Department of Natural Resources to initiate Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funded research into the ecology of creeping lantana. My Department is providing administrative support and technical supervision for the project which is conducted from the Brian Pastures Research Station near Gayndah.

(2) This assistance will continue for the duration of the project, currently until July 2001.

(3) Biocontrol research for creeping lantana has been undertaken. This has included exploration to locate potential biocontrol agents in South America, but none of the agents released so far has proven effective. My Department has assisted CLAG with activities to convey information on creeping lantana management to landholders and will continue to do so.

### 796. Mount Isa TAFE Institute

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (20/7/00)—

As he has, most appropriately, expressed a keen interest in construction industry workplace health and safety issues, will he outline what he has done to ensure that the quality and legal issues raised in the user-choice compliance audit pertaining to Mt Isa Institute of TAFE's delivery of courses related to crane operation, rigging and scaffolding, have been appropriately rectified?

**Mr BRADY** (21/8/00): It is correct that in late October 1999 as part of a Competitive Purchasing Program contractual compliance audit at Mt Isa Institute of TAFE some issues were identified with the delivery of Overhead Crane, Rigging and Scaffolding courses.

This situation is under ongoing investigation by officers of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations. Information is currently being sought under the Workplace Health and Safety Act. This information will assist with the investigation and rectification of the issues identified.

No further delivery of these courses will be offered from Mt Isa Institute of TAFE until the matter is fully resolved.

### 797. Freedom of Information

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (20/7/00)—

- (1) Concerning the current FOI legislation, how do FOI officers distinguish between "interested" and "disinterested" people requesting information under the FOI?
- (2) Specifically, would the owner of a building which will be severely impacted by the content of a Government department strategy report be judged as an "interested person"; if not, why not?

**Mr FOLEY** (17/8/00):

(1) The Freedom of Information Act 1992 allows for anyone to make an application for access to documents of the Queensland government and local governments in Queensland. Solely for the purpose of deciding whether an application fee is payable, officers administering the Act must make a distinction between requests for information relating to an applicant's personal affairs and requests for information which do not relate to the applicant's personal affairs.

(2) The Attorney-General does not give legal advice on the operation of any law to an individual either directly or through a member of Parliament. The role of the Attorney-General is set out in the Attorney-General Act 1999.

### 798. Combustible Fuel Storage

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (21/7/00)—

With reference to the storage of combustible fuels and liquids at small fuel storage depots in rural areas—

- (1) What inspections, if any, are carried out of these storage sites under the Building (Flammable and Combustible Liquids) Regulations 1994?
- (2) How many inspections have been carried out in the last twelve months under these regulations?
- (3) Have any prosecutions been instigated against the storage of fuel where no bunding walls have been constructed?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (18/8/00):

(1) Local governments are responsible for administering the Building (Flammable and Combustible Liquids) Regulations 1994.

Under the Regulations, premises storing significant quantities of flammable and combustible liquids are required to be licensed by the local council. This licence must be renewed annually.

I am advised the current practice of councils is to conduct at least an annual inspection of licensed premises prior to the renewal of an existing license or approval for a new licence.

(2) Local governments are responsible for administering the Regulations in their area and maintaining the associated records of inspections undertaken.

(3) See response to Question 2.

### 799. Molongle Creek

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (21/7/00)—

With reference to the Molongle Creek Boat Club Inc, a volunteer non-profit community service group which has been trying to provide a safer and improved boating access for a totally supportive boating community for safety reasons and which has been established and maintained over 20 years—

- (1) How many complaints from the public sector (if any) did the Government receive to justify its dogmatic treatment regarding the maintenance of the Molongle Creek channel?
- (2) What proof does the Government have to back up its claim that "The channel works are impacting on sea grass in the fish habitat area and dugong protection area and has the potential to disturb acid sulfate soil and cause environmental harm"?
- (3) Does he realise the entire issue relates to the maintenance of an existing channel which has continually been in the mouth of the Molongle Creek for over 20 years and it revolves around the removal of only a few centimetres of sediment?

**Mr WELFORD** (21/8/00):

(1) The need to resolve the permissions for works at Molongle Creek was not brought about by public complaint. The Environmental Protection Agency's review of an EIS for a new access channel at Molongle Creek in December 1998 highlighted that an existing development did not have permits. The EPA has recognised from the outset the importance of the channel as a public facility and is working with Bowen Shire Council to resolve the necessary permissions.

(2) The maintenance of good water quality is important to ensure the protection of seagrass areas which are a food source for dugongs. The disturbance of acid sulfate soils can have significant impacts on water quality and can lead to fish kills. The Environmental Protection Agency required an investigation for acid sulfate soils to ensure that the works will not impact on the seagrass areas. The

Department of Transport funded this investigation and the findings are currently being reviewed.

(3) The Molongle Creek Boat Club has advised that the existing channel was constructed in 1997. Previous channels followed different alignments, generally following the natural course of Molongle Creek across the sand flats. The infill into the existing channel since last excavated may not appear to be significant; however, the evaluation for potential acid sulfate soils has related to all material removed from the channel and disposed of in a bund wall and within the intertidal area.

### 800. Diesel Rebate Scheme

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Treasurer (21/7/00)—

With reference to the off road diesel fuel debate on 19 July 2000—

What steps and action is he taking to ensure that building and engineering contractors, extractive industries, farmers and marine operators, who fail to qualify for the rebate under the new Commonwealth Diesel and Alternative Grants Scheme and the Fuel Sales Grants Scheme, are not disadvantaged under these new arrangements?

**Mr HAMILL** (22/8/00): Under the Commonwealth Government's national tax reform arrangements, the Commonwealth assumed full responsibility for off-road users of diesel from 1 July 2000 and reduced its payments to Queensland by \$175 million accordingly.

For inexplicable reasons, the Commonwealth refuses to offer its rebate to certain industry groups which were previously entitled to State off-road diesel subsidies. This means that those groups which are excluded from the Commonwealth scheme do not benefit from fuel taxation reform, as they were promised.

I have therefore written to the Commonwealth Treasurer, the Honourable P Costello MP, seeking an urgent review of the Commonwealth's approach to this matter to ensure that off-road users of diesel are not adversely affected by the Commonwealth's assumption of responsibility for off-road diesel assistance. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

As of the date of this answer, this correspondence remains unanswered.

Further, in my correspondence and dealings with parties adversely affected by the Commonwealth fuel scheme arrangements, I have been urging them to make similar representations to the Commonwealth through their State and national associations.

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

### 801. First Home Owner Grant Scheme

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Treasurer (21/7/00)—

With reference to the Government's first home owners grant that has become available to first home buyers from 1 July 2000—

If the applicant is an owner builder and meets the necessary deposits and loan repayment

requirements, why cannot the grant be paid earlier to this home builder to assist him/her with the purchase of building materials for the new home?

**Mr HAMILL** (22/8/00): The First Home Owner Grant of \$7,000 is made available to partly offset the effect of the GST on home ownership. The legislative framework for this scheme was set out in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Reform of the Commonwealth-State Financial Relations and all State and Territories were required to establish it consistently. The scheme requires that the building of the home be completed before the grant is payable. In the case of an owner builder, because there is no comprehensive building contract and therefore the timeframe to complete the work is uncertain, to protect the scheme, the Commissioner of Stamp Duties makes payment at the earliest point where it's certain that the home will be ready for occupation, which is when the final inspection has been completed by the local authority.

#### **802. Families, Youth and Community Care Department**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (21/7/00)—

With reference to a recent investigation by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DFYCC) into allegations of suspected sexual abuse of a ward of the State and an allegation that a foster carer was instructed by a DFYCC officer to claim falsely for payments to which she was not entitled—

Will she confirm (a) that the male person recently released from prison was at the time of his arrest and detention, in sole custody of an eighteen month old girl in a Hervey Bay street, (b) on the day of the arrest and detention of the male person, the eighteen month old girl was not returned to her home but left at an office that organises delivery of aged care packages and that this service is in no way trained to care for abandoned young children, (c) DFYCC officers signed a letter giving care and custody of five children, including three young girls under six years of age, to a female person who was under investigation as a result of the sexual abuse allegations, (d) the records inside DFYCC show that an aboriginal foster carer of some thirteen years' experience was denied day care reimbursement to a day care centre for a non-aboriginal child when an aboriginal child, also in the same foster care arrangement, was receiving that reimbursement which was being paid directly to the day care centre by DFYCC, (e) after a complaint by the aboriginal foster carer, she subsequently received such payments for the non-aboriginal child, (f) a grandmother of five of these children involved in this fiasco is a DFYCC officer stationed in Brisbane and (g) the children at risk were not removed from this intolerable situation after the alarms were raised some six weeks ago on the floor of this Parliament?

**Ms BLIGH** (21/8/00):

(a & b) I have received information to this effect from the Member for Hervey Bay but have no independent knowledge of these events.

(c) The Family Court of Australia and the Children's Court have the jurisdiction of determining custody and guardianship of children. Departmental officers can not sign letters giving care and custody.

(d & e) The decision on the payment of day care costs for a child in the care of the Chief Executive is made on a case by case basis consistent with the case plan for the child.

(f) I am unclear to whom the Honourable Member refers.

(g) As stated in my reply of the 30 June 2000 the allegations that a child was at risk of sexual abuse were assessed and were unsubstantiated by the Department. However, the Director-General has commissioned an independent review of this child protection matter by a person independent to the Department. The practitioner appointed will conduct an immediate review of this case and make recommendations to the Director-General.

#### **803. Families, Youth and Community Care Department**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (21/7/00)—

With reference to a recent investigation by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DFYCC) into allegations of suspected sexual abuse of a ward of the State and an allegation that a foster carer was instructed by a DFYCC officer to claim falsely for payments to which she was not entitled—

Will she confirm that (a) a medical examination was carried out to determine whether or not the three year old girl, a ward of the State, had been subjected to sexual abuse, (b) the three year old ward of the State was treated for a vaginal infection, (c) the sexual abuse allegations were fully investigated, (d) DFYCC officers were aware that a male adult person, recently released from prison, is residing at the same house where these young girls presently reside, (e) the mother of five of the children who are presently residing in this home is an intravenous drug user who has hepatitis C and (f) the mother of five of these children presently residing in this home has been sent to prison for twelve months?

**Ms BLIGH** (21/8/00): As stated in my reply of 30 June 2000, the allegations previously raised were investigated by DFYCC officers and a Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) team made up of Queensland Police and Queensland Health professional staff and were unsubstantiated.

An independent practitioner has been appointed to review all aspects of this case. If the member for Hervey Bay has any evidence to substantiate these claims this should be forwarded to the Maryborough Area Office or the Director-General of the Department.

#### **804. Mackay, Ambulance Service Investigation**

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (21/7/00)—

With reference to the incident involving an ambulance officer who was found unconscious in the



Queensland Ambulance Service Communications Centre at Mackay and to the Minister's claim that he was having the matter investigated—

- (1) Has the investigation been completed; if not, when will it be completed?
- (2) Did the investigation cover claims of improper use of the Internet, in particular, regular unauthorised access of pornographic web sites by at least one QAS staff member at Mackay?
- (3) Will he make the results of the investigation public?
- (4) Has he been made aware of, or ordered an investigation into, claims of other incidents of staff accessing pornographic web sites via QAS computers in other areas of the State?

**Mr ROBERTSON (18/8/00):**

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Inappropriate access to pornographic web sites is a completely separate issue, and is being investigated as such. The matter has been referred to the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) which has referred it back to the QAS for investigation.

Action has been taken with regard to the Email access system at Mackay Communications Room and whilst the functionality of the system has been maintained, internet access is now gained through the Department's IntraNet service, which has appropriate security systems.

- (3) These are internal disciplinary matters and I can assure the Honourable Member that they will be dealt with appropriately.
- (4) On 30 June 2000 an article appeared in the Queensland Times, titled 'QAS Investigates net porn access'. This matter occurred over 12 months ago and was fully investigated. The investigation found that the site was accessed accidentally and no material was downloaded.

### 805. Helicopter Emergency Services

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (21/7/00)—

With reference to the provision of annual grants to support community-based helicopter emergency service providers and to his answer to Question on Notice No 580—

- (1) Will he investigate claims that employees and/or directors of one or more of the community-based organisations have received, or are receiving, commissions based on the amount of the Government grant?
- (2) Does he have any objection to a percentage of Government grants being used to pay commissions?
- (3) If he orders an investigation as suggested, will he make public the amount of Government grants being paid in commissions if, indeed, such commissions are being paid?

**Mr ROBERTSON (18/8/00):**

- (1) The State Government provided grants totalling \$2.721 million to the four Community Helicopter Providers in Queensland during 1999/2000. These

grants are paid under the terms of Service Agreements between the State of Queensland and each Community Helicopter Provider in return for specified helicopter services.

The terms of the Service Agreements do not require the Community Helicopter Providers to disclose details of remuneration paid to their employees or directors. As such, I will not investigate whether commissions on Government Grants are being paid to employees or directors of these organisations unless it impacts adversely on their ability to provide the services specified in the Service Agreements. The Community Helicopter Providers are otherwise entitled to manage their operations as they see fit.

There is no evidence to suggest that the Community Helicopter Providers are not providing services to the community as specified in the Service Agreements they have with the Government.

- (2) As there is nothing in the Service Agreements prohibiting payment of commissions I have no legal capacity to object to commissions (if any exist) being paid.
- (3) If an investigation into payment of Commissions on Government grants for the provision of helicopter services is ever warranted, I would be pleased to make public the amount of commissions paid.

### 806. Road Traffic Noise Management

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/7/00)—

With reference to the Maroochy Shire Council's request to him to (a) clarify the department's policy on the implementation of noise protection measures on new and existing State controlled roads and (b) to review the existing policy and consider reducing the acceptable noise limits on all State controlled roads to 63dB(A)—

- (1) What is the estimated cost of the existing policy?
- (2) What is the estimated unmet need under the existing thresholds of the policy ie, roads that meet the thresholds that still have to have noise amelioration provided?
- (3) What are the cost implications for road budget if the thresholds for State controlled roads were lowered to 63dB(A)s?

**Mr BREDHAUER (23/8/00):**

(1) The Department of Main Roads incorporates noise mitigation measures into all new road construction projects in accordance with the current "Road Traffic Noise Management: Code of Practice". Main Roads does not have a Statewide system for extracting and reporting the total annual cost of noise reduction works and costs vary significantly from one project to another.

(2) The estimated total cost to provide noise amelioration for those State-controlled roads in the North Coast-Hinterland district that currently exceed the 68 dB(A) threshold is between \$4.0 and \$6.0 million.

(3) The department's current policy does not stipulate use of a 63dB(A) threshold for existing State-controlled roads. Consequently, there has

been no investigation into the cost implications of lowering the threshold to 63 dB(A).

### 807. Budget Papers, Publication

**Mr LAMING** asked the Treasurer (21/7/00)—

With reference to the production of the State Budget Papers (including Budget Papers, Ministerial Program Statements, Budget Highlights, Reading Guides and other publications contained in the Budget Paper packages—

What was the cost of production of the State Budget Papers for (a) 1999-2000 and (b) 2000-2001?

**Mr HAMILL** (22/8/00): The total cost of production of the State Budget Papers for the 1999-2000 Budget was \$208,180. The total cost of production of the State Budget Papers for the 2000-01 Budget was \$274,200.

Increased costs for 2000-01 are due to the GST, higher production costs and an increased print run.

These total production costs compare favourably with the cost of the Coalition's May 1998-1999 Budget presentation when in addition to the production costs of its Budget papers, the previous Government spent \$260,000 of public funds on the advertising and marketing of its Budget.

### 808. People with Disabilities, Employment

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (21/7/00)—

With reference to people with disabilities—

- (1) How many people are employed in each Queensland city and town?
- (2) What employment opportunities have been developed for each Queensland city and town?

**Ms BLIGH** (21/8/00): (1 & 2) Employment support services for people with disabilities are a Commonwealth government responsibility. The Honourable member should direct his question to the Commonwealth Minister for Family and Community Services.

### 809. Yeppoon Police Station, Police Resources

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (21/7/00)—

As there will be an additional 357 police officers (net) allocated to Queensland as a result of the recent Budget, will he ensure that four additional police officers will be allocated to Yeppoon Police Station so that Yeppoon Police Station will become a 24 hour police station?

**Mr BARTON** (17/8/00): The number of additional police positions to be allocated to each Region this financial year has yet to be determined. Such allocation will be made in September-October and will be based on the Queensland Police Service Human Resource Regional Allocation Model. Allocations made under the Model will be made on the basis of a number of variables including population, crime statistics, service delivery and specialist policing needs.

When the final allocation of police positions to Regions is determined, the Assistant Commissioner, Central Region will give consideration to service delivery requirements at a local level. The allocation of police positions to Yeppoon Station will be considered as part of this process.

### 810. Gladstone Base Hospital

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Health (21/7/00)—

In 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (a) what was the permanent staff levels for Gladstone Base Hospital of medical staff in each respective year and (b) what was the level of non-medical staff by category in each respective year?

**Mrs EDMOND** (21/8/00):

(a) The medical staff FTE at the Gladstone District Hospital increased from 10.33 average full-time equivalents as at 30 June 1999 to 10.73 as at 30 June 2000.

(b) The average full-time equivalents of non-medical staff is as follows—

	1998/99	1999/00
Administrative	30.18	31.43
Operational	41.46	41.00
Professional	8.61	8.16
Nursing	104.68	97.34

During the last financial year, there was reclassification of two nursing positions (Quality Manager and Workplace Health and Safety) to other categories and relocation of 3.5 nursing positions to community areas (Child Health, Community Health, School Health and Post Acute-Maternity Early Discharge).

### 811. Charters Towers and Dalrymple Shires, Rural Support Services

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (21/7/00)—

With reference to the Dalrymple Rural Information and Support Service which was terminated in Charters Towers on 30 June 2000 because the auspicing body, Dalrymple Shire Council, was reluctant to continue being involved in the program given the strategic direction previously advised to council—

When will a new auspicing body be announced and when can we expect the Dalrymple Rural Information and Support Service to begin servicing the needs of the people of Charters Towers and Dalrymple Shire?

**Ms BLIGH** (21/8/00): It is anticipated that a new auspicing body will be announced in October with the new Rural Family Support Worker service commencing soon after.

### 812. Barambah, School Funding

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Education (21/7/00)—

With reference to the \$700,000 allocated in the Budget for schools in the Barambah electorate of

which \$250,000 has been allocated to Murgon High School—

- (1) What other schools will receive funding?
- (2) What is it allocated for?
- (3) What is the dollar value of each allocation?

**Mr WELLS** (21/8/00): This government is committed to improving facilities in all state schools. Identifying the needs of the school community through consultation is not only important, but also an appropriate way of determining those needs.

The department informs me that Benarkin and Cloyna and Blackbutt State Schools will receive additional classrooms by relocatable, if enrolments numbers continue to indicate a need. The department informs me that final decision on the provision of relocatable buildings is decided towards the end of the school year. Yarraman Upper State School is to be provided with relocatable amenities. Over \$400,000 has been allocated for these Capital Works projects in the 2000-2001 budget.

In the case of Murgon State High School the department informs me that funding has been set aside to provide the school with improvements to existing facilities to enhance the delivery of home economics subjects. The department informs me that discussions between the principal and departmental officers have taken place, and the principal has indicated that the relocation of the textile room next to the home economics class kitchen and the refurbishment of the old textile area is the preferred option. Planning of the work to be undertaken will be done in consultation with the school, details of which I will be happy to publicise when planning and costs are finalised.

### 813. Public Housing

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the timeframe between 1 January 2000 and 31 March 2000, for duplexes (by bedroom count) (21/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest purchase/construction cost for duplexes in relation to the period 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 814. Public Housing

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in

particular, the timeframe between 1 July 1999 and 30 September 1999, for duplexes (by bedroom count) (21/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest purchase/construction cost for duplexes in relation to the period 1 July 1999 to 30 September 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 815. Public Housing

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the timeframe between 1 April 2000 and 30 June 2000, for duplexes (by bedroom count) (21/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest purchase/construction cost for duplexes in relation to the period 1 April 2000 to 30 June 2000. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

### 816. Public Housing

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/7/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction and maintenance program for 1999-2000 and, in particular, the timeframe between 1 October 1999 and 31 December 1999, for duplexes (by bedroom count) (21/7/00)—

- (1) What is/was the average cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (2) What is/was the highest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?
- (3) What is/was the lowest cost to purchase and/or construct the above dwellings?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/8/00): See Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on the average, highest and lowest purchase/construction cost for duplexes in relation to the period 1 October 1999 to 31 December 1999. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

**817. Office of Fair Trading, Investigation of Valuers**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (21/7/00)—

- (1) Has there been any liaison between the Office of Fair Trading and the authors of the two tier trading report of 20 July 1999 and the Valuers Registration Board?
- (2) Has the Valuers Registration Board requested or been provided with details of the allegations and claims of valuations contained in the report?
- (3) Has there or will there be an investigation into the report's findings in relation to registered valuers by the Office of Fair Trading or from the Valuers Registration Board of Queensland?

**Ms SPENCE** (21/8/00):

(1) The two tier trading report was written by Mr Phil Dickie, who had the assistance of a number of people including staff of the Office of Fair Trading and the Department of Natural Resources (in which the Valuers Registration Board is situated) and members of the Working Party on Property Marketing. There has been no direct liaison between the Office of Fair Trading and the Valuers Registration Board.

(2) No—the Valuers Registration Board has not requested, nor has it been specifically provided with any material contained in the report. The report is however a public document, having been tabled in Parliament. Concerns raised during the working party meetings included general allegations that valuations shown to consumers were over-inflated, while developers were critical of valuers for marking down valuations of properties. The issues were taken up by the Australian Property Institute which issues codes of conduct for valuers.

(3) No—the Office of Fair Trading has not received any specific complaints about valuers and has not conducted any investigations into the conduct of any valuers. The Office of Fair Trading is unaware of any investigations being conducted by the Valuers Registration Board.

**818. Sports Education Network Program**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (21/7/00)—

With reference to the cloud hanging over the future of the Sports Education Network Program developed with the assistance of officers in his department of Sport and Recreation Queensland based in Rockhampton and to the possibility of a withdrawal of Government funding for the program—

- (1) When will a decision be made on funding for the program?
- (2) Will the Government's decision on funding the program be based on recommendations from departmental officers working in Rockhampton?
- (3) How does the Government expect the program to continue operating during the period

between the end of the funding resource agreement (30 June 2000) and a time in the future when a decision may be made to continue funding?

- (4) If funding is continued, out of what funding program will the money be sourced?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (18/8/00):

(1) The University of Central Queensland has decided to discontinue the Sports Education Network Project and is acquitting its financial obligation under the resource agreement which expired on 30 June 2000.

(2) The Department has not received an application to continue funding for this project.

(3) The Department is considering an alternative model of education and training delivery to rural and remote communities of Queensland.

(4) N/A.

**819. Building Services Authority; A. V. Jennings**

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (21/7/00)—

With reference to her response to Question on Notice 622 in which she stated "The BSA is not in the business of making scapegoats out of builders who have made mistakes but who are willing to rectify them."—

- (1) Is she or the Building Services Authority (BSA) aware of any current cases where AV Jennings is refusing or delaying rectification work despite directions by the BSA?
- (2) In the case of Mr Merritt, how can AV Jennings be a scapegoat when Mr Potts admitted in his letter dated 16 March 2000 that AV Jennings in the construction of the home departed from legislative requirements?
- (3) Does the statement that AV Jennings has now been put on notice refer to formal notice under the Queensland Building Services Authority Act?

**Ms SPENCE** (21/8/00):

(1) The BSA has advised me that there are no current cases where AV Jennings is refusing or delaying rectification work despite formal directions by the BSA.

(2) Termite infestations are often attributable to a number of causes and without substantial evidence to the contrary, it would have been unjust to hold AV Jennings solely responsible for the problem.

In March when Mr Potts wrote to Mr Merritt and stated that some of the work performed by AV Jennings in the construction of his home departed from good building practice and legislative requirements, he also stated, "the Authority was of the view that the departure from good practice was not of sufficient magnitude to warrant action against the company for negligence or incompetence."

Since then new evidence revealed in the course of the rectification of Mr Merritt's home clearly indicates the extent of AV Jennings' responsibility in the matter.

(3) No. However, AV Jennings has indicated the company's preparedness to resolve the issue.

### 820. Workplace Accidents

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (21/7/00)—

With reference to the large number of amputations and electrocutions recently reported, including daily amputations and 1,000 workplaces with life-threatening electrical risks—

- (1) How many prosecutions have been completed for these offences in the last 12 months?
- (2) How many resulted in convictions for these offences?
- (3) What was the fine imposed for each conviction?

**Mr BRADY** (21/8/00):

(1) In 1999/2000, 14 prosecutions were completed for amputations/crush injuries and 1 was in relation to an electrocution.

(2) With respect to convictions for these offences, 13 prosecutions relate to amputations/crush injuries and 1 is related to an electrocution.

(3) The details are as follows:

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

### 821. Sugar Industry

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (21/7/00)—

With reference to the Premier's statement that he is soon to take a submission to Cabinet regarding the crisis currently being experienced by the sugar industry and given that (a) the window of opportunity for replanting Queensland's extensively damaged cane crop closes at the end of August, (b) many growers are considering leaving the industry unless they receive urgent assistance, (c) he has been in receipt of the sugar industry's submission for assistance for at least six weeks and (d) his department has been involved in weeks of negotiations with the Federal Government over a response—

- (1) Why did the Government have to be called to account in Parliament before he finally realised the extent of the problem and decided to prepare a response for Cabinet?
- (2) What financial contribution, if any, will the Government make to helping Queensland's 6,000 cane growers and the industry recover from this crisis?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (17/8/00):

(1) The State Government has acted to address the urgent need to replant cane destroyed by adverse weather conditions and the rust disease. This assistance was announced before any action by the Federal Government and despite the fact the industry did not direct its request for assistance to the State Government.

(2) \$10 million has been allocated to the Sugar Assist Program to fund cane replanting and establishment loans for the sugar industry.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### 822. Dairy Industry

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (22/8/00)—

With reference to the dairying belt much of which is currently suffering a prolonged dry season which is coinciding with the deregulation of the dairy industry with catastrophic results and as the price of production of milk is below the market price and production levels are falling quickly, with little or no on-farm fodder available—

Will he order an immediate review of the Drought Assistance Guidelines as they apply to the dairy industry because the present guidelines do not allow assistance to feed dairy cows in production yet, since deregulation, many farmers cannot afford to buy feed for cows in production and without production these farmers don't have a cash flow?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (21/9/00): The Drought Relief Assistance Scheme administered by the Department of Primary Industries was designed to protect the State's herds and flocks during times of severe drought. This includes our dairy herd.

Dairy farmers whose properties are drought declared under an Individually Droughted Property (IDP) or shire declaration are eligible to access financial assistance for the transport costs of fodder and water provided to drought affected livestock. The scheme also provides producers with assistance in the post drought period with subsidies for the return of stock from agistment and/or those livestock purchased for restocking purposes.

The subsidy is only available on the extra quantities of fodder introduced because of drought.

In addition, the Queensland Government has been working very hard to ensure that dairy farmers access all the assistance available to them under the Dairy Structural Adjustment Program.

### 823. Bribie Island, Police Resources

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (22/8/00)—

With reference to the increasing population of Bribie Island, as well as Pebble Beach and Ningi that are now included in the Bribie Island Police Division—

- (1) What is the current staffing numbers of (a) police and (b) public servants at the Bribie Island Police Station?
- (2) In relation to the police staff, how many are in receipt of the operational shift allowance?
- (3) When will the promised two additional permanent staff be allocated to enable this overworked station to service the Bribie Island population 24 hours a day from Thursday to Sunday?
- (4) With the current staff numbers and the constraints of the operational shift allowance in relation to weekend shifts, will he place an extra two permanent staff at this station, raising the permanent staff to ten to meet his commitment in relation to 24 hour policing over the weekends?

- (5) Considering it is needed now, when will a 24 hour police station be a reality for the growing populace of the Bribie Island Police Division?

**Mr BARTON** (21/9/00):

(1)(a) The actual strength at the Bribie Island police station is seven officers. The allocated strength is eight officers.

(b) There is one full-time administrative officer and one part-time administrative officer allocated to the Bribie Island police station.

(2) All officers with the exception of the Officer in Charge are in receipt of operational shift allowance.

(3) The allocated strength of the Bribie Island police station was increased to eight officers in 1999. An officer has been identified and gazetted for the vacant position and will take up duty in the near future.

(4) The Queensland Police Service has made a reassessment of policing needs in the Bribie Island division and the current data, including crime statistics, does not justify a further increase in police numbers in the immediate future.

(5) The determination of priorities for 24 hour police stations is subject to regional and statewide considerations. The development of a 24 hour police station at Bribie Island will receive consideration in the Service's forward planning.

### 824. Minden State School, Cool Schools Program

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (22/8/00)—

With reference to his Cool Schools Program and to the Minden State School adjacent to the Warrego Highway, Minden, where due to the ever increasing noise levels intruding into the school from heavy transports, the school windows on the southern side of the buildings are always kept closed and entry is only by the northern side—

Will he consider this school as high a priority for air conditioning of four class rooms before the summer of 2000?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/9/00): I'm surprised that after more than two years as a Member, you do not know that the Cool Schools Program is managed by Education Queensland. Therefore I suggest that you refer this question to my Cabinet colleague the Honourable Dean Wells MLA, Minister for Education.

### 825. Grants to Shires

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (22/8/00)—

With reference to shire councils in Queensland—

- (1) How does his department classify shires in Queensland with regard to population size ie are they classified as small, medium or large depending on population?
- (2) Is there any regard to the classifications of these shires in relation to area?

- (3) What Government grants are made available to the smaller shires to provide cultural facilities for their residents?
- (4) What Government grants are made available to these smaller shires to provide sporting facilities for their residents?
- (5) To what monetary value are the above grants available to these smaller shires?
- (6) What other special Government grants or assistance are made available to these smaller shires to provide amenities similar to those available in the larger shires and cities?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (18/9/00):

(1) Councils are classified according to population size for the purposes of administering four of the Department's funding programs to local governments as follows:

- (a) Smaller Communities Assistance Program (SCAP)—Councils with a population smaller than 5,000;
- (b) Rural Living Infrastructure Program (RLIP)—Councils with a population smaller than 15,000;
- (c) Local Government Recreation Planning Program—Councils with less than \$5M in rate revenue; and
- (d) Regional Centres Program (RCP)—Councils with a population greater than 15,000.

(2) In the context of the local government grant and subsidy programs there is no classification system based on the geographic size of the Council.

(3) Local governments with a population of fewer than 15,000 are eligible for funding under RLIP. This program provides assistance to support the economic and social development of these smaller communities, which may include the provision of cultural facilities.

Additionally, all councils are eligible under the Local Governing Bodies' Capital Works Subsidy Scheme for a subsidy of 20% towards the costs of providing cultural complexes which meet the growing and changing arts/cultural needs of the community.

A special subsidy rate of an extra 10% (that is, in addition to the 20% available towards the cost of cultural complexes) is applicable to the following shires to take into account remoteness and the difficulties in providing public infrastructure in these areas: Aurukun, Barcoo, Boulia, Bulloo, Burke, Carpentaria, Cook, Croydon, Diamantina, Etheridge, Mornington and Torres.

(4) As in the response to Question 3, local governments with a population of fewer than 15,000 are eligible for funding under RLIP. This includes assistance for projects to provide new or improved sporting facilities to residents. Similarly, all local governments are eligible under the Local Governing Bodies' Capital Works Subsidy Scheme for a subsidy of 10% towards the cost of the construction of swimming pools.

My Department also provides financial assistance to local governments to develop sport and recreation plans on a local or regional level through the Local

Government Recreation Planning Program (LGRPP). Councils with less than \$5M in rate revenue are assessed in accordance with their classification under the Australian Classification of Local Governments, which classifies councils according to their population, population density, population growth and location of the local government area. Based on this, Councils are eligible for a subsidy of between 55% and 80% of the total project costs.

Other sport and recreation funding programs for which all local governments are eligible regardless of size include:

- (a) Minor Sport and Recreation Facilities Program which focuses on increasing the quality and quantity of sport and recreation facilities for all Queenslanders;
- (b) Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program which focuses on works to provide enhanced facilities for regional sporting competition and community participation in sport and active recreation; and
- (c) National Standard Sports Facilities Program which provides for the upgrade or development of venues for state and national sporting competitions and international levels of training.

(5) The programs outlined in Questions 1 to 4 do not specify monetary values of grants. Each of the programs has guidelines which outline the percentage of the total project cost for which the local government is eligible.

(6) Other than RCP, smaller local governments (that is, those with a population of less than 15,000) are eligible to apply for funding under all the grants and subsidy programs administered by my Department.

## **826. Mackay Hospital**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Health (22/8/00)—

With reference to Mackay Base Hospital—

- (1) Will there be no loss of intensive care unit beds?
- (2) Will there be no winding back of CHEC services?
- (3) How many specialists are employed at Mackay Base Hospital at present and what were the numbers per year over the last five years?
- (4) What specialists' services are provided at 22 August 2000?
- (5) Is there any projection for expansion of specialists services?

**Mrs EDMOND** (21/9/00):

(1) The present redevelopment of Mackay Base Hospital has provided a single, combined, eleven bed Intensive Care and Coronary Care Unit, which has been recently completed and commissioned. The previous accommodation provided for a separate six bed intensive care unit and a four bed coronary care unit. The new combined unit will allow for improved patient management and better use of clinical resources with additional capacity.

(2) There has been no winding back of the hospital extended care (CHEC) services.

(3) At present, Mackay Base Hospital has a total of 18.5 specialist positions including full-time and visiting positions as well as outreach specialist services. This is an increase of two positions since 1996/97.

(4) At 22 August 2000, full-time and visiting practitioners offered the following specialist services: Surgery, ENT, Ophthalmology, Urology, Internal Medicine, Orthopaedics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Anaesthetics, Emergency Services, Psychiatry and Radiology. Outreach services were provided to Mackay Base Hospital for Dermatology, Neurology, Renal, and Cardiology. There is currently one specialist anaesthetist position vacant. A temporary replacement has been recruited to start later this month (September) while arrangements are made for a permanent appointment.

(5) Any planning for the expansion of specialist services at Mackay Base Hospital will be undertaken by the Northern Zone in consultation with the District and specialist staff at Mackay Base Hospital. Mackay Base Hospital operates as part of a network of services across the major hospitals of Cairns, Townsville and Mackay.

### 827. State Emergency Service

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/8/00)—

Is there a developing crisis amongst SES units over changes made to the structure of the SES?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (21/9/00): There is no developing crisis amongst SES Units. The only recent changes to the structure of the SES have been at State Office with the addition of two new senior positions to assist with resource and asset management.

### 828. Wunjunga Boat Ramp, Consultancy

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Premier (22/8/00)—

Will he explain to the Parliament and the people of Queensland why a local tribal group, namely the Birragubba and Northern Archaeology Consultancy Services were paid \$900 and \$3,600 respectively plus expenses by Queensland Transport for a walk-through of the proposed boat ramp site at Wunjunga in the Burdekin even through the Birragubba tribe has no native title claim to the area?

**Mr BEATTIE** (21/9/00): The matters to which you refer relate to the final stage of a series of feasibility studies undertaken by the Government over the last 20 years to find a solution to the lack of an all tide boat ramp for the Burdekin Shire.

As part of the consultation process the then Department of Environment indicated that the area for the ramp and approach road contained many significant artefacts and advised that it would be appropriate to conduct a systematic cultural heritage survey.

Northern Archaeology Consultancies Pty Ltd was contracted by Queensland Transport to carry out the

cultural heritage survey and was paid a total of \$7,700. A briefing to the consultant by the Environmental Protection Agency advised that a "best practise approach" should be taken that included not only parties making native title claim but also "any" interested parties such as groups claiming tribal affiliations.

The two groups identified as claiming affiliations and paid as part of the \$7,700 Northern Archaeology Consultancies Pty Ltd contract are:

1. Bindal Elders & Reference Group—who have one native title application in the area (Claim QC99/21).
2. Gudjuda Reference Group—representing the Juru people.

Both groups were involved in the field survey of the area (boat ramp and proposed road of 1.3km) both on different days due to the groups being in dispute over the tribal affiliations. Bindal was paid \$1,500 for the field survey. Gudjuda was paid \$1,150 for the field survey.

The Member for Burdekin should be aware that Birragubba is a term denoting not one tribe but a collective term that encompasses tribes and peoples covering much of Central and Northern Queensland and therefore not a group identified as an "interested party" nor were they paid any fees as such.

### 829. Wide Bay Respite Service

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (22/8/00)—

With reference to a commitment that she made that the Wide Bay Respite Services overnight respite facility in Hervey Bay should be maintained beyond 30 June by the provision of \$25,500 non-recurrent funds and her statement that she did not wish to see the house close (Reference letter 12 June 2000 Case No 551062, cheque received 17 August 2000) (22/8/00)—

- (1) Will she continue to fund the respite house in Hervey Bay?
- (2) Will she provide recurrent funding as per the April 2000 submission?
- (3) Is the Hervey Bay house one of the eight new respite services to be funded from the \$2.3m as indicated in the Disability Services Queensland business plan 2000-2002?
- (4) Given the urgency of the situation, will she provide further non-recurrent funds to ensure the uninterrupted provision of respite services in the house in Hervey Bay?

**Ms BLIGH** (21/9/00):

(1) Funding has recently been approved for the Wide Bay Respite Service to continue providing respite services up to 30 November 2000.

(2) Funding for new Respite and Family Support Services in nine locations, including Hervey Bay was advertised on Saturday 2 September 2000. The closing date for submissions is 27 October 2000. Decisions about recurrent funding will be made as a



result of this process. The Wide Bay Respite Service is currently reviewing their submission of April 2000 in consultation with DSQ staff.

(3) No decisions have yet been made on which services will be funded.

(4) Further non-recurrent funds will be provided to the Wide Bay Respite Service to enable the service to continue until the outcome of the submission process is known.

### 830. Olympic Games, Police Resources

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (22/8/00)—

With reference to the period of the Olympic games—

- (1) How many police are being drawn from Queensland for duty at the Olympics?
- (2) How many of the affected stations are one-man stations?
- (3) How many stations will be closed?
- (4) How many of these stations are in the Barambah electorate?

**Mr BARTON** (21/9/00):

(1) No Queensland Police Service personnel will be seconded from Queensland to perform duties in Sydney during the period of the Olympic Games. In December 1998, the then Deputy Commissioner, W Aldrich advised the NSW Police Service that the provision of Queensland Police Service human and other resources to NSW was dependent upon an assessment of the extent of Olympic activities occurring within Queensland. The demands for the delivery of policing services as a result of the 165 Pre-Games international sporting teams training in Queensland prohibits the Queensland the Queensland Police Service from deploying any personnel to Sydney.

(2) No one-officer stations are affected as a result of redeployment of personnel to perform Olympic games security duties within Queensland.

(3) No stations will be closed as a result of redeployment of personnel due to Olympic Games related events within Queensland.

(4) No stations within the Barambah electorate are required to provide personnel to serve outside their home stations for any Olympic Games or Pre-Games activities.

### 831. Southport Spit, Aboriginal Cultural Centre

**Mr SLACK** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (22/8/00)—

Have any proposals been made to the Government to finance the relocation of the proposed cultural centre sought by the Koombumerri people in exchange for a major development proposal on the Southport Spit; if so, by whom?

**Mr ELDER** (22/9/00): Officers of my Department of State Development are currently in negotiations with representatives of the Kombumerri people regarding the possible development of a

Cultural Centre on the Southport Spit. These negotiations also involve various private sector parties with a variety of tourism related ideas for the spit. However, as these matters are linked to the potential resolution of the Native Title claim over an extensive area of the Gold Coast City they must remain confidential at this point in time.

### 832. Diversionary Programs

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (22/8/00)—

With reference to the Community Conferencing Program—

- (1) How many diversionary conferences were held at each location in 1999-2000, at what cost for each centre and who has responsibility for the program at each of these centres?
- (2) What information is there to show a reduction in court appearances and recidivism at each of these locations?

**Ms BLIGH** (21/9/00):

(1) The Alternative Dispute Resolution Branch (ADRB), Department of Justice and Attorney General has responsibility for administering police and court conferencing referred in Brisbane North, Ipswich and Inala. ADRB conferenced 120 offenders in 1999-2000 at a cost of \$506 per conference.

Youth and Family Service (Logan City) Inc. (YFS) has responsibility for administering police and court conferencing referrals in Brisbane South and the Gold Coast. YFS conferenced 70 offenders in 1999-2000 at a cost of \$527 per conference.

The Far North Queensland Conferencing Service (FNQCS), Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland, has responsibility for administering police and court referrals in Cairns, Tully, Innisfail, Mareeba, Atherton and Mossman. The service commenced in June 1999 and conferenced 26 offenders in 1999-2000 at a cost of \$584 per conference.

(2) Children's Court data for 1999-2000 is not yet finalised, the preliminary data provided is therefore subject to change. On the available Children's Court data (preliminary) and the number of conferences it is difficult to draw inferences from the impact of conferences on court appearances. In the Children's Court districts serviced by ADRB, appearances reduced from 1878 in 1998-1999 to 1802 in 1999-2000, a reduction of 4%. In the area serviced by YFS in the same periods the appearances were 1033 and 1035 respectively, effectively no change. For the FNQCS area in the same periods appearances increased from 712 to 720 respectively, an increase of 1%.

There is no specific information available regarding recidivism in each location. The most recent information on recidivism is available from the "Final Evaluation of the Queensland Community Conferencing Pilot", School of Justice Administration, Griffith University, July 1998. This showed that of young people conferenced in Queensland from 1 June 1996 to 9 March 1997,

seven out of 101 had reoffended (7%) (This calculation is based upon an unstandardised follow-up window, and so must be treated with caution).

The best available research on conferencing was published in March 2000. This New Zealand research compared 100 offenders after conferences to a matched court sample. Results showed less than a fifth of successful conference participants were reconvicted, compared to a third of those dealt with through Court. (Maxwell, G, Alison Morris and Tracey Anderson. Can Restorative Justice Reduce Reconviction and Costs. *Criminology: Aotearoa/New Zealand*. Newsletter from the Institute of Criminology, Victoria University of Wellington. March 2000 No 13). This compares to Department of Justice statistics, which indicate that 40% of juveniles who appear in court in Queensland reoffend.

### 833. Newcastle Disease

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (22/8/00)—

What was the cost to the Department of Primary Industries of the Newcastle disease outbreak and to the State Government as a whole?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (21/9/00): The Department of Primary Industries, representing the State Government as a whole, expended \$0.453M in 1998-99 and \$2.013M in 1999-2000 on Newcastle Disease Outbreaks in NSW.

These amounts exclude salary costs of full-time staff within the Queensland Department of Primary Industries that would normally have been paid.

Eleven flocks still remain infected with the disease. Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management is currently looking at how this destocking should be funded and may result in further expenditure by the Queensland Government.

### 834. Southport Spit, Aboriginal Cultural Centre

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (22/8/00)—

- (1) Why was the proposed site for the Aboriginal Cultural Centre on the Southport Spit relocated from the western to the eastern side of the spit?
- (2) Was this decision taken by the Department of Natural Resources or were other agencies involved?

**Mr WELFORD** (5/10/00):

(1) There are no formal agreements in existence regarding a proposal from the Kombumerri people for any site on the Spit or Gold Coast area to accommodate their proposed Cultural Centre. Officers representing the Department of State Development are currently exploring the possible siting of the Centre on the eastern side of the Spit with the native title claimants. Location of the Centre on the existing Park and Recreation Reserve No. R1101 would better facilitate future management

of the area with its possible rededication as an Environmental Reserve.

(2) The potential for this site to be the location of the Cultural Centre was discussed in the context of the Kombumerri people accepting a custodial role in managing the future Environmental Reserve. Taking part in these discussions were officers representing the Native Title Unit in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, my Department of Natural Resources and the Native Title claimants covering the Gold Coast.

### 835. TAFE Institutes, Transport Concessions

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/8/00)—

With reference to tertiary students attending Gold Coast as well as other Queensland Institutes of TAFE who experience serious financial difficulties because concessional fares for public transport are not available to them and, in addition, secondary school students who do receive concessional school travel fares are unable to utilise them outside the restricted hours of before and after school (unlike university students who can get a discount at any time by using their university bus passes) (22/8/00)—

- (1) Will he take steps to provide concessional bus and train fares to TAFE (tertiary) students, at the same level as are currently provided to university (tertiary) students?
- (2) Now that secondary studies have been broadened to include home study as well as TAFE and other off-campus courses, will he allow secondary school students the flexibility of unrestricted bus passes as are currently provided to university students?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (22/9/00): Successive State Government bus policy requires urban public transport operators in Queensland with Commercial Service Contracts to offer, inter alia, concessions to children at all times and secondary school students when attending school. Currently, there is no provision for assistance to be given to students attending TAFE, university or other such educational institutions. Concessions of this type that are presently provided by bus operators, are provided at their own discretion, and in full knowledge that the Government will not reimburse them for the revenue forgone.

Successive State Governments have also supported Queensland Rail offering concession fares on City train services to eligible post-secondary (tertiary) students. It should also be noted that no Commonwealth Government funding is made available to assist in the operation of urban bus services. In response to the two specific questions asked, the following is provided.

- (1) There are no current budget allocations to extend the eligibility of concession fares for students.
- (2) In terms of concessions for secondary school students, it is proposed that the present criteria for this category of student remain as 'students attending an approved secondary school full time, and either in school uniform or in possession of a current school ID.

**836. Property Offences**

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (22/8/00)—

- (1) What was the clear up rate of the 281,442 property offences reported in 1998-99?
- (2) What has been the clear up rate to date of the 302,877 property offences that were reported in 1999-2000?

**Mr BARTON** (21/9/00):

(1) The clear up rate for the fiscal year 1998-99 relating to reported Offences Against Property was 67,858 offences

(2) The clear up rate for the fiscal year 1999-2000 relating to reported Offences Against Property was 74,815

Please note that the statistics for the 1999-2000 financial year are to be considered preliminary and may be subject to change.

**837. South East Transit Project**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/8/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Transport Capital Statement for the South East Transit project and to the allocation for the Moreton region which has increased from \$127m last year to over \$206m this year—

What is the reason for this increase of almost \$80m in the Moreton region?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (22/9/00): For reasons already provided at the Estimates Committee hearing on 3 August 2000, an additional \$79m was allocated to the South East Transit project in this year's budget. However an error was made in regard to its allocation to the Moreton Region, as the entire South East Transit project lies fully within the Brisbane Region.

**838. TAFE**

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/8/00)—

Listed by each TAFE institute in Queensland, how many staff are there, how many staff are enrolled as students and how many staff have a current student number?

**Mr BRADY** (21/9/00): The TAFE Teachers' Award—State entitles all permanent teachers, principal teachers and tutors to a minimum period of ten days for the purpose of professional development. This is further strengthened by the 1997 TAFE Queensland Certified Agreement negotiated by the Borbidge/Sheldon government which extends access to ten days of professional development to include non-educational staff.

The current Student Fees and Charges Guidelines for TAFE, made effective from 13 November 1997 under the Borbidge/Sheldon government, allows Directors to approve staff to undertake such professional development in government funded

courses. The Director may approve for the course to attract no fees.

The attached table provides the number of staff for each institute and the number of staff enrolled as students.

The number of staff comprises permanent, temporary and casual employees recorded as active as of 25 August 2000.

The currency of a student number is determined by the currency of an enrolment. Therefore, the number of staff with a current student number is 1694.

It should be also noted that of 1694 staff enrolled in courses, a proportion of these staff have paid their own enrolment fees.

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

**839. Regional Forest Agreement, Cooroy**

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Premier (22/8/00)—

With reference to the impact of the SEQRFA which will occur in the community of Cooroy in the next few weeks and given the lack of response to questions about the Boral site to the Senior Officer In-charge of the RFA from the Cooroy and Hinterland Taskforce—

- (1) Has the Boral site agreement been signed?
- (2) When does the Government take over the site?
- (3) What equipment will be left on the Nandroya Road site?

**Mr BEATTIE** (21/9/00): The Government has been at great pains to consult with people about the South-East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement which will deliver a range of benefits, including:

- almost 500 new jobs in regional centres;
- a major expansion in the existing conservation reserve in the region;
- planting of over 10 million new trees by 2003 in collaboration with the private sector; and
- expansion of hardwood research, development and extension to ensure the success of the new hardwood plantation industry.

As a result of the Agreement, resource security has been provided to nearly all existing mills by means of 25 year sales permits at current levels. The success of the SEQRFA is demonstrated by the fact that as of 20 September 2000, 28 out of a total of 29 sales permits have been signed. The Government remains committed to the SEQRFA and funding its implementation.

Implementation of the SEQRFA is proceeding as a priority and includes the agreement with Boral in relation to the Nandroya site. The site agreement has been signed with the Government taking over the Nandroya sawmill site on 1 October 2000.

All existing sawmilling equipment will remain on the Nandroya site.

In addition, five sawmillers have formed the Queensland Forest Products Consortium. They have undertaken an assessment of the potential for a

cluster processing value-adding plant for the hardwood industry in South-East Queensland.

#### 840. Regional Forest Agreement, Cooroy

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (22/8/00)—

With reference to the impact of the SEQRA which will occur in the community of Cooroy in the next few weeks and given the lack of response to questions about the Boral site to the Senior Officer In-charge of the RFA from the Cooroy and Hinterland Taskforce—

- (1) Has the Boral site agreement been signed?
- (2) When does the Government take over the site?
- (3) What equipment will be left on the Nandroya Road site?

**Mr ELDER** (2/10/00):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Nandroya site on 1 October 2000.
- (3) All existing sawmilling equipment will remain on the Nandroya site.

#### 841. Arundel State School

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Education (22/8/00)—

With reference to the extremely serious overcrowding and strained facilities with demountable buildings perched precariously on better blocks at the Arundel State School on the Gold Coast—

When does the Education Department plan another school in the area and where is this school going to be located to best serve the fast growing population of this mushrooming suburb?

**Mr WELLS** (21/9/00): The department informs me that the requirement for a new school in the locality has been recognised. The site for a new Pacific Pines primary school has been acquired. It is proposed that the new school will be ready to open at the start of the 2002 school year. The department informs me that the establishment of this school will contribute to the relief of enrolments at Arundel State School.

The department informs me that the demountable building you referred to has been provided to the school as temporary accommodation while other modular classroom buildings are being constructed. Officers from Public Works were sent to the school as recently as last month to inspect these demountables to ensure that they had been placed safely on site. The report provided by Public Works stated that these air-conditioned temporary classrooms were located safely on site and according to standard construction practice for hire buildings.

Following completion of these modular classroom buildings at Arundel State School, the removal of the temporary building will be undertaken. It is anticipated that completion will be by the end of

Term 3 holidays. The newly completed modular classroom accommodation is expected to cater for future enrolments at Arundel State School.

#### 842. Cedar Creek and Woongoolba State Schools

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Education (22/8/00)—

With reference to the significant reduction in infrastructure spending in the current Education Budget—

- (1) Will he indicate when the already promised and now seemingly forgotten administration and associated staff amenities block be completed at the Cedar Creek Primary School?
- (2) Given local concerns of a possible health risk emerging at Woongoolba Primary School, will he confirm a date for completion of the new toilet block scheduled some time ago?

**Mr WELLS** (21/9/00): The department informs me that the upgrading of facilities at Cedar Creek State School remains a recognised need. However, this project was unable to be included in the current Capital Works Program after assessment against competing priorities. Work at Cedar Creek will, however, be considered during preparation of future Capital Works Programs.

Departmental officers estimate that the new amenities block for Woongoolba State School should be ready for the commencement of term two in 2001.

#### 843. Teacher Resources

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Education (22/8/00)—

With reference to a very high proportion of currently serving experienced teachers in Queensland's public schools who are eligible to retire between 2002 and 2005—

- (1) Does he have any forward predictions on how many experienced teachers in Queensland's public schools are eligible to retire between 2002 and 2005, and how many teachers fall into this category?
- (2) What strategy does he have in place to ensure the maintenance of a high standard of learning opportunities being delivered through Queensland's public schools during this period?

**Mr WELLS** (21/9/00):

- (1) Education Queensland is aware of the ageing nature of our teaching workforce and the developing trend in which increasing numbers of experienced teachers will move into an age group (55-65) from which they may elect to retire.

The department informs me that any forecasts on retirements for 2002 to 2005 are based on retirement propensities calculated from historical data (1981 to 1999) of teacher behaviours. Retirees will constitute only 1 to 2% of the overall workforce in these years. Education Queensland recruits over 2,000 new

teachers each year, which should mediate the effect of these projected retirement numbers.

(2) The high standard of teachers and educational opportunities offered by Queensland state schools is of the utmost importance. Education Queensland and the government will continue to work on a strategy to ensure that this high standard is maintained. The department inform me that this strategy will in part, be managed through active recruitment and selection campaigns that target the best graduates from preservice education programs, as well as ongoing mentoring, induction and professional development programs for new teachers in the employ of Education Queensland.

#### 844. Southport Spit, Crown Land

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (22/8/00)—

- (1) Will he provide details of his department's involvement in the future use of Crown land on the Southport Spit?
- (2) Have discussions been held between his department and other departments in respect of the use of such land; if so, what agencies have been involved?

**Mr ELDER** (22/9/00):

1. My Department is involved with a number of private sector parties advancing various tourism related development proposals for areas of State land on the Southport Spit.
2. These discussions have involved the Departments of the Premier and Cabinet and Natural Resources.

#### 845. Southport Spit, Crown Land

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (22/8/00)—

With reference to remaining areas of Crown land on the Southport Spit—

- (1) Will the Government honour the long standing policy of no development north and east of seaward and what is proposed for those vacant areas south of Sea World?
- (2) Are any development proposals currently under consideration; if so, for what areas and by whom have they been submitted?
- (3) Will he give an assurance that public tenders will be called for any land to be released by the Government for development purposes and that such projects will be required to comply with the town planning requirements of the Gold Coast City Council?

**Mr WELFORD** (5/10/00):

- (1) My Department of Natural Resources is not actively seeking any developments north or east of Seaworld. The only discussions currently occurring are between officers representing the Department of State Development and the native title claimants for State land on the Gold Coast, regarding the possible

siting of an Aboriginal Cultural Centre on the former Horizon Tank site opposite Seaworld. These discussions are in the context of exploring custodial management by the Kombumerri people of the future Environment Reserve on the eastern side of Seaworld. Once the native title issues are resolved on the Spit for areas south of Seaworld, their future development will then be considered.

(2) Currently there are only two "Applications for Tenure" under consideration by my Department of Natural Resources for land on the Spit. One is for the Southport Yacht Club to consolidate their existing site into a single lease, and a new lease by Seaworld for the land south of their current site. A determination on these applications will not be made until all issues surrounding the native title claim over the Spit are resolved.

(3) My Department is required to ensure that the State and the public interest is protected in all commercial transactions, while maximising the financial return from the use of State land, in line with its most appropriate use. Under current departmental policy, there are three options that can be considered in any tenure application for the Spit— auction, tender or priority dealing.

Any application for development of land on the Spit will require planning assessment under the Integrated Development Assessment System by Gold Coast City Council, as the assessment manager. The assessment would be based on the current planning scheme in force for Gold Coast City at the time of lodgement of the application.

#### 846. First Home Owners Grant

**Mr LAMING** asked the Treasurer (22/8/00)—

How many applications for the First Home Owner's Grant have been (a) received and (b) approved during the month of July in Queensland?

**Mr HAMILL** (21/9/00): In July 2000, 2,045 applications for the First Home Owner Grant were received in Queensland. 1,733 of these were approved for payment.

#### 847. Education Capital Works Program; Q-Build

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (22/8/00)—

With reference to the capital works program (including maintenance) of Education Queensland—

Is it the case that Q-Build has the first right of acceptance or refusal on all work undertaken by or on behalf of his department; if not, to what extent is Q-Build involved in the capital works program?

**Mr WELLS** (21/9/00): Q-Build provides a service to schools that ensures quality and guarantees obligations are met. For smaller schools in remote parts of the state, in particular, Q-Build play an important role in school maintenance. Q-Build is held in high regard by this government, for the work it carries out and the employment opportunities it affords Queenslanders.

The department informs me that under longstanding government policy Q-Build is the supplier of

maintenance services to government agencies. A significant proportion of this work is contracted out to private sector service suppliers. I am informed that Q-Build delivers approximately 50% of the Capital Works Program on an uncontested basis but with reference to market pricing.

#### 848. Teacher Resources

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Education (22/8/00)—

What were the estimated FTE staffing levels for all teachers by education output (eg. pre-school, primary, secondary, special, distance, others) and district at 31 July 2000 (please include TRS numbers, teachers being paid from both State and Commonwealth funding sources and long service leave numbers)?

**Mr WELLS** (5/10/00): The department informs me that the following notes have been provided in relation to understanding the information provided on teacher full-time equivalents (FTEs)

(1) The estimated FTE staffing levels provided below are point-in-time counts of teachers paid via the department's Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) for the payment fortnight ending Sunday 30 July 2000.

(2) The estimated FTE staffing levels provided as at 30 June 2000 were point-in-time counts of teachers paid via the department's HRMIS for the payment fortnight ending Sunday 18 June 2000.

(3) Comparisons of point-in-time data on the number of teachers paid must recognise the impact of a range of factors. These factors include variations in the levels of temporary and casual employment and payment, variations in the number of teachers on paid leave, and the impact of school vacation periods on both employment trends and payment processing.

(4) The estimated count as at 30 July 2000 reflects a decrease in the estimated count as at 18 June 2000 to the extent of 1,029 FTEs. The point-in-time count of permanent and temporary teachers in fact increased by 372 FTEs, while the count of TRS casual teachers decreased by 1,393 FTEs and the central office count decreased by 8 FTEs. This is due to the timing of the count, in that the count was taken in the fortnight following the Winter school vacation period and few TRS casual teachers had both claimed and received payment in that fortnight.

(5) The teacher numbers provided include a count of casual TRS teachers, teachers being paid from both State and Commonwealth funding sources and long service leave numbers.

(6) The teacher numbers for Special Needs include teachers of students with disabilities and schools of distance education.

(7) The teacher numbers for Central Office represent teachers performing statewide services.

#### 849. Gaming Machines

**Mr HEALY** asked the Treasurer (22/8/00)—

With reference to annual estimates of gaming machine revenue produced by the Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation (QOGR) and to frequent QOGR revisions of those estimates—

(1) What was the actual State Government revenue from gaming machines in 1999-2000?

(2) How did that figure compare with the estimates produced by the QOGR at the beginning of 1999-2000 and mid-way through 1999-2000?

(3) What is the QOGR's estimated revenue from gaming machines for 2000-01?

**Mr HAMILL** (21/9/00): The Honourable Member should refer to published Budget Papers for the information requested in (1), (2) and (3), noting that the mid year 1999-2000 Budget forecast was consistent with the original 1999-2000 Budget forecast.

#### 850. Drought Declarations

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (22/8/00)—

(1) How many applications for independent drought declarations has his department received from property owners since 1 January 2000 to date and how many independent declarations has his department declined over the same period?

(2) What were the reasons given to property owners for his department's decline of the declarations?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (21/9/00):

(1) As at 31 August 2000 there were one hundred and twenty-seven (127) Individually Droughted Properties (IDP) in eighteen shires across the State. The Department of Primary Industries has received one hundred and nineteen IDP applications since 1 January 2000. To date fifty of these applications have been approved with some awaiting assessment.

(2) As agreed by industry and government in 1992, the primary trigger for an IDP declaration is that the current rainfall deficiency must be equivalent to a one in ten to fifteen event. Rainfall and pasture growth during the previous two summer seasons is also considered as an indicator of effective rainfall. The other criteria that must be fulfilled prior to granting of an IDP include:

Pasture condition and availability of surface and underground water;

Stock condition and reduction in numbers of livestock above normal turn-off;

The stocking rate of the property compared to the district average; and

The amount of drought feeding being undertaken.

In accordance with the industry agreed policy, applications for Individually Droughted Property (IDP) declarations are assessed by the Local Stock Inspector in consultation with members of the Local Drought Committee.

In accordance with the current drought policy agreed to by industry and government in 1991 producers must have exhibited self-reliance in managing their business enterprise to be eligible for drought assistance. Self-reliance forms the basis for State and National drought policy. In the recent review of Queensland's drought policy the majority of respondents agreed that the theory of self-reliance should continue to form the basis of the State's drought policy.

### 851. Government Architect

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (22/8/00)—

With reference to the recently appointed Government Architect, Professor Michael Keniger—

What are the terms and conditions of his employment (including days worked per week, remuneration and any other benefits)?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/9/00): Professor Michael Keniger is appointed on a fixed term contract. Professor Keniger works on a one day per week basis which equates to a salary of \$20,000 per annum. Benefits associated with the position include standard leave entitlements and statutory superannuation requirements.

### 852. Electoral Fraud

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Premier (22/8/00)—

Will he detail the ALP rule changes that he recommended to the ALP National Conference relating to amendments to make electoral fraud "impossible", that he referred to during Question Time on 22 August 2000?

**Mr BEATTIE** (21/9/00): I have always made it clear that this Government is committed to being honest and accountable. Unlike the Coalition Government, which wasted \$14.5 million of taxpayers' money in a bid to cover up its wrongdoing in its Memorandum of Understanding with the Police Union, we will tackle rotting head on.

In this context I told Parliament on August 22, 2000, that there was only one political party in this country which had not tidied up its rules—the Liberal Party. I went on to say that I would have no crooks in my party, that I would not tolerate anyone who breaks the law, and that Karen Ehrmann was now in jail where she should be.

I said that changes to the rules of the Labor Party which I had insisted on made it impossible for that behaviour to happen again.

Changes to the ALP rules of the Party in this context include:

1997 Conference—"12 months membership, roll cut-off 31 March, no 'back dating' of registration, introduction of tamper proof envelopes and witnessing provision tightened"

Rules changed:

Rule 14.14 "Branch Registration"

Codifying of Administrative Committee powers to not include ability to 'backdate' registration.

Rule 30.01 "Eligibility to Vote in Plebiscites or Postal Ballots"

Change from 6 months membership to 12 months membership.

No longer where enrolled at time of opening of nominations or shown on an enrolment card, but rather at the 31 March in the year of nominations being opened.

Roll kept electronically at Party Office and available to be inspected by candidates and scrutineers.

Rule 30.32, 30.33, 30.47 & 30.48 "Postal Voting"

Introduction of tamper proof envelopes for postal voting.

Introduction of witnessing provisions for the tear-off slip accompanying postal votes.

Witnessing required on return tear-off slips accompanying ballot material. Ballots impounded if witness details not present or challenged.

1998 Conference—"Tightening of twelve month rule—removal of transitional rules".

Rules changed:

Rule 30.01 'Qualifications'.

New Members at 9th June 1997 removed, completing 12 month rule.

1999 Conference—"Stack Brake"

Rules changed:

Rule 14.12 'No more than 5 members'.

No more than 5 members shall be registered at a branch meeting at any one time with Administrative Committee approval.

Rule 19.17 'Only one meeting a month'

Branches to meet no more than once a month or less frequently as approved by Administrative Committee.

Rule 19.19 'Special Meetings'

Special meetings cannot consider new members applications.

2000 Conference—"Membership/Registration tied to Administrative Committee".

Rules changed:

Changes to Rule 14.11, 14.12, 14.13, 14.14, 14.15, 14.16, 14.17, 14.29.

Changes to clarify party membership and registration rules to tie dates of eligibility to Administrative Committee dates.

Changes to Rule 31 'Conduct of Plebiscites'.

Changes to further simplify and codify processes.

2000 National Conference—"National Membership Rule".

Rules changed: New Rule 16 'Membership Retirement'.

### 853. Community Jobs Plan

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Premier (22/8/00)—

With reference to responses to several recent questions on notice (including Question on Notice No. 262) in which his employment Minister has indicated that despite his Government having full control over public sector traineeship employment, only 88 15 to 16 year-old school leavers have been employed as public sector trainees and the Minister's indication that 50.7 per cent of total participants completing Community Jobs Plan projects return to being unemployed at the conclusion of the project in which they participated—

How can reasonable Queenslanders interpret these figures relating to those hardest hit by unemployment in any other way than as an indication that his Government has now given up on its promise of jobs, jobs, jobs?

**Mr BEATTIE** (21/9/00): Due to retention rates in high schools, most applicants seeking traineeships in the public sector are 17 years of age and over. A review of the recruitment patterns between October 1998 and August 2000 of the Public Sector Employment initiative has shown that approximately 54.4% (3,089) of public sector traineeships have gone to persons below the age of 21 and a further 13.8% (784) to applicants below 25 years of age.

With 68.2% of traineeships in the public sector going to young people, this clearly demonstrates the positive impact that this initiative is having on Queensland's youth.

In regard to Community Jobs Plan participants, they are either long term unemployed or severely disadvantaged in the labour market. When this is taken into account, the fact that almost half of those participants have gone on to sustainable employment after the completion of projects is an excellent result. Similar labour market programs mounted by the Commonwealth Government and other Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries have only achieved a 30% outcome for participants.

It is therefore hypocritical for the Opposition to criticise this Government for not achieving job outcomes for 50% of participants under the Community Jobs Plan. Community Jobs Plan projects have given these people the prospect to learn new skills and become more competitive in the labour market. If it were up to the Opposition, none of these opportunities would exist.

Finally, the fact that this Government has created 22,300 more jobs than the Borbidge Government proves that we have succeeded in our commitment to create jobs, jobs, jobs.

### 854. Special Emergency Response Team

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (22/8/00)—

- (1) Is he aware that the highly trained SERT team was removed from Rockhampton in 1995?
- (2) Is he aware that this unit monitored and engaged in drug surveillance?
- (3) In view of the recent tragic shooting of Senior Constable Norman Watt while on duty, will he urgently restore this team to Rockhampton so that there is a unit of specially trained police personnel because there is no SERT presence between Cairns and Brisbane?

**Mr BARTON** (21/9/00):

(1) Yes I am aware of the removal of the SERT team from Rockhampton in 1995. The Queensland Police Service, Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) is currently located in Brisbane and Cairns. Queensland is the only decentralised Police Tactical Group in Australia.

The decision to decentralise Queensland SERT was taken in response to the geographical expanse of Queensland. The strategic location of SERT units in Brisbane and Cairns coincides with the location of a police airwing aircraft, enabling a timely response to incidents outside of Brisbane and Cairns.

(2) While SERT officers do engage in drug surveillance upon request, this is not their primary role. The mission of SERT is to provide a specialist service to the community and support police operations by the attainment of a high level of expertise and professionalism in counter terrorism and associated tactical skills, land search and rescue, and high angle rescue requiring specialist recovery.

SERT officers are tasked to respond to terrorist incidents within the arrangements agreed to under the National Antiterrorist Plan and provide a specialist police capability to resolve incidents which are potentially violent and exceed normal police capabilities.

(3) In order to provide a safe and effective tactical response to an incident, sufficient SERT officers are rostered on call to deal with any contingencies that may arise. With both SERT officers and airwing pilots being placed on call, SERT has been able to respond in a very timely manner to incidents within the Central Region when required. On one such occasion, SERT was able to arrive in Mackay and take control of an incident within 2.5 hours of deployment.

The training that SERT members must undertake is both specialist and complex in nature, requiring sufficient officers present in each training activity to achieve training outcomes. I am advised that a small unit cannot achieve skills maintenance requirements for some specialist skills. Small numbers also provide difficulties from a workplace health and safety perspective where minimum student to instructor ratios must be adhered to.

The availability and accessibility of the police airwing aircraft dictates the optimum location of SERT officers in providing an effective solution to managing high risk incidents.



SERT is primarily reactive in nature and the response of the unit is reliant upon the timely receipt of a request for assistance from regional police.

#### 855. Queensland Health, Home Help

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (22/8/00)—

Is any funding currently available through Queensland Health for home help assistance to be provided for post acute care patients following release from hospital (whether its private or public); if so, how can patients access that funding, who is eligible and how much funding was provided in 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (21/9/00):

The question consists of three (3) discrete issues in relation to post acute care, each of which will be responded to separately as follows:

- (a) Is any funding currently available through Queensland Health for home help assistance to be provided for post acute care patients following release from hospital (whether it's private or public)?

Queensland Health currently provides funding for home help assistance for eligible post acute patients following discharge from hospital.

- (b) How can patients access that funding and who is eligible?

During a patient's stay in hospital, attending clinicians have a responsibility to assess, plan for, and coordinate the discharge of patients who may need further care and/or support following hospitalisation.

Discharge planning commences during the assessment and planning phase of a patient's care, with patients provided information about their procedure and/or treatment options, or any special instructions relevant to their particular condition. Patients are asked about their home situation and whether they have any special needs following discharge from hospital.

Eligibility for post acute services is based on criteria such as:

- assessed clinical need;
- assessed individual need; and
- resource availability.

- (c) How much funding was provided in 1999-2000?

State Post Acute Program funding in 1999/00 was \$2.3 million. As well, Health Service Districts are contributing increasing amounts from within their own operating budgets to sustain their post acute services.

This program was one of several defunded by the Commonwealth Government in 1997 that has had to be picked up by the States.

#### 856. Registration of Political Parties

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (22/8/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Electoral Commission's indication that it is responsible for the registration of political parties and given that Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party has been found to be fraudulently registered by the Supreme Court—

What processes has the Queensland Electoral Commission put in place to avoid replication of similar applications to fraudulently register political parties in the future?

**Mr FOLEY** (18/9/00): The Electoral Act 1992 requires an application for registration of a party, which is not a Queensland parliamentary party, to set out the names and addresses of 500 members of the party who are electors. The Electoral Commissioner will in future contact all 500 persons listed as members of a political party seeking registration to confirm their membership of that party, instead of 250 as was done in processing the application by the political party named in the question. To assist the Electoral Commissioner to confirm that persons are not mistaken as to whether they are members of a political party and not merely of an associated entity, I have asked him to advise me as to whether any information or document should be "prescribed" under subsection 70(4)(g) of the Electoral Act 1992. Section 70 of the Act deals with the requirements for registration of a political party. "Prescription" of additional information or documentation would necessitate the making of a regulation.

#### 857. Mental Health Assessment, Magistrates Court

**Mr COOPER** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (22/8/00)—

Why, when a Stipendiary Magistrate had made an order for an alleged offender to be remanded to a correctional centre for the purposes of a mental health assessment, was this assessment not carried out before the matter was heard by another Magistrate and decision made on the case?

**Mr FOLEY** (18/9/00): It is not clear to which case this question refers or whether the question refers to an alleged failure by the Department of Corrective Services to act in accordance with a court order or about the appropriateness of orders made by a court. However, I am not the Minister responsible for corrective services and, in accordance with the separation of powers, the courts do not answer to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice for their decisions. The Parliament has provided rights of appeal as it considers appropriate in respect of those decisions.

#### 858. Maroochydore Fire Station, Staffing

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/8/00)—

With reference to an incident on the weekend of 20 August 2000 at Maroochydore where the rostered minimum number of staff at the fire station was unable to be met due to one staff member calling in sick and the fact that a person on light duties with an injury stepped in to fill the shortfall—

Will he investigate the impact of the cap on replacements being called in which is resulting in this practice occurring and will he rectify it to ensure minimum staffing levels of fit and able workers are maintained for safety purposes?

**Mr ROBERTSON (21/9/00):** The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority is committed to continually improving its service delivery to the community. Nowhere is this more evident than on the Sunshine Coast, which has seen significant staff increases in the last 12 months. New stations have been constructed at Caloundra, Cooroy and Maroochydore. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority staff on the Sunshine Coast pride themselves on their proactive approach to fire prevention. Many statewide initiatives such as Fight Fire Fascination and Operation Safehome originated on the Sunshine Coast. As a part of this continuous improvement in service delivery, the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority has recently undertaken to roster one officer and three firefighters at all career staffed stations in the North Coast Region. In addition to rostering for 1 + 3 at these stations, which includes Maroochydore, the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority has undertaken to maintain this crewing level for up to seven absences per month at each station. Absences may be due to sick leave and similar occurrences. After the seven replacements have been utilised, the crewing level reverts to the previous minimum of 1 officer and 2 firefighters for the remainder of that month. The occasion you refer to occurred at Maroochydore Station on the morning of 20 August. The officer in charge, on arriving at work, was advised that one of two firefighters was on light duties due to a work related injury. The officer then rang the Area Director and advised him of the situation. The Area Director immediately instructed the officer to bring in an additional firefighter to maintain the minimum crew level, and a replacement for the injured firefighter was organised for the remainder of his light duties period. The Maroochydore community can be content in the knowledge that Maroochydore Station has increased the number of crew rostered on duty. Auxiliary firefighting crews at Buderim Station, as well as career staff at Nambour, are ready to respond to incidents in Maroochydore. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority is rightfully proud of its improved service delivery and will strive to continue with this improvement.

#### 859. Mental Health Services

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Health (22/8/00)—

What procedures are in place to ensure that mental health consumers make the transition from child and adolescent mental health services to adult mental health services with no loss of support?

**Mrs EDMOND (21/9/00):** In Queensland Health, Integrated District Mental Health Services incorporate a range of acute inpatient and community mental health services for Adults, Children and Young People. This structure has been designed to facilitate access to the full range of mental health services through a single process of entry. Mental

health service delivery is provided by multidisciplinary teams to ensure the appropriate mix of skills to address the complex needs of clients.

The implementation of the National Standards for Mental Health Services requires that all clients of Queensland Health Mental Health Services have an individual treatment plan which identifies actions to address consumer needs and, which may also relate to services provided by other organisations. The treatment plan is reviewed by the treating team at least once every three months and more frequently where necessary.

If it is considered that a young person, who is a client of the Child and Youth Mental Health Service, will require ongoing mental health care into adulthood, the person will be transferred to the adult arm of the Mental Health Service. This transition is usually begun well before the client's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The cut-off age is not rigidly applied, with the actual transition being negotiated at a time that is in the best interests of the client.

#### 860. State Emergency Service, Review

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (22/8/00)—

With reference to his response to the Estimates debate question regarding the State Emergency Service funding review conducted by the Department of Emergency Services and, in particular, to his response that there was a report but it was not a public document "at this point in time"—

- (1) Who wrote the report?
- (2) What consultation was undertaken with individuals and organisations outside the department?
- (3) Apart from departmental officers and ministerial staff, who else has been given access to all or part of the report?
- (4) If the report is not a public document "at this point in time", when will it become available?

**Mr ROBERTSON (21/9/00):**

- (1) The Funding Review was written by the Department of Emergency Services.
- (2) Consultation was undertaken with other departments and key stakeholders.
- (3) The Review was submitted to State Cabinet.
- (4) As this is a Cabinet document the normal provisions relating to Cabinet documents applies.

#### 861. Central Queensland Police District, Budget

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (22/8/00)—

Will he advise for both the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 budget periods, whether the Central Queensland Police District was, at the conclusion of those budget periods, in deficit or surplus and to what extent and what amount was allocated to the central

Queensland district as a special purpose "top up" for the drain on resources during the Gordonstone Mine dispute?

**Mr BARTON** (21/9/00): The Central Police Region experienced a budget deficit of \$150,000 and \$250,000 for the financial years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 respectively.

The Central Police Region received a budget adjustment of \$200,000 in April 1999 as a result of the Gordonstone Mine dispute.

### 862. Freshcare

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (22/8/00)—

With reference to Freshcare—

- (1) Why are all fruit and vegetables now being categorised as medium risk?
- (2) What are the statistics of illness occurring from consumption of Australian grown fresh fruit and vegetables?
- (3) Does the national Regulatory Authority carry out Minimum Residue Levels (MRL) testing on fruit grown in Australia; if so, will he provide me with the results for the past two years?
- (4) As Freshcare say they want to achieve a 99.9 per cent safety record of fresh fruit and vegetables, what is the present safety record for Australian fresh fruit and vegetables?
- (5) What testing procedures (eg Microbe and MRL) are conducted on fruit and vegetables imported into Australia?
- (6) Are these tests recorded on each consignment?
- (7) How often do tests occur?
- (8) What results are achieved?
- (9) Will he provide me with copies of these results?
- (10) What organisations are pushing for the implementation of Freshcare and why?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (21/9/00): Freshcare is a national on-farm food safety program for the Australian fresh produce industry. It is a quality management program that is organised by industry bodies and is totally independent of the Queensland Government.

I am advised that the current members of Freshcare are: Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers, the Australian Banana Growers' Council, the Australian Vegetable and Potato Growers' Federation (Ausveg), the Australian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, the Australian United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, the Australian Apple and Pear Growers' Association, the Australian Avocado Growers' Federation, the Australian Passionfruit Industry Association, and the Australian Mushroom Growers' Association.

Answers to your specific questions should therefore be directed to the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers, who are members of Freshcare.

The Department of Primary Industries has supported the aims of the Freshcare program and, I am advised

that it has conducted a one-day training course for 1,500 growers since March 1999.

### 863. Specialist Teacher Resources

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Education (22/8/00)—

With reference to ongoing problems with the growing numbers of students exhibiting learning difficulties and the inadequate number of specialist teachers in the State school system to cope—

- (1) Is he aware that in the Shailer Park Primary School in my electorate there is a Grade 5 class of which 7 of the 32 students have learning difficulties?
- (2) What is the criteria, if any, in relation to class sizes where there are children with diagnosed learning disabilities?
- (3) What target has he set to provide greater support to classroom teachers with students with diagnosed learning disabilities?
- (4) Will he undertake to evaluate the desirability of grouping children with diagnosed learning disabilities into special classes within schools, or clusters, to ensure they receive maximum personal attention and provide a conducive learning environment for the remaining students?

**Mr WELLS** (21/9/00):

1. The department informs me that they are not specifically aware of that particular class at Shailer Park State School.

2. Under school based management additional resources are provided to schools to give extra flexibility to school communities to allocate resources in response to identified local needs. The department informs me that class sizes in relation to students with learning difficulties and learning disabilities are determined by the Principal of each school within the parameters set by industrial agreements.

3. A package of \$132m over four years (2000-2003) will be provided to employ an additional 800 teachers in schools for the purposes of class size reductions, students with special needs and behaviour management strategies. These additional resources will provide for increased numbers of teachers who will support, among other things, students with special needs, including those with learning difficulties and learning disabilities. The allocation of the additional 800 teachers will be undertaken through a consultation process established through the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

4. The emphasis is on approaches which minimise the effects of the students' processing difficulties and which allow them to be able to access the same educational outcomes as that of their peers. The department informs me that placing students with Learning Disabilities in special classes within schools or clusters has been an option undertaken over many years. Some districts, in consultation with Principals, have funded separate Learning Disability classes from local Support Teacher: Learning Difficulties

resource allocation, but this is only one option amongst many.

#### **864. Families, Youth and Community Care, Child Abuse**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (23/8/00)—

With reference to previous Questions on Notice in May, June and July 2000 concerning an Aboriginal foster carer and alleged child abuse and neglect and a comprehensive report containing allegations of rape, incest and sexual molestation which is now in the hands of the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

- (1) Why have the young female children named within this file remained in the care of the adult persons also named in the report?
- (2) After allegations of child abuse, neglect and suspected sexual abuse were placed before senior officers of Department of Families Youth and Community Care (DFYCC) at a meeting in February/March 2000, why wasn't action taken to remove the children from these circumstances?
- (3) Why did DFYCC officers refuse to give permission for a three-year-old female child who is a ward of the State to be examined by a medical practitioner in an attempt to confirm or deny the sexual abuse allegations?
- (4) After the allegations of sexual abuse were detailed to DFYCC officers and graphic details of a foul stench emanating from the child from a vaginal infection was described, why was it considered by DFYCC officers to be unnecessary to have the child medically examined?

**Ms BLIGH** (22/9/00): I refer the Honourable Member to my previous answers to questions on this matter.

#### **865. Dairy Industry**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (23/8/00)—

With reference to the milk entitlements scheme that existed prior to the deregulation of the dairy industry—

- (1) Does he agree that milk entitlements on which "quota" was allocated to dairy farmers was a statutory scheme administered by a milk entitlements committee?
- (2) Does he agree that the milk entitlements committee commenced the monetary trade in these entitlements?
- (3) Why does the Government continue to believe that it has no obligation to compensate dairy farmers for milk entitlements that were commenced by a statutory body?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (21/9/00):

- (1) At one stage yes. The Milk Entitlements Committee ceased in 1989.
- (2) Trade in entitlements commenced in 1988 following legislative amendments at which time the milk entitlements committee was in place.
- (3) The Government's advice is that there is no obligation to provide compensation for the repeal of milk entitlements.

#### **866. Families, Youth and Community Care, Child Abuse**

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (23/8/00)—

With reference to an interview by investigating officers of the Criminal Justice Commission of an Aboriginal foster carer in Hervey Bay on Thursday, 17 August 2000 in regard to her allegations of sexual abuse and neglect of a three-year-old ward of the State and who requested that she be placed under the protection of the Criminal Justice Commission as a whistle blower and detailed a serious assault previously perpetrated upon her by a person named in the allegations previously detailed to the Minister. The foster carer was guaranteed protection as a whistle blower and was removed from Hervey Bay on Tuesday 22 August 2000 along with two children in her care but as no Government housing was available to offer to the witness, she has been placed in temporary accommodation—

- (1) As Department of Families, Youth and Community Care officers failed to act to protect the three-year-old ward of the State named in the abuse allegations, will she now act to provide long term secure accommodation for this foster carer who is now in flight for the sake of her and children's welfare and safety?
- (2) As the mother of the three-year-old ward of the State has also now come forward and reinforced the foster carer's allegations, will she now act to provide long term secure accommodation for the Aboriginal mother and her children, as fears for the safety and welfare of the Aboriginal mother and her children now exist and are well founded?

**Ms BLIGH** (22/9/00): The Criminal Justice Commission has completed an independent investigation into these matters and has found that there is insufficient evidence to reasonably raise a suspicion of official misconduct on the part of any departmental officer in relation to these allegations. Issues relating to witness protection are appropriately dealt with by the Commission. The Commission has confirmed that there was no evidence that the person concerned was in any danger, or was being harassed, as a result of the assistance that she has provided.

#### **867. Wunjunga Boat Ramp, Consultancy**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (23/8/00)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 428 of 18 May 2000 in which I made claims that the proponent of the proposed Wunjunga boat ramp facility was Queensland Transport and his brief response in saying that the new boating facility at Wunjunga was a joint undertaking between Queensland Transport and the Burdekin Shire Council and to further evidence which has shown the council has never taken a joint undertaking between themselves and Queensland Transport regarding this boat ramp facility but has only agreed to \$5,000 towards the cost of road design. The council has never put forward a submission for a boat ramp at Wunjunga, however it is actually the Wunjunga residents who lobbied Queensland Transport into agreeing to build a boat ramp and therefore, the sole proponent of this proposed boat ramp is Queensland Transport as admitted by the Premier on another question—

- (1) Does he now agree in light of this new evidence that Queensland Transport is the proponent of the entire project which includes cost of road, car park facilities, cultural heritage, boat ramp and any other associated studies?
- (2) Is he prepared to meet the costs of the entire project and when will Queensland Transport submit the appropriate material change of use application incorporating the boat ramp and associated facilities?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (22/9/00):

(1) No, Burdekin Shire Council was aware in 1992 that Queensland Transport would only fund the boat ramp if the Council committed to provide the road access. For your information, the Council did submit a request to Queensland Transport for a new facility at Wunjunga, which is why funding to this particular project was allocated.

(2) Queensland Transport provides the funds for the actual ramp if the local government for its part funds and builds the access road, the parking and manoeuvring area, and any services such as refuse collection, toilets etc.

The Government has played its part in facilitating this project and as you would be aware funding for the ramp has already been carried over in Queensland Transport budgets for the last few years to allow the Council to commit to and progress the planning for the road access.

#### **868. Local Government Electoral Arrangements Review**

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (23/8/00)—

With reference to the release of the Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements in the Local Government Act 1993 which was distributed by his department—

Will he provide all names and addresses of the following organisations to which the discussion paper has been distributed to date (a) peak bodies, (b) other organisations with an interest in the local government area and (c) individuals who have requested copies?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (18/9/00): The discussion paper has had a wide distribution since its release in July. Copies have been distributed as follows:

Organisation—No. of Copies  
 Local governments in Queensland—257  
 Members of the Legislative Assembly—94  
 Parliament House—21  
 Registered political parties in Queensland—16  
 Government Departments—41  
 Statutory Deposit Libraries—3  
 Local Government Association of Queensland—5  
 Institute of Municipal Management—3  
 Electoral Commission Queensland—7  
 Australian Electoral Commission—2  
 Interstate Local Government Departments—8  
 Private individuals—7  
 TOTAL—464

In addition, the paper is available on the Internet through the website operated by the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport.

The names and addresses of private individuals are not provided, as it would breach their privacy and to publish their names in Hansard would not advance the public interest.

#### **869. Employment Training and Industrial Relations Department, Registration Approvals**

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (23/8/00)—

In the time that has elapsed since VETEC was established, how many registered training organisations have been deregistered by VETEC each year?

**Mr BRADY** (22/9/00):

Year—Number of Registered Training Organisations Deregistered by VETEC

1991—NIL  
 1992—NIL  
 1993—NIL  
 1994—NIL  
 1995—NIL  
 1996—NIL  
 1997—NIL  
 1998—3  
 1999—4  
 2000—4

#### **870. Helensvale Community Health Centre**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Health (23/8/00)—

Since the establishment of the Helensvale Community Health Centre is a given, will she give this community her unequivocal guarantee that no

needle exchange program will operate from these or any other premises within this community?

**Mrs EDMOND** (22/9/00): The service profile for the new Helensvale Community Health Centre (which is planned for completion in the first half of 2001) does not include a Needle Availability and Support Program and there are no plans to provide this service from any other venue in Helensvale.

#### 871. Brisbane TAFE Institute

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (23/8/00)—

With reference to the Brisbane Institute of TAFE (a) how many staff were employed by this institute in 1999, (b) how many of these staff were enrolled in the subject CNCAB011 during 1999, (c) how much were staff members required to pay to enrol in this course and (d) how many staff did actually pay to enrol in this subject?

**Mr BRADY** (22/9/00): The opposition at the Estimates Committee hearing for the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations raised allegations in relation to Brisbane Institute of TAFE staff being enrolled in courses.

These allegations have been referred to the Criminal Justice Commission and it has been agreed that the Department would instigate an external review that is now under way. This review includes an analysis of enrolment practices for staff at Brisbane Institute in relation to the course CNCAB011. The review will be completed in the near future with the report to be presented to the Commission. Parliament will be advised of the outcomes of the review.

It is noted a review of student fees and charges was undertaken in 1997 under the Borbidge/Sheldon government. As a result of the review, the current Student Fees and Charges Guidelines for TAFE were made effective from 13 November 1997. These guidelines allow Directors to approve staff to undertake professional development in government funded programs and for that program to attract no fees.

#### 872. Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (23/8/00)—

With reference to the \$35m equity injection from the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund to the Department of Housing in 2000-01, what is the intended purpose of this payment?

**Ms SPENCE** (25/9/00): The Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971 makes provision at section 114(4)(b)(ii)(C) for the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund to be applied, as with previous transfers from the Fund, to housing assistance.

It is on this basis that \$35M is being transferred to the Department of Housing in 2000-01.

#### 873. Sunshine Beach State High School

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Education (23/8/00)—

- (1) When is construction proposed to commence on the new music block at Sunshine Beach High School in the electorate of Noosa?
- (2) When is construction expected to be completed?
- (3) Will he give an assurance that this facility will be completed in time for the commencement of the 2001 school year?

**Mr WELLS** (22/9/00): The department informs me that construction on the new Music Block at the Sunshine Beach High School is expected to start in mid October, and given that there are no unforeseen delays, the project should be completed by the end of January 2001 in time for the start of the new school year.

#### 874. WorkCover Premiums

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (23/8/00)—

With reference to Workcover premiums which have now moved to an experience based rating and as a claim for workers' compensation does not in itself prove an employer contributed to the event causing injury until the case is heard—

Why is a higher premium levied from the time the action commences and not when an employer's liability has been established in Court?

**Mr BRADY** (22/9/00): WorkCover Queensland advise that common law claims can take many years to develop. WorkCover has to use estimates for the quantum of settlement when it calculates an employer's yearly premium. The determination of the estimate is done in conjunction with the solicitors acting for WorkCover and with representatives of the employer, if the employer so desires.

In May this year WorkCover's Chairman, Mr Ian Brusasco AM, and I announced changes to WorkCover's experience based rating system following a review. The review was conducted by WorkCover in conjunction with industry representatives.

The recommendations of the review were endorsed by prominent businessman and Queensland Investment Corporation Chairman Mr Jim Kennedy AO CBE, who reviewed the workers' compensation system in 1996 and recommended the introduction of the experience based rating system. The experience based rating system was subsequently implemented in legislation introduced by the Coalition Government in 1996.

One of the significant outcomes of the review is the adjustment of premiums to reflect the total aggregate cost of common law claims following settlement. WorkCover will now adjust the premium payable at the same time as annual policy renewal, if there is a 15 per cent variance in the settlement amount and WorkCover's estimate.

In addition, I am advised that WorkCover has introduced an industry rate premium cap to protect employers facing sudden increases in their premiums. WorkCover will now cap an employer's premium rate for two years if it reaches twice the industry rate.

These changes should reduce the volatility of premium rate changes as a result of the impact of large common law claims, creating more certainty and fairness for employers when budgeting for their WorkCover premium.

#### 875. Public Housing

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (23/8/00)—

With reference to the public housing construction program—

How many commencements were initiated in each month of 1999-2000 and what is the anticipated schedule of commencements for 2000-01?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (25/9/00): Refer to Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on commencements initiated in each month for 1999-2000 and the forecast schedule of commencements for 2000-2001.

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

#### 876. Public Works and Housing Departments, Telecommunication and Data Services

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (23/8/00)—

With reference to telecommunication and data services for the Department of Public Works and the Department of Housing (reported separately) (23/8/00)—

What was the break-up of the cost for these services for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and the budget cost of these services for 2000-01 by individual service provider?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (22/9/00):

Department of Public Works—Refer to Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Public Works.

Department of Housing—Refer to Attachment B for information provided by the Department of Housing.

In addition to the costs outlined in Attachment B, a payment of \$812,817.69 was made by the Department of Housing to the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport on 14 March 2000, to finalise Information Technology Management arrangements.

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

#### 877. HITT Scheme

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (23/8/00)—

With reference to the HITT Scheme—

How many commencements were initiated in each month of 1999-2000 and what is the anticipated schedule of commencements for 2000-01?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (25/9/00): Refer to Attachment A for information provided by the Department of Housing on HITT commencements initiated in each month for 1999-2000, and the forecast schedule of commencements for 2000-2001. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

#### 878. Public Housing; Group Training Schemes

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (23/8/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 587 of 1998 and, in particular, to his commitment to let 1500 contracts for public housing to group training schemes over a three-year period—

To which three-year period was he referring in his response and why has he failed to deliver on his own commitment to group training schemes?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (25/9/00): Rather than 1,500 properties, the statement should have indicated 150 dwellings per year over 3 years in line with election policy documents. This was a typographical error which until now had not been detected. I apologise for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

#### 879. Q-Build, Contract and Management Fees

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (23/8/00)—

With reference to the 7.5 per cent contract fees and the 7.5 per cent program management fees levied on clients by Q-Build—

What has been/is the total quantum of fees (separated) levied against each output of the Department of Housing for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and budgeted in 2000-01?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (22/9/00): This is yet another attempt by the Coalition to smear and attack Q-Build. The Service Level Agreement between the Department of Housing and Q-Build provides for payment of a program management fee (7.5%) and a contract management fee (7.5%) to Q-Build which totals 15%. A 15% fee has been paid on all Public Housing, Community Housing and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing maintenance and upgrade works since 1997/98 when the Coalition Government decided to shift responsibility for housing maintenance to Q-Build.

The payment of the 15% is included as part of the gross price paid as individual invoices are processed for payment, hence there is no separate record of the fees paid. See table below for details of total fees paid based on 15% of total invoices. It should be noted that the general agreement with the Department of Housing in years 1998/99 and 1999/00 was that job delivery prices be marked up by 15% in recognition of Q-Build management services. These were not separately recorded in Q-Build's system. Q-Build has therefore derived the total fee calculations on the basis of a 15% mark-up of total billings. As at 1 July 2000, the fee for service arrangement has been apportioned between contract and program management services provided.

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

### 880. Public Housing

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (23/8/00)—

With reference to the carryover of capital works within the public housing program—

What was the carryover of capital works for (a) new construction, (b) acquisition, (c) maintenance and (d) upgrades (including urban and community renewal) for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (25/9/00): Information provided by the Department of Housing indicates that the carryover of capital works was:

New Construction for the years:

1996-97—\$35.10M  
1997-98—\$45.61M  
1998-99—\$49.42M

Acquisition for the years:

1996-97—\$4.08M  
1997-98—\$0.30M  
1998-99—Nil

Maintenance:

Maintenance does not form part of capital works expenditure and as such, no carryover is reported.

Upgrades (including urban and community renewal) for the years:

1996-97—\$11.28M  
1997-98—\$5.34M  
1998-99—\$9.74M

### 881. Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (23/8/00)—

With reference to the \$35m equity injection for the Department of Housing in 2000-01 sourced from the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund—

Will he provide the capital expenditure breakdown (maintenance, construction and upgrade) of this funding?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (25/9/00): Information provided by the Department of Housing indicates that the \$35M equity injection will be directed to Public Rental Housing upgrades and to Public Rental Housing construction, Community Housing capital grants and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Program.

### 882. Queensland Electoral Commission

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (23/8/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Electoral Commission's (QEC) acknowledgment that it has a role in monitoring the joint electoral roll for Queensland—

- (1) What specific actions does the QEC undertake to monitor the role for accuracy and potential false or fraudulent entries?
- (2) How many full-time staff are allocated to these duties and what is the estimated person-hours per week devoted to these duties?
- (3) How many new enrolments does the QEC expect to appear on the joint Queensland role between now and July 2001?

**Mr FOLEY** (18/9/00): Since the 1991 Joint Roll Arrangement between the Governor-General and the Governor of Queensland, maintenance of the electoral roll for State elections has been the responsibility of the Australian Electoral Commission. Under the arrangement, the Australian Electoral Officer was required to conduct a habitation review as required by Commonwealth or any State law and in the manner and at the time agreed with the relevant State Commissioner. The Australian Electoral Commission now matches its data with the other Commonwealth databases on an ongoing basis which is more effective in detecting anomalies and offences under electoral laws than the biennial doorknocking. Queensland will pay an estimated \$1.5m for the roll maintenance and monitoring services of the Australian Electoral Commission in 2000/2001. The Electoral Commissioner is required to make available to the Australian Electoral Officer any information in his possession which may affect the accuracy of the roll. Approximately 440,000 roll changes are expected in the specified period of which around 45,000 are expected to be new enrolments in Queensland.

### 883. Building Services Authority, Insurance Premium

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (23/8/00)—

With reference to Mr Potts' response to a question pertaining to the \$5.5m transfer from the Insurance Fund to the General Fund in 1999-2000, Mr Potts stated, "As you know, the \$5.5m is funded by surcharge in the insurance premium. In that year, the amount of surcharge collected was \$4.2m"—

Will she provide details of this embedded surcharge in the insurance premium levied?

**Ms SPENCE** (25/9/00): The current insurance premium structure was introduced from 1 October 1999 to replace an inequitable two-tiered premium structure.

The new premium structure is based on a flat percentage of contract value, which includes the cost of underwriting, the administration of the scheme, the Goods and Services Tax and the introduction and implementation of the Better Building Industry legislative reform package.

The premium is currently set at 0.55% of contract value (or \$5.50 per \$1,000) with a minimum premium of \$110 and maximum of \$1100. The 0.55% breakdown is as follows:



0.26%—Underwriting  
 0.11%—Administration  
 0.13%—Surcharge  
 0.05%—GST

It was estimated that a surcharge of 0.13% of the contract value of building work would amount to just over \$5.5 million per annum. However this is totally dependent on the volume and value of insurance business within any year.

The amendment made to section 26(3) of the Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991 ("the Act") on 1 October 1999 permits the transfer of amounts from the Insurance Fund to the General Statutory Fund.

Section 32 of the Queensland Building Services Authority Regulation 1992 provides the maximum amount that may be transferred from the Insurance Fund to the General Fund in any financial year, for use by the Authority in administering the Act, other than in administering the Statutory Insurance Scheme. That amount is presently set at \$5.5 million.

In 1999-2000, the maximum amount was transferred from the Insurance Fund to the General Fund notwithstanding that, as the new premium structure was not introduced until 1 October 1999, the surcharge portion of the premium, based on preliminary results, was estimated to amount to \$4.2 million. This estimate may increase as returns collected by Local Authorities during the last financial year are included in calculations.

The amount to be transferred in future years will have regard to the net asset position of the Insurance Scheme and the overriding requirement that it remain actuarially sound.

#### 884. Sport and Recreation Queensland

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (23/8/00)—

With reference to the 2000-01 Budget estimates for revenue for Sport and Recreation Queensland and, in particular, revenue estimates for the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund—

- (1) Has the department budgeted for increased revenue in the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund in 2000-01?
- (2) What is the total estimated revenue for that fund in 2000-01?
- (3) Has the total estimated revenue in that fund been allocated across the various funding programs operated by Sport and Recreation Queensland?
- (4) How much of that revenue has been allocated to administration of Sport and Recreation Queensland?
- (5) How much of the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund, in dollar terms, has been set aside as Sport and Recreation Queensland's contribution to the department's Corporate Services Division's operation?
- (6) On what basis has Sport and Recreation Queensland's contribution to corporate services been allocated?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (20/9/00):

(1) Yes—if the Member is referring to the amount of gaming machine revenue available for sport and recreation when compared with the amount made available in 1999-2000.

(2) The budgeted gaming machine revenue to be made available for sport and recreation purposes in 2000-01 is \$55.2M.

(3) Funding programs are not the only products and services delivered by Sport and Recreation Queensland. I refer the Member to my Department's Ministerial Portfolio Statement should he wish to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the business of Sport and Recreation Queensland.

(4) I am unsure what the Member means by "administration of Sport and Recreation Queensland" as all funding made available contributes to the delivery of the products and services of Sport and Recreation Queensland. As the Member should be aware, under accrual output budgeting, administration costs are a component of the cost of delivery of outputs.

In any event, the gaming machine revenue is not the only source of funding for Sport and Recreation Queensland. Other funding sources for Sport and Recreation Queensland include the Consolidated Fund, Commonwealth grant contributions and own source revenue. The funding available to Sport and Recreation Queensland is allocated across its organisational units and funding programs to enable the delivery of its products and services.

(5) \$2.678M

(6) The budgeted contribution in 2000-01 to the Department's corporate services functions has been based on the cost for the provision of corporate services in 1999-2000 by the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing.

#### 885. Electronic Ticketing Machines

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (23/8/00)—

With reference to the electronic ticketing machines which bus operators were required to fit under the conditions of commercial public transport contracts—

- (1) Are suppliers now withdrawing support for the most common of these machines?
- (2) Will operators be required to replace these machines; if not, how will the current ticket data be obtained?
- (3) If they are to be replaced will this be at Queensland Transport's expense?
- (4) When will the integrated ticketing machines be available for contract operators in South East Queensland?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (22/9/00):

(1) Public transport operators in south-east Queensland use a range of ticketing equipment. However, ERG (an Australian company) provides the majority of ticketing equipment provided in south-east Queensland.

ERG has stated that they will continue to provide maintenance and support services for ticketing equipment supplied to its Queensland Customers for the practical life of that equipment.

(2) The decision to replace ticketing equipment rests with the individual transport operator.

ERG has undertaken to maintain and support equipment for the duration of its practical life.

Queensland Transport's commercial service contracts with bus operators require electronic ticketing systems. These systems provide ticketing data.

(3) The decision to replace ticketing equipment rests with the individual transport operator.

(4) Tenders are presently being evaluated for a smart card based ticketing system for south-east Queensland.

It is expected that there will be an 18 month developmental period from the time of awarding a contract, to the commencement of the testing phase. The first phase of the new system should commence in 2002, subject to the satisfactory negotiation of a ticketing contract.

#### **886. Primary Industries Department**

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (23/8/00)—

With reference to the various institutes being reformed under the Department of Primary Industries—

- (1) How will the role of the current proposal for the institutes vary from the previous model?
- (2) How widely was the advertising carried out for board members?
- (3) What will the criteria be for the selection process?
- (4) Have the new boards been selected?
- (5) When will they commence their duties?
- (6) Have all the previous board members been paid for their services?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (21/9/00):

(1) The two main differences are a more overt statement about the role being that of advising the Institute Director and the composition of the Board reflecting the whole of the supply chain and governance skills.

(2) The advertising was Queensland and Australia wide in newspapers, regional through a very active process in regional offices of DPI and DPI newsletters and personal with all Directors and Program Leaders (60 staff) asked to promote the applications to clients and interested members of their community. The breadth of the applications received shows this was successful.

(3) The criteria were published in the advertisement and in the information pack available from the DPI Call centre.

(4) Not yet, but the selection panel has been formed under the Chairmanship of the Director General.

(5) November 2000.

(6) I am advised yes.

#### **887. Bargara Ambulance Station, Relocation**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (23/8/00)—

With reference to the proposed relocation of the Bargara Ambulance Station and the petition raised by coastal residents expressing concern about response times to Innes Park, Elliott Heads, Bargara, Burnett Heads, etc.—

- (1) Since the allocation of funds to buy land at Kalkie was made in the recent budget, is the decision to build here final, or will he further consider the wishes of the affected community?
- (2) Will he explain the rationale behind this location choice, with particular reference to travel/response times to various key locations in the Burnett Shire?
- (3) Has the department collated logged call-out patterns for the previous 12 months from the Bargara Ambulance Station, which would indicate the geographical proportion of demand, could this information be made available to the public and what proportion of total calls last year were made to the Bargara township area?
- (4) How many ambulance officers will be based at the new ambulance station and will there be an officer-in-charge based here?
- (5) Will staff and/or vehicles from the Bundaberg station be relocated to the new site; if so, how many of each and how will this impact on the operations of the city station, that is, what will the overall decrease in staff and vehicle numbers be at Bundaberg?
- (6) If the Government intends to go ahead with the Kalkie site, when is construction anticipated?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (22/9/00):

(1) No final decision on the future location of Bargara Station has been determined. The QAS has undertaken extensive consultation with the Local Ambulance Committee, Burnett Shire Council, local staff and the local Members of Parliament. Community consultation is ongoing with public meetings scheduled to occur in several locations in mid September to discuss the proposed changes with the local community.

(2) The Burnett Coast is a rapidly growing area that is experiencing increasing demand for ambulance services. The current Bargara Station is situated close to the beach and is therefore not ideally placed to meet the increasing demand in areas such as Burnett Heads and Elliott Heads. Many of the emergency ambulance responses to these areas originate from the Bundaberg Station. The proposed location will improve response times to the broader Burnett Coast community.

(3) A complete analysis of work patterns for the Bundaberg and Burnett Coast areas has been completed and has been presented to the LAC and the Burnett Shire Council. Further presentations of this analysis will be provided at public meetings to be held in mid September.

(4) It is proposed that the relocated facility will have a compliment of eleven staff including an Officer in Charge. This will provide a two officer emergency response twenty four hours per day where the current station provides a one officer response during the day and an on-call arrangement after hours.

(5) Given the status of this proposal, no decisions have been made in respect of staff and vehicle allocations.

(6) It is proposed that a new facility will be developed for the Burnett Coast community in the 2001/2002 Financial Year.

### 888. Education, School Computers

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Education (23/8/00)—

With reference to Education Queensland's policy to provide one computer for 7.5 students in primary schools throughout Queensland—

- (1) Is he aware that there are schools such as the Carbrook Primary School in my electorate who have only one computer per 12 students?
- (2) When will this anomaly be rectified to comply with the Government's objective of a "computer for every child"?

**Mr WELLS** (22/9/00): The government is committed to reducing the target to a ratio of one computer for every five students. In the last budget \$40 million over 4 years was allocated through the Networked Learning Community for IT support, computer replacement and maintenance programs and further professional development and training of teachers.

In line with this, the department informs me that Carbrook State Primary School has not yet reached the ratio target of one computer for every 7.5 students. However, I am informed that the school is better than the 1:12 ratio mentioned. The department informs me that some schools will be above the target and some will be below the target. Variations in the ratios arise because of the difference in the types of schools, different location of schools and because choices and needs of schools are determined by schools themselves. This reflects the choices that school communities have in determining the priorities within a broad policy framework.

### 889. Ambulance Services Commercial Development and Marketing Unit

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (23/8/00)—

With reference to his answer to Estimates Committee B Question on Notice No. 14 in which he gave details of the increase in numbers and classifications of staff employed in the Commercial Development and Marketing Unit and to additional information provided during the committee hearing—

- (1) What is the total 2000-01 Budget allocation, including all administrative and operational costs, of the Commercial Development and

Marketing Unit, including all (notional) corporate services allocations?

- (2) Apart from the 12 staff employed in this unit, how many other staff are employed throughout the department in similar roles, including administrative staff who support those positions and in which divisions are they employed?
- (3) What is the total 2000-01 Budget allocation, including all administrative and operational costs, of departmental personnel carrying out similar duties to those in the Queensland Ambulance Services Commercial Development and Marketing Unit including all (notional) corporate services allocations?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (22/9/00):

(1) The total 2000-01 Budget allocation, including all administrative and operational costs, of the Commercial Development and Marketing Unit, including all (notional) corporate services allocations is \$1.98M.

(2) Apart from the 12 staff employed in this Unit, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has 9 other staff employed in marketing within QAS Regions. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) has 11 staff employed in the QFRA Commercial Development Unit.

The Queensland Ambulance Services Commercial Development and Marketing Unit includes the QAS Media Unit of 3 officers. Primary responsibilities of these officers include incident media management, promotion and profile maintenance of QAS awareness programs. Three media staff are also employed by the QFRA while the Corporate Initiatives and Communications Unit employs four staff and the Counter Disaster and Rescue Service Corporate Communications Unit consists of two permanent officers and one temporary officer.

(3) The total 2000-01 budget allocation for the QFRA Commercial Development Unit is \$1,409,700 including all notional corporate services costs.

### 890. Gambling Counselling Services

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Treasurer (23/8/00)—

- (1) With reference to gambling addiction, what funds are to be expended, giving a breakdown, in 2000-01 on this growing social problem?
- (2) In relation to the Gambling Help Line counselling services and responsible Gambling Advisory Committee and Secretariat, and other Government programs, what is the breakdown of the funds to be expended?
- (3) Is the Break Even Gambling Addiction program to be funded and at what centres in Queensland and is the 24-hour Gambling Help Line to be extended throughout the State?

**Mr HAMILL** (22/9/00):

(1) It is anticipated that approximately \$4 million will be distributed to the Responsible Gambling Fund in 2000-2001. An additional amount of approximately

\$750,000 is available from the Community Investment Fund to fund additional projects related to gambling.

(2) The breakdown of funds to be expended is unavailable at this time as negotiations with service providers have not been finalised.

(3) Counselling and related services provide by Break Even services and the Gambling Help-Line will be important components of the Queensland Responsible Gambling Strategy which is currently being developed. Plans for integrating and extending the service delivery networks including the statewide telephone help-line service are in progress. In relation to Break Even services, the Government has commenced work on a statewide needs analysis and mapping project to identify the allocation required for expansion of the service delivery network across Queensland.

### 891. Speed Cameras

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (23/8/00)—

What procedures has he put in place to ensure the integrity and accuracy of speed cameras and to comply with Australian Standards in the operation of these devices?

**Mr BARTON** (22/9/00): Prior to being authorised to operate a speed camera, operators attend a training course. During this course, instruction is given in the requirements of the Australian Standards relating to radar speed detection. This includes the alignment of the vehicle necessary to ensure accuracy of the readings obtained by the speed camera and an internal circuitry test of the device. The internal circuitry test results in a photograph at the commencement and at the end of the deployment clearly showing 'TST' which confirms that this test has been done. Should this test not be carried out, the entire film is rejected at the Traffic Camera Office.

In addition to the tests required by the Australian Standards, and to further ensure the accuracy of the device, an additional test is carried out by speed camera operators. This test involves the use of a hand-held radar device which has been certified as accurate, checking the speed of an oncoming vehicle, and correlating that recorded speed against the speed shown for that vehicle on the speed camera.

The methods used by the Queensland Police Service not only meet the requirements of the Australian Standards, but in fact exceed the requirements through the use of the additional hand-held radar test.

### 892. Graffiti Vandalism

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (23/8/00)—

With reference to the New South Wales Labor Government which has created a special \$300,000 fund to assist community organisations involved in youth affairs to combat graffiti vandalism and as the

project is administered by the Crime Prevention Division of the Attorney-General's Department, which allocates funds to police and community youth clubs and community organisations working with young people—

Will he consider establishing a similar scheme in Queensland to assist combat this \$300m a year problem?

**Mr FOLEY** (18/9/00): The Queensland Government, like the New South Wales Government, has developed a number of initiatives aimed at combating graffiti vandalism. The initiatives include providing information to local communities on the management of graffiti vandalism through the Department of Justice and Attorney-General manual, "Graffiti Crime Prevention Plan", and funding local government crime prevention initiatives under the Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy – Building Safer Communities such as Crime Prevention Partnerships, and the Security Improvement Program which subsidises local councils to improve physical infrastructure to minimise opportunities for graffiti. Arts Queensland, the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, and the Queensland Police Service also administer anti-graffiti programs. Public funds are thus already being applied in Queensland to combat graffiti through various programs in a range of departments.

### 893. Morayfield East State School

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (23/8/00)—

With reference to Morayfield East State School and to the fact that extensive new housing estates are being developed near this school—

- (1) What plans does Education Queensland have to accommodate the expected increase in student numbers from these new developments over the next 3 to 5 years?
- (2) What plans does Education Queensland have to construct additional permanent accommodation at Morayfield East State School?
- (3) What plans does Education Queensland have to acquire land and construct a new school to relieve the expected enrolment pressure on facilities at Morayfield East State School?

**Mr WELLS** (5/10/00):

(1) The department informs me that it is currently reviewing its total schooling requirements in this area which may be affected by further residential development within Morayfield East's catchment area. Management of future student numbers at Morayfield East State School will require close monitoring of growth patterns. Officers from Education Queensland will meet with the school to develop sustainable options. Facilities planning within agreed parameters can then occur.

(2) I am informed by the department that the Morayfield East State School community has asked Education Queensland to consider the provision of additional permanent accommodation in lieu of further modular classrooms. While current enrolment

data suggests that no additional classroom accommodation will be required for 2001, it is possible that additional accommodation will be required in 2002. When taken with the age and condition of some of the demountable classrooms, active consideration will be given to additional permanent accommodation in the 2001/2002 Capital Works Program.

(3) The department informs me that it has no plans at this time for a further new school in the Morayfield area. Minimbah State School at Morayfield West opened in 1997 in recognition of forecast growth in the Morayfield area.

#### 894. Bushfire Risk Management

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (23/8/00)—

With reference to significant areas of Queensland which are already tinder dry and as many communities are undertaking bush fire hazard reduction burns for the purpose of preventing possible disastrous bushfires during the coming months—

- (1) What is his department doing to reduce the bushfire risk on land under the responsibility of his department and I expressly seek advice on what land in the electorate of Nicklin will see controlled hazard reduction burning programs undertaken this year for the purpose of reducing the risk of bushfires?
- (2) In relation to the land under his department's responsibility in the electorate of Nicklin which will not see a controlled burning program take place this year, when was the last controlled burn undertaken on the land for the purpose of reducing the amount of combustible material and reducing its risk of bushfires?
- (3) What is his department doing in cooperation with other State Government departments, e.g. Department of Main Roads and Queensland Rail, to reduce the bushfire risk on the land under the other department's responsibilities?

**Mr WELFORD** (5/10/00):

(1 & 2) The responsibility for fire management on State forests and timber reserves (under the Forestry Act 1959) and Protected Areas (under the Nature Conservation Act 1992) rests within my Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as follows:

DNR for State forests, timber reserves and forest entitlement areas in association with the Department of Primary Industries (Forestry) (DPIF) in accordance with operational agreements; and

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) for Protected Areas.

With respect to the electorate of Nicklin:

wetter than normal late autumn and early winter conditions and the current increasing dry and windy conditions have to some extent hampered efforts to complete the planned

burning program for this winter. In regard to this years hazard reduction program by DNR, DPIF and QPWS.

For native forest State forest areas:

significant hazard reduction has been undertaken in the Imbil and Kenilworth areas;

about 30% (300 hectares) of the program for the Mapleton State Forest has been completed;

about 75% of the program for the Beerburrum (260 hectares burnt), Bellthorpe (800 hectares burnt), Mt Mee (100 hectares burnt) and Wamuran (150 hectares burnt) areas has been completed; and

these areas are generally burnt on a seven to ten year rotation basis, weather conditions permitting.

Some 2626 hectares of State forest plantations in the Beerburrum area have been burnt. Only two compartments adjacent the Bruce Highway of the planned program were unable to be burnt.

For Protected Areas:

hazard reduction burning has been carried out in the Glasshouse Mountains National Park and Sheepstation Creek Conservation Park; and

hazard reduction burns are planned for the Caloundra Conservation Park, Dularcha National Park and Conondale National Park areas and will be undertaken when weather conditions are suitable.

Hazard reduction burning plans need to be flexible to accommodate a number of factors including changing weather conditions, changing protection priorities and fuel aggregation from any previously uncompleted burning programs. As such, if specific details of current hazard reduction burning programs are required, then these are best obtained by contacting the relevant DNR, DPIF and QPWS centres within the electorate.

Drought conditions and grass curing within the electorate are considered to be average for this time of the year. The worst fire danger areas in South East Queensland are considered to be more to the west and south of the electorate. Throughout the fire season, my Departments will maintain fire preparedness levels commensurate with the weather conditions at the time and determination of the fire risk at the time having consideration for the value at risk.

(3) For a number of years there has been a concerted effort to develop stronger links with other land and fire management agencies to improve multi-agency coordination and operation of fire management practices in Queensland.

In 1994 an interdepartmental Bushfire Management Committee was formed to coordinate policy and procedures relating to bushfire management. The purpose of this committee was to achieve a consistent approach to managing bushfire hazard reduction and suppression activities in Queensland.

Membership of the committee consists of representatives from Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, Rural Fire Service, Rural Fire Council, DNR, DPIF, EPA, QPWS, Bureau of Meteorology, Main Roads, Queensland Rail, Local Government Association, Brisbane City Council and Queensland Police Service.

To date the committee has played a role in facilitating and coordinating the implementation of many recommendations contained in the Audit on Queensland Bushfire Management in 1994. This committee continues to function and consists of a number of working groups that are active in the areas of communications, smoke management, fire weather forecasting, training and legal matters.

At the operational level this has continued to contribute towards:

- development of an effective, efficient, cooperative and coordinated approach to fire management between relevant fire management agencies.

- In regard to DNR and Queensland Rail, Main Roads in particular, this involves cooperative fire hazard management arrangements where practicable on agency lands with common boundaries; and

- increased standardisation of equipment, training methods and cooperative training programs between agencies with fire management responsibilities where they interface with each other and support for the adoption of National Competency Standards; and

- increased cooperative hazard reduction programs and wildfire response between agencies with fire management responsibilities including the Rural Fire Service.

#### 895. High Street, Southport

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (23/8/00)—

With reference to the excessive delays and time taken for the reconstruction work of High Street in Southport (work which was expected to take four months took nearly 10 months, with no night work) (23/8/00)—

Will the State Government honour its duty of care and pay compensation to traders and businesses in High Street for the massive loss of income they have suffered, bearing in mind that this State Government paid many hundreds of thousands of dollars in compensation to traders on the South Bank when similar road works were being carried out there?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (22/9/00): At no time did the Department of Main Roads indicate four-laning of High Street between North and Queen Streets would be completed within four months.

On-site work commenced in November 1999 with the intention of completing construction in July 2000. Despite the significant challenges of the job site, including abnormally prolonged wet weather, construction still was completed in August 2000.

Ongoing night work was not appropriate because of the project's proximity to the Gold Coast Hospital and residential areas north of Nind Street.

Traffic delays and the time taken for this reconstruction were not excessive.

Regarding compensation to local traders where resumptions have not occurred, there is no legislative requirement or funding for this purpose. The only compensation for roadworks in relation to South Bank was fair compensation for the acquisition of land.

Further, the State Government already has honoured its duty of care to traders and businesses in High Street by ensuring the construction work was carried out with due diligence. Main Roads' South Coast Hinterland District office has received minimal complaints about the construction period. In fact, one of the larger businesses forwarded a formal letter of appreciation to Abigroup regarding the professionalism of all site staff.

Temporary access arrangements always were available for all adjoining businesses and regular detailed newsletters were issued to keep local traders and the community fully informed about the construction program.

#### 896. Homeworthy Certificates

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (23/8/00)—

Is she prepared to accept the need for introducing mandatory homeworthy certificates for property sales?

**Ms SPENCE** (25/9/00): The purchase of a house is one of the most significant acquisitions that a consumer will make in a lifetime. It is important with any purchase of this magnitude that the purchaser carefully inspects the property to ensure that it is structurally sound, pest free and that it complies with all Local Government requirements.

The recent media attention given to the white ants has raised consumer awareness of the need to have a pre-purchase inspection undertaken. To address this demand, there are a number of firms that provide home inspection services at a modest cost. However, the extent to which these inspections are carried out does vary and purchasers should clearly understand the scope of the inspection being undertaken.

It is also important that the purchaser ensures there is a provision in the contract that will enable it to be rescinded if an unsatisfactory inspection report is received.

While these are common sense things that a purchaser should do to protect their interests, I do not believe that there is sufficient evidence available at this stage which indicates that this type of inspection should be mandatory. For some consumers, they are in a position to make a sound assessment of the home they are purchasing without the need for an inspection. A mandatory inspection would further add to the cost of buying a house.

If such a requirement were to be placed on the vendor, it is also likely to increase the cost of housing, particularly if the vendor was required to bring the home up to a prescribed standard. This would have an impact on persons who want to acquire a cheap home for renovation purposes.

There has not been the demand or the same need for a homeworthy certificate as there has been for a safety certificate when selling a used motor vehicle. Unlike motor vehicles, it would only be in the most extraordinary cases that there would be a risk to life or personal safety if mandatory homeworthy certificates were not imposed.

As such, I am unable to accept that there is a current need for mandatory homeworthy certificates.

#### **897. State Emergency Service; Counter Disaster Rescue Service**

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (23/8/00)—

- (1) What is the current structure of the SES and the CDRS (Counter Disaster Rescue Service)?
- (2) Will he provide a breakdown of expenditure for both of these organisations from 1999 onwards to 2000?
- (3) What is the relationship between these two organisations and what is being done to educate the public on the changes made with these organisations?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (25/9/00):

(1) The organisational structure of Counter Disaster and Rescue Services which includes the SES and VMR Support Unit is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The budgets for CDRS are:

SES and VMR Support—for 1999-2000—\$13,958,000 (As per State Budget Ministerial Portfolio Statement, Minister for Emergency Services).

CDRS for 1999-2000—\$43,047,000 (actual results still subject to audit certification and as at 31 August 2000).

(3) As the attached organisation structure shows the SES and VMR Support Unit is one of 5 operational units and one of the 4 key outputs that are part of Counter Disaster and Rescue Services. Other than the addition of extra staff to SES and VMR Support there are no significant changes being made to these organisations.

Public and stakeholder awareness is carried out to educate and inform the public on issues relevant to the SES including:

The development of an SES website;

The publication and distribution of the SES newsletter both hard copy and on the SES website;

The development of a 3 to 5 year Strategic Plan for the SES;

The commissioning of an historian to write the history of the SES in Queensland

Initiatives for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SES in Queensland in December 2000 and the International Year of the Volunteer in 2001.

The SES is a key and much valued Emergency Service and this Government's commitment to the SES is solid and consistent.

#### **898. Barambah, Ambulance Services**

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (23/8/00)—

With reference to ambulance services in Barambah—

- (1) Has a directive been given that Proston was not to have a permanent ambulance officer?
- (2) As it has often been stated that it was difficult getting officers prepared to go to Proston, isn't it a fact that several officers have actually offered to go to Proston and were refused?
- (3) Have reported incidences of officers-in-charge instructing a certified officer Level 3 who lives in Proston not to do 'on call' and leave them to first responders?
- (4) Will he ensure that Proston receives ambulance services equal to any other area?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (22/9/00):

(1) No directive has been issued. A permanent officer is stationed at Proston during daytime hours every day of the week.

(2) No officer has made application to transfer to Proston and therefore no Officer has had an application to transfer to Proston refused.

(3) The Certificate Level 3 Officer referred to by the Member for Barambah is employed by QAS as a Patient Transport Officer at Murgon station. It would be inappropriate for the QAS to rely on this officer as the sole emergency response to the Proston community. The community First Responder Program has been established to provide an initial response to emergency cases in the Proston area after hours. The First Responders are trained to the level of advanced first aid including automatic defibrillation. These arrangements are fully supported by the Local Ambulance Committee and the Proston community. All emergency responses at Proston are immediately backed-up by permanent QAS staff from Kingaroy or Murgon.

(4) There are many areas of the State where Honorary Ambulance Officers provide a primary ambulance response to emergency cases. In the 1999/2000 financial year Proston had an average emergency caseload of 1-2 cases per month. The staffing arrangement at Proston with a permanent paramedic ambulance officer available during the day and a First responder after hours is significantly in advance of many honorary stations with similar workloads.

**899. Public Hospitals, Palliative Care Beds**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (23/8/00)—

- (1) How many funded and staffed palliative care beds are there at 23 August 2000 at Prince Charles Hospital?
- (2) How does this compare to the same time last year, and how many palliative care beds are there in the public hospital system in Brisbane, north of the Brisbane River and what is the budget for palliative care for Prince Charles Hospital for 2000-01 and what was the actual spending last year?

**Mrs EDMOND** (22/9/00): (1 & 2) I am advised that as at 23 August 1999 and 23 August 2000 there were 16 funded and staffed palliative care beds in The Prince Charles Hospital & Health Service District. There are 32 palliative care beds in the public hospital system in Brisbane, north of the Brisbane River. The budget for the Palliative Care Unit for The Prince Charles Hospital was increased in 2000/01.

Funding of \$26.3m is allocated for palliative care services across Queensland. The Labor Government matched Commonwealth funding to palliative care with an increase in State funding to \$5.1m per year, up from \$406,000 in the Coalition's last budget.

Access to services has been enhanced through:

support for community organisations, such as Karuna Hospice Service, Fraser Coast Palliative Care Service, Ipswich Hospice Service, Hopewell Hospice, Cittamani Hospice, and Mt Olivet Home Care Service.

funding for a new service on the Sunshine Coast: the Little Haven Cooloola/Sunshine Coast Palliative Care Inc (which I officially opened on 13 September 2000).

increased District Health Service palliative care budgets.

Non-government organisations have been moved to three-year service agreements to allow them to better plan and manage service delivery.

Other initiatives include the new Centre for Research and Education that will provide education and training programs for health workers in palliative care to improve clinical, ethical, service delivery and management practices, and a 24-hour, Statewide 1800 telephone support service for patients with a terminal illness and their carers.

**900. Capricorn Coast, Counselling Services**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (23/8/00)—

- (1) Is she aware that the Capricorn Coast is now down to half a day for emergency counselling per courtesy of Lifeline?
- (2) Is she aware that the one full-time counsellor is now off with stress leave and that three to four month waiting lists will blow out to five to six months?

- (3) Will she make money available for emergency counselling, that being for at least one full-time counsellor to take up work immediately and will she urgently agree to the submission from Val Were of Livingstone Shire Community Development Centre through Anglicare for four counsellors working in prevention and intervention areas, Administrative Assistant and Building for which Livingstone Shire Council has given a commitment to assist with the provision of land and administration of the capital funding project including design, planning and building supervision if funding is successful?

**Ms BLIGH** (22/9/00):

(1) Capricorn residents normally have access to one full-time generalist counsellor, funded by Queensland Health and based at the Community Health Centre. Lifeline CQ are providing counselling to residents of the Capricorn Coast on a crisis needs basis which relates to half a day each week, subject to availability of a worker.

(2) I have been advised that a full-time counselling position funded by Queensland Health had been vacant until the return of the incumbent worker on Monday 11 September 2000. During the absence of this worker, Lifeline has provided a worker one morning per week for crisis counselling needs. The Livingstone Shire Council employs a Community Development Officer, funded under the Community & Individual Support Program, who is undertaking counselling and also referring clients to Lifeline when appropriate.

(3) I met with the Mayor of the Livingstone Shire Council on 31 August 2000 to discuss issues relating to counselling services in the Livingstone Shire. I have asked the appropriate Regional Director of Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland to convene a meeting between community and government representatives to discuss a whole of government response to counselling needs in the area.

**901. Rockhampton Enterprise Limited**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (24/8/00)—

With reference to the operation of Rockhampton Enterprise Limited—

- (1) To what extent is Rockhampton Enterprise Limited funded by the Department of State Development and Trade?
- (2) How much funding and grants has Rockhampton Enterprise Limited received from the State Government over the past two years?
- (3) What are the achievements of Rockhampton Enterprise Limited over the past two years?
- (4) How was the CEO, Barry Large, of Rockhampton Enterprise Limited appointed, and by whom was he appointed?
- (5) Was the position of CEO, Rockhampton Enterprise Limited advertised and where?



- (6) When was Rockhampton Enterprise Limited last audited?
- (7) Why are businesses in Rockhampton, involved in major projects denied access through Rockhampton Enterprise Limited, to other local suppliers in their efforts to keep business local?
- (8) How is Rockhampton Enterprise Limited complying with State Development and Trade policy of 'Buy Local'?

**Mr ELDER** (22/9/00):

- (1) \$750,000 over three years.
- (2) Funds received to date:

Core Funding—\$375,000

Departmental Grant Schemes—\$65,094

(3) My Department of State Development is monitoring the progress of Rockhampton Enterprise Limited and is currently assessing their last progress report.

(4) Mr Barry Large was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer by the Board of Directors of Rockhampton Enterprise Limited.

(5) The employment of the Chief Executive Officer of Rockhampton Enterprise Limited is a decision for the Board of Directors.

(6) The accounts have been audited to June 1999 by Rockhampton Enterprise Limited's appointed auditor.

(7) Rockhampton Enterprise Limited advised my Department that they are not denying access for businesses involved in major projects to other local suppliers.

(8) Rockhampton Enterprise Limited provides services to enable local suppliers access to business opportunities arising from major projects, industry and government.

#### **902. Nome District School Development Committee**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Education (24/8/00)—

With reference to the meeting held on 17 August 2000 between the Department of Education and the Nome District School Development Committee and as the Department of Education has indicated that a removable school such as the one being trialled at Yarwun in the Electorate of Gladstone could be the answer for the Nome district's need for a school and thereby alleviating the problem of distances travelled and safety concerns for the many children in the area and as it is believed that this removable school would be used for at least 10-15 years until a permanent school is located in the new proposed Rocky Springs development—

Does he agree with this proposal from the Department of Education and will he support it?

**Mr WELLS** (25/9/00): Members of the Nome community attended a recent Regional Community Forum. Ministers involved at that forum were asked

by the delegation from Nome that the community and Education Queensland undertake further consultation on the development of a school in the district. I am advised by the department that as a result of the discussions at the Regional Community Forum, the District Director of Townsville-Burdekin District met with members of the Nome community on Thursday 17 August.

The department informs me that the meeting canvassed a wide range of options for meeting educational need in the area, including:

continuing current transport arrangement with students from the Nome District attending Stuart State School and other state schools;

relocating Stuart State School to Nome;

establishing a new primary school at Nome.

The department expect these options will be part of continuing discussions between Education Queensland and the Nome community about schooling provision in the Stuart and Nome areas.

#### **903. Families, Youth and Community Care, Child Abuse**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (24/8/00)—

With reference to the reply to Question on Notice No 803 wherein she has stated that the allegations previously raised were investigated by Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and a Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) team and that the allegations were unsubstantiated—

(1) How did the SCAN team arrive at the conclusion that the allegations were unsubstantiated when the complainants, being the foster carer of the three year old ward of the State and the mother of the ward of the State, were not interviewed by the SCAN team?

(2) Why is it that a Detective Inspector with the CJC has stated in a taped interview that it appears that officers of DFYCC are involved in misconduct in relation to these issues?

(3) Why is it that the Detective Inspector with the CJC who was previously an investigator with the Juvenile Aid Bureau was able to determine that action should have been taken to protect the ward of the State and yet no action was taken to protect that child?

**Ms BLIGH** (25/9/00): The Criminal Justice Commission has completed an independent investigation into these matters. I understand that the Honourable Member has been advised by the Commission that there is insufficient evidence to reasonably raise a suspicion of official misconduct on the part of any departmental officer in relation to these allegations. Matters, however, raised at 2. and 3. should be appropriately referred to the Commission. I am advised that the Commission has denied that its investigator made any such statements.

#### 904. Medical Practitioners, Regional Areas

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Health (24/8/00)—

With reference to the statistics which show an inordinately high percentage of category four and five patients presenting at the Gympie hospital outpatients' department, and the shortage of general practitioners per head of population in the Gympie region—

Will she consider putting in place an incentive scheme to supplement Federal initiatives to encourage GPs and also resident specialists to establish in regional areas such as Gympie?

**Mrs EDMOND** (25/9/00): The following are actions being taken by Queensland Health to attract doctors into the public and private sectors in rural and remote areas of the State and to encourage GPs and resident specialists to establish in regional areas such as Gympie.

Note: Medical Superintendents and Medical Officers with Right of Private Practice (MORPPs) provide general practitioner services to both the public and private sectors.

##### Incentives for Full Time Specialists

Incentives created under the previous Labor Government to attract full-time specialists include an option A right of private practice allowance of 35% of base salary for metropolitan specialists and 45% for non metropolitan specialists; paid study and conference leave with reasonable expenses including airfares; free accommodation for non metropolitan specialists; provision of communications equipment and private use of fully maintained vehicles. As a result of these incentives and a new strategy for the advertising of vacant positions, full-time specialist vacancies have fallen from 125 in March 1995 to 34 in March 2000 despite at least 26 new full-time positions being created since July 1998. Salary sacrificing arrangements will be made available to these staff from January 2001.

##### Incentives for Visiting Medical Specialists

Queensland Health provides access to salary sacrificing, paid conference leave and an allowance for associated expenses, and higher commencement pay rates for visiting specialists in rural areas.

##### Incentives for Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice (MSRPPs)

MSRPPs have free accommodation, private use of a fully maintained motor vehicle, communications equipment, paid conference leave with reasonable expenses, locum medical officers for their private practice, 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 MORPPs in locations where this is feasible. Salary sacrificing arrangements will also be available to these staff from January 2001.

##### 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. The Scholarship Scheme is currently being reviewed to ensure that scholarship holders are more appropriately trained for long term rural practice.

##### Rural Medical Indemnity Scheme for Rural Private General Practitioners—Medical Defence Rebates

A subsidy of up to \$5,200 (increased from \$3,500 in 1998) towards the cost of medical indemnity 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 GPs and support staff such as nurses.

##### Indemnity for Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice

As mentioned above, indemnity cover is provided to MSRPPs for procedures performed on private patients in public hospitals or in their private rooms.

##### Accommodation

A number of new surgeries have been built under the Capital Works Program. These surgeries have been built at Nanango, Dirranbandi, Kilcoy and Hughenden. Upgrades have also been conducted under the program. In addition, District Health Services have conducted upgrades out of their budgets, for example, Jandowae and Augathella. Within each financial year, funds will continue to be allocated to enable facilities across the state to be upgraded.

##### Junior Doctor Training Program

The Junior Doctor Training Program commenced in 1996 and was enhanced in 1998 with a 1999/2000 budget of \$572,729. 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.

##### Telemedicine

Facilities are now available in around 150 sites enabling assessments of patients and mentoring of staff 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 support for country doctors.

#### Rural Undergraduate Placement Program

This program provides opportunities for medical students to spend elective periods in certain rural and remote areas.

#### Doctors in the Bush Project

The Doctors in the Bush scheme recruits suitably trained doctors to remote and small rural practice. Overseas trained doctors are offered support for permanent residency, permanent registration upon obtaining the FRACGP and a shortening of the moratorium on an unrestricted provider number from 10 to 5 years. Between January and June 2000, 20 doctors have been placed under this program.

#### Minister's Policy on Area of Need

Under the Minister's Policy on Area of Need approximately 380 Temporary Resident Doctors (TRDs) were working in Queensland Health on 1 March 2000 to ensure a sufficient supply of doctors for effective delivery of care to Queenslanders. At least 80% were employed as house officers in public hospitals with 29 specialists, 8 medical superintendents and 9 senior medical officers. There are also approximately 150 TRDs working as private GP locums throughout Queensland under the Minister's Policy on Area of Need. Gympie is one area which potentially benefits from these arrangements.

The Labor Government of Queensland has a proven track record in supporting rural practitioners, however, the major impediments identified by all the medical associations is the restriction on G.P. training positions and provider numbers. These can only be changed by the Commonwealth Government.

#### 905. Walloon State School

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Education (24/8/00)—

With reference to the Walloon State School—

Although this schools qualifies for a tuckshop and has an area and room prepared, will he indicate when this facility will be upgraded and provided to the children?

**Mr WELLS** (25/9/00): The department informs me that the provision of tuckshops to schools is considered when primary schools attain, and are likely to sustain, a Year 1-7 enrolment of over 200 students who reside within the school's catchment area. This facility is at full state cost. Tuckshops along with other capital works requests are subject to prioritisation and funding availability.

The department informs me that there are currently 188 primary students enrolled at Walloon State School, and that enrolment forecasts for the next few years indicate a relatively stable enrolment of around 200 students. Student numbers must be maintained at this level for the project to be considered along with other similar requests during the formulation of future draft Capital Works Programs.

#### 906. Beef Breeding Services, Wacol

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (24/8/00)—

With reference to the proposed closure of Beef Breeding Services Wacol—

- (1) Is this closure to go ahead in September?
- (2) Has he approved the closure of this facility?
- (3) Have the clients of this facility been advised of its imminent closure?
- (4) Has the closure of the Biloela centre been approved; if so, why wasn't this centre moved to Wacol rather than to Belmont?
- (5) If the closure of the Biloela centre goes ahead, what costs will be incurred in this proposed relocation?
- (6) Has he notified the employees at the Wacol centre that the centre will be closed and what the future of these employees will be?
- (7) Has the Wacol centre been profitable and what profit was made for 1999-2000?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (21/9/00):

(1) The on-site collection and processing service at Wacol will be wound down from the end of September and relocated, initially to Biloela and later to Rockhampton when the new facility is built at Rockhampton. Marketing and distribution services will be relocated to Yeerongpilly until clients have accommodated the change.

Beef Breeding Services (BBS) operates as a commercial unit within the Department, currently with staff and facilities at Rockhampton, Biloela and Wacol. For the past two years BBS expenditure has exceeded revenue by an average of 13%. This situation is not sustainable.

BBS is consolidating its activities, not ceasing any activities. The building of the new facility demonstrates the Department's commitment to this service, however it must be managed efficiently.

- (2) The Director-General approved the consolidation of BBS and I have been briefed on the situation.
- (3) Letters have been sent to existing clients, advising them of the changes in location of BBS services.
- (4) The closure has been approved and funding has been allocated to build an improved, replacement facility near Rockhampton.
- (5) Due to the reduced demand in recent years for on-site collection and processing at Wacol, the cost of processing straws of semen from Wacol substantially increased. The average cost of production per straw from July 1998 to March 1999 was more than double the cost of production in Central Queensland.  
\$455,000 has been allocated to establish a collection and processing facility in the Rockhampton district. Additional costs for transfer of staff are not expected to exceed \$25,000.
- (6) All BBS staff have been informed about the changes.

(7) The Wacol operation has not been profitable. Revenue for 1999-2000 was \$711,890 while expenditure was \$772,362. The total loss exceeded \$60,000.

#### **907. Senior Public Servants, Performance Bonuses**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/8/00)—

With reference to statements by the Premier in relation to performance bonuses paid to senior public service executives, specifically when he said that "The specific dollar amounts of the bonuses were calculated within each department and paid from departmental funding"—

- (1) Which executives in his department received performance bonuses in 1999-2000?
- (2) How much did each receive?
- (3) What, if any, provision has been made in the 2000-01 Budget for the performance bonuses?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (25/9/00): As part of this Government's continuing efforts to improve service delivery and enhance the effectiveness of government programs, the Premier has instituted a bonus performance scheme for all departmental heads. This bonus system—applicable only to department Chief Executive Officers—is an important management tool and is simply about maximising the performance of our bureaucratic chiefs.

This scheme is also in line with a commitment given to the electorate prior to the last General Election.

Those accepting an appointment as a department head are required to sign a contract outlining the objectives and service delivery outcomes that are expected of the department while under their administration. The specifics of each contract of course vary from department to department, but all have been approved and will be monitored by the Premier.

A bonus can range from zero up to 15% of salary depending on a performance evaluation.

#### **908. Townsville Hospital**

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Health (24/8/00)—

- (1) Will she confirm or deny the regular occurrence of people being admitted to Townsville hospital being scrubbed down ready for their procedure only to be told to go home and come back another day as there are no beds available?
- (2) Why are people requiring specialised treatment from my electorate who travel to Townsville for their specific procedure not guaranteed to have their procedures done?

**Mrs EDMOND** (25/9/00):

- (1) Townsville General Hospital has a sound bed management decision making process in place.

Patients are not admitted and subjected to the preoperative preparation unless a bed has been allocated to that patient. However, trauma cases can

necessitate the cancellation of some surgery where a postoperative intensive care bed is required. These cancellations are unavoidable and kept to a minimum. From 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2000, over 3500 elective surgical procedures were carried out by Townsville General Hospital. According to hospital cancellation reports, nine patients during this period were cancelled.

- (2) see (1) above.

#### **909. Families, Youth and Community Care, Child Abuse**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (24/8/00)—

With reference to officers of the Criminal Justice Commission who on Thursday, 17 August 2000, interviewed the aboriginal foster carer who made allegations against officers of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DFYCC). The Criminal Justice Commission's Detective Inspector confirmed that the sexual abuse allegations were significant and typical of symptoms of sexual abuse previously dealt with by the Detective Inspector. The foster carer's allegations were that on available evidence of a foul smelling vaginal infection and on previous foster care experiences in sheltering and caring for a child who had been confirmed as having been sexually abused, the foster carer pleaded for the child to be allowed to undergo a medical examination and be treated. This request was refused by DFYCC officers—

- (1) Why did the DFYCC officers who were previously made aware of these allegations fail to act to protect the children from neglect and abuse?
- (2) Will she now accept responsibility for a more recent event whereby a six year old sister of the three year old ward of the State, has now succumbed to a vaginal infection after being in the care and custody of persons named in the allegations?

**Ms BLIGH** (25/9/00): The Criminal Justice Commission has completed an independent investigation into these matters and has found that there is insufficient evidence to reasonably raise a suspicion of official misconduct on the part of any departmental officer in relation to these allegations.

#### **910. Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund, Mr F. Benussi**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (24/8/00)—

With reference to the payment from the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund to Mr Bill Kelly and to the action initiated by the Auctioneers and Agents Committee to recover this payment from Mr Frank Benussi, the car dealer—

Can she confirm that the committee has dropped its legal action against Mr Benussi to recover the money paid out in the Rust Ute Affair?

**Ms SPENCE (25/9/00):** I am advised that the Auctioneers and Agents Committee commenced action against Mr Benussi to recover moneys paid out of the Fidelity Guarantee Fund. The Committee instructed Crown Law to draft a plaint and statement of claim and to have it settled by Counsel.

On Counsel's advice, the Committee further instructed Crown Law to engage UniQuest Pty Limited, as a structural expert, to assess whether any defects in the undercarriage would have been evident at the date of sale. However, UniQuest Pty Limited advised that it would be unable to determine when the rust first appeared in the vehicle.

On 7 June 2000, the Committee formed the view that there would be difficulties in successfully substantiating the debt recovery action against Mr Benussi and, therefore, resolved to discontinue the debt recovery action.

As the disciplinary action in progress would rely on the same material, the Committee resolved to discontinue that action also.

#### **911. Residential Tenancies Authority**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (24/8/00)—

With reference to her admission that she is now not anticipating an operating surplus for the Residential Tenancies Authority until 2003-04—

Why is it when she is responsible for only two statutory authorities that both of these are now running deficits?

**Ms SPENCE (25/9/00):** The RTA is a self-funding Statutory Authority which devises its income from the interest on investments.

On the expenditure side, there have been increased legislative responsibilities over the last five years. This has required new or expanded services including community education and advisory services, compliance, conciliation and industry research.

These changes required expenditure to meet increased demand for all RTA services. Examples of the increases since 1995/96 to the estimates for 2000-01 are:

- a 27.7% growth in bonds held;
- a 16.3% increase in the number of forms processed;
- a 270% increase in dispute resolution requests received; and
- a 72% increase in compliance complaints received.

Strategies such as application of proven technologies (e.g. electronic funds transfer for bond refunds) and the utilisation of business relationships (with Australia Post) are being implemented to contain operational expenditure, while improving service delivery in an environment of increasing service demand.

On the revenue side, income is determined by the level of interest rates. Over the last few years low interest rate returns and investments held in bank term deposits did not maximise the income received by the RTA.

The RTA engaged the Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC) to review its financial position. The QIC undertook asset-liability modelling which identified the return on investment as the most significant variable affecting financial performance of the RTA.

The Authority now has an investment strategy in place with the Queensland Investment Corporation and this has already proved a success with actual income exceeding anticipated income by approximately \$0.9 million during the first six months of the new strategy.

In this context the budget projections provided to the Cabinet Budget Review Committee through Queensland Treasury provide for a balanced budget (\$70,000 surplus) by 2003-2004.

However it is important to understand that the operating statement is only one half of the financial equation. On the balance sheet, the Authority maintains an accumulated surplus of around \$20 million over the period to 2003-2004 for a strong financial position overall. This surplus is in real terms, as the RTA has no financial loans owing to the State or to external financial institutions. All operational activities and contributions are self-funded with no grants received from State Treasury.

The Queensland Building Services Authority "(the Authority)" is also a self-funding Statutory Authority, which derives the majority of its income from interest on investments, licence fees and insurance premiums.

In 1998-99 the Insurance Fund recorded a surplus of \$1.4 million. In that same year the General Fund recorded a deficit of \$1.7 million resulting in deficit in the Consolidated Fund of \$0.3 million. The deficit in the General Fund was due to the fact that the revenue base was insufficient to cover increasing demands for services.

This problem was addressed in 1999 by the introduction of legislation to include a surcharge on insurance premiums to provide for a transfer of funds to the General Fund from the Insurance Fund to assist with the cost of dispute resolution services.

In the financial year 1999/2000, the General Fund was forecast to return a surplus of \$0.29 million.

The estimated deficit of \$0.6 million reported in the Ministerial Portfolio Statement for the financial year 1999/2000 was primarily attributable to a forecast deficit in the Insurance Fund of some \$0.89 million. The Insurance Scheme administered by the Authority is a not-for-profit scheme that invariably is impacted by the cyclical nature of the building industry. Some years it records a deficit and some years a surplus.

However, I am pleased to advise that the latest advice from the Authority indicates that the financial statement for the 1999/2000 year will record a surplus in the Consolidated Funds made up of surpluses in both the Insurance and General Funds.

At this stage, final accounts have not been confirmed by external auditors.

The turnaround in the Insurance Fund can be attributed to a reduction in the provision for future claims costs, as assessed by the Authority's actuary, increased premiums due to heightened building activity prior to the introduction of GST and a much improved position on claims cost recoveries.

The improvement in the General Fund stems from expenditure constraints and improved income from licence fees.

The revenue stream of the Insurance Fund has also benefited considerably from the higher than forecast return on investments with Queensland Investment Corporation.

There is still some uncertainty about the treatment of a one off payment of \$1.45 million by Treasury in the 1998-1999 financial year to assist the Authority in funding the Better Building Industry reforms. However if it is confirmed that the amount is to be repaid, it will obviously alter the General Fund result.

If current figures are confirmed by the external auditors and excluding abnormals such as the \$1.45 million payment from Treasury, the predicted surpluses will raise the net assets of the Consolidated Fund as at 30 June 2000 to around \$11.6 million (General Fund \$2.7 million and Insurance Fund, \$8.9 million.)

The Consolidated Fund has been forecast to return a deficit of \$0.55 million (General Fund surplus \$0.02 million and Insurance Fund deficit \$0.57 million) in the 2000/2001 financial year. The forecast deficit in the Insurance Fund takes into account the cyclical nature of the building industry and is based on a predicted period of increased claims and decreased building activity following the introduction of GST in July.

The improvement in the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2000 will better enable the absorption of the forecast deficit in 2000/2001.

### **912. Families, Youth and Community Care, Funding**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (24/8/00)—

- (1) What is a breakdown of non-Government agencies and community organisations that were granted capital funding for projects in 1999-2000 and what non-Government agencies and community organisations have been budgeted to receive funds in 2000-01?
- (2) At what location are each of these facilities located?
- (3) What are the details of the facilities for which these funds are allocated?

**Ms BLIGH** (25/9/00):

(1) Attachment 1 is a list of capital grants provided to non-Government agencies and community organisations by Families Youth and Community Care Queensland (FYCCQ) and Disability Services Queensland (DSQ) in the 1999-2000 financial year. For budgeted expenditure in 2000-01, I refer to page

74 of Budget Paper No. 5 where the budgeted expenditure on capital grants in 2000-01 is approximately \$5M. It is not possible at this time to advise which organisations will receive capital grants in 2000-2001 as application and assessment processes are yet to be finalised.

(2) See Attachment 1

(3) See Attachment 1.

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

### **913. Building Services Authority**

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (24/8/00)—

With reference to her response to Estimates Questions on Notice and to the expenditure on the Corporate Card of the General Manager and, in particular, to the expenditure of \$20.23 on petrol and \$85 on a wheel balance—

Why were these expenditures on the General Manager's corporate card and not done through Q-Fleet and/or the Fuel Card systems?

**Ms SPENCE** (25/9/00): Presumably the General Manager used his corporate card to pay for petrol and a wheel balance for the sake of convenience. There is no reason why he should not have done so.

### **914. Building Services Authority, Credit Information Bureau**

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (24/8/00)—

With reference to the \$300,000 grant budgeted for the credit information bureau in the 1999-2000 Budget of the Building Services Authority and given her repeated claims that she cares for consumers and subcontractors—

Why has she failed to allocate the credit information bureau grant during 1999-2000?

**Ms SPENCE** (25/9/00): My concern for consumers and subcontractors and the Government's ongoing commitment to strengthening the Queensland building industry, improving security of payment and increasing consumer protection has been amply demonstrated through the introduction and implementation of the Better Building Industry Legislative Reforms.

The Implementation Steering Committee's report on Security of Payment in the Building and Construction Industry recommended "That BSA and industry collaboratively develop and ensure the ongoing viability of an industry credit bureau and that a basic level of access to bureau data be afforded to licensees."

The implementation of this recommendation has been delayed as BSA has concentrated its resources on addressing more pressing issues in respect of the

Better Building Industry Legislative Reforms. In the meantime, efforts have been made to encourage contractors to use the building industry credit reference services already in existence.

Obviously any funding in the form of a grant, equity or otherwise towards the establishment of an industry credit reference agency will be dependent upon the agency being able to satisfy a number of criteria. The BSA called for Expressions of Interest in the development and establishment of an Industry Credit Bureau in May 2000. Unfortunately neither of the two responses enabled the development of a contract and the BSA is taking advice on how this issue can be progressed through negotiation with the two respondents.

#### 915. Residential Tenancies Authority

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (24/8/00)—

With reference to the Residential Tenancies Authority (RTA) which is forecasting its third budget deficit in as many years—

Why has she failed to curb the extravagant and/or wasteful spending of the General Manager and authority on such things as (a) \$754.50 on drinks and catering for the opening of the RTA's new building, (b) a loss of some \$300,000 on the disposal of fixtures and fittings from the old RTA office accommodation and (c) a loss of over \$140,000 on rental payments for the unused existing office accommodation?

**Ms SPENCE** (25/9/00):

(a) The official opening of the RTA's new premises was an opportunity for community, industry and Government representatives to acknowledge the work of the RTA and to be introduced to the new premises. The new accommodation provides improved access for face-to-face clients and better facilities overall for both staff to work and for stakeholder meetings.

It is common practice to have building openings to acknowledge an important transition and invite key stakeholders. The amount spent on catering is not considered excessive for the 60-70 community and Government representatives who attended.

(b) The \$300,000 was a book value for the old fixtures and fittings. A Quantity Surveyor's assessment advised that it would cost more for the existing fixtures and fittings to be used in the new building than using new fitout. Advice was also received that the realised value after selling the old fixtures and fittings would be negligible. It was accepted that there was more chance to on-lease the old accommodation if it was offered as is with fixtures and fittings.

(c) All three floors in the RTA's previous accommodation have now been on-leased. This will benefit the RTA during 2000-01 by approximately \$85,000. Efforts to on-lease were not actively pursued until after occupation of the new premises last November. This was to ensure that any delays in

completing the new accommodation did not mean that the RTA could not meet any contractual arrangements in vacating the leased floors on time so that new tenants could move in.

If the RTA had waited until later to refurbish and fitout the new building so that occupation coincided with the expiry of the existing lease this November, then substantial cost increases would have been incurred with the refurbishment costs due to the GST.

#### 916. Building Services Authority

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (24/8/00)—

With reference to the overall operating budget deficit forecast for the Building Services Authority for 2000-01—

What is the breakdown of this deficit between the insurance fund and the general fund?

**Ms SPENCE** (25/9/00): In July this year, the predicted deficit for the Building Services Authority for the 2000-01 financial year was estimated at \$546,534 made up of a surplus of \$20,994 in the General Fund and a deficit of \$567,528 in the Insurance Fund.

#### 917. Cairns Tilt Train Project

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/8/00)—

With reference to the \$200m plus Cairns Tilt Train project—

Has any financial or economic evaluation of this project been undertaken; if so, will he release this evaluation?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (25/9/00): There is no "200m plus" Cairns Tilt Train project.

#### 918. Police Budget

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (24/8/00)—

- (1) Will he detail which section of the police Budget receives the payment for the Equity Return of \$33.4m?
- (2) What is the gross amount of this section of the police Budget before the Equity Return is extracted for payment to Treasury?
- (3) If there is more than one section of the police Budget that receives and pays out the equity return (i.e. commands or corporate divisions) will he provide the above detail for each section?

**Mr BARTON** (22/9/00):

- (1) The State Wide Services—Special Allocations section of the police budget receives the payment for the Equity Return of \$33.4m. This section records the payment of special allocations such as

Superannuation and Equity Return and is under the management of Directorate Finance.

(2) The total budget for the State Wide Services—Special Allocations section for the financial year 2000-2001 including Equity Return is \$131.9m.

(3) The only section that receives and pays the equity return is State Wide Services—Special Allocations.

#### **919. Police Service; Criminal Justice Commission**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (24/8/00)—

With reference to a person referred to as Mr X in Hansard on 1 March 2000—

- (1) Did he meet with the aforementioned person in Sydney when he was the Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services?
- (2) Did the aforementioned person ever provide him with documentation relating to his dispute with the Queensland Police Service and the Criminal Justice Commission?
- (3) Did he ever inform, or suggest to, Mr Stephen Warnock, a journalist, that he had contacted Mr Michael Barnes of the Criminal Justice Commission to verify the nature of this dispute?

**Mr BARTON** (22/9/00):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. He provided me with correspondence between himself or his various lawyers with yourself when you were Minister for Police, the then Premier Rob Borbidge, the Queensland Ombudsman and the Queensland Police Service. Included in this material was correspondence from your then Ministerial office and Mr Borbidge's office which clearly stated that Mr X's case had been referred to the Queensland Ombudsman for review. There was also a letter from the Queensland Ombudsman to Mr X which said: "A search of our records reveals that, at this date, this Office has not been forwarded any claim by you for compensation against the QPS." This matter was raised in Parliament on 19 March 2000 and the relevant correspondence was tabled. At that time you failed to adequately answer questions relating to this matter.
- (3) As I stated in reply to a Question Without Notice on 1 March 2000, I do not recall speaking to Mr Stephen Warnock. I also clearly stated that I did not make any improper approaches to the CJC, seeking information on this matter.

For the Member's information, I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that Mr X has not been on Witness Protection since December 1999.

#### **920. Noosa National Park**

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (24/8/00)—

With reference to his announcement from the Budget papers of a current allocation of \$150,000 for

maintenance work on the walking tracks of Noosa National Park and an allocation of an amount of \$330,000 for the construction of a Visitor Information Centre at Tewantin—

- (1) When is it proposed that the work of reconstruction of the walking tracks in Noosa National Park will commence and on what date is completion of this work expected?
- (2) When is it proposed to commence construction on the Visitor Information Centre and what is the proposed completion date for this construction?

**Mr WELFORD** (5/10/00):

(1) Under the Better Parks Program, work on the Noosa National Park walking track upgrade is scheduled to commence during October 2000 and will be completed by 31 October 2001. Ten trainees will be employed for a 12 month period to upgrade sections of the walking track system to improve visitor access to the bays and beaches of the park which are currently subject to impacts associated with an extremely high rate of visitation. The trainees will also assist Queensland Parks and Wildlife staff with the revegetation of degraded sections of the Park.

It is expected that this program will result in a significant increase in the quality of the visitor experience at Noosa while at the same time protecting the values for which this park is so widely recognised.

(2) Project managers are currently checking documentation prior to calling tenders for the construction of the Tewantin Visitor Information Centre. Construction work will commence as soon as possible after the letting of a contract. Work is expected to be finished before 30 June 2001.

#### **921. Public Works and Housing Departments, Telecommunication and Data Services**

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (24/8/00)—

With reference to telecommunication and data services for the Department of Public Works and the Department of Housing (reported separately) (24/8/00)—

What was the cost of these services for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and what is the budget cost of these services for 2000-01?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (25/9/00): This question has already been answered—please refer to Question on Notice No. 876.

#### **922. Gatton-Gympie Gas Pipeline**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (24/8/00)—

With reference to the Gatton to Gympie gas pipeline—

- (1) Will he define what process has been put in place to complete this project?



- (2) Have works been proceeding with the actual laying of the pipeline and what timetable is in place for the expected finalisation of this project?

**Mr McGRADY** (25/9/00):

- (1) Allgas Pipelines Operations Pty Ltd has negotiated or is in the process of negotiating to acquire a right of way through the 272 properties along the route of the pipeline.

Negotiations are also continuing for an Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

- (2) No work on construction has commenced and will not until the whole right of way for the pipeline has been acquired.

### 923. Tarong Power Station, Rail Corridor

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (24/8/00)—

With reference to the Canaga Creek Option of the proposed rail corridor between coal reserves near Chinchilla to the Tarong Energy powerhouse at Tarong and as it is a common practice for Governments to acquire private land for public use to construct a facility such as a power station or a rail corridor and in this instance, Tarong Energy will be seeking Government approval for a rail corridor that it may not use for 10 years, in fact a rail corridor it may never use and as the company has intentions of paying an annual consideration to affected landowners until it actually acquires the land which represents a serious extension of the powers of resumption of private land—

Will he insist Tarong Energy immediately acquire the land and pay compensation to affected landowners once the corridor is approved, rather than leave these landowners in a position where they will probably not be able to sell their farms without suffering an enormous financial loss because no potential buyers will offer a fair price for a farm with a rail corridor through it?

**Mr ELDER** (22/9/00): Tarong Energy is a GOC operating in the National Electricity Market. Responsibility for its operational performance and development plans and activities rests with its Board of Directors.

Tarong Energy has not approached the Government, through my Department, for assistance by means of compulsory acquisition of land. It is Tarong Energy's publicly stated intention to negotiate on a commercial basis with all affected landholders on the route to acquire the required land for the rail corridor.

Obviously there will be farm management impacts. Some will be such that the only option is to purchase the whole property for a fair market price. Amalgamation of the non-rail corridor balance of this land with adjoining properties may enhance their viability. Other cases will be able to be dealt with via a compensation factor in a purchase agreement.

I am advised that where there are genuine hardship cases the Board of Tarong Energy will consider purchase rather than the taking of an option. I am

confident that there will not be 'enormous financial loss' as you state, but I do acknowledge that there would be emotional issues for landholders concerned. The Government expects Tarong Energy to be fair and considerate in all dealings with landholders.

The negotiation of options is not 'a serious extension of the powers of resumption of private land', rather it is a legitimate commercial dealing for which the Board of Tarong Energy is responsible.

### 924. Free Spectacle Scheme

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Health (24/8/00)—

- (1) How many optometrists are dispensing spectacles under the State Government Free Spectacle Scheme at 30 June 2000 as opposed to the same time in 1999?
- (2) What was the actual amount spent on the scheme in 1999-2000 with a breakdown of the costs?
- (3) What is the budget for 2000-01?
- (4) How many spectacles were dispensed under the scheme in 1999-2000 and what is the target for 2000-01?

**Mrs EDMOND** (25/9/00): The Spectacle Supply Scheme has been put in place to assist Queensland residents by providing a comprehensive range of basic optometrical aids for financially disadvantaged Queenslanders who are deemed eligible under the Scheme.

- (1) The number of optometrists dispensing spectacles under the State government Spectacle Supply Scheme as at 30 June 2000 was 331, compared to 323 optometrists at 30 June 1999.
- (2) During 1999-2000 the actual amount spent on the Spectacle Supply Scheme was \$3,372,847. The breakdown of these costs during 1999-2000 was lenses \$2,212,720, frames \$999,939, spectacle repairs and cases \$160,188.
- (3) The 2000-2001 estimated expenditure for the scheme is approximately \$3,773,000. Additional funding of \$400,000 has been allocated for the scheme in this year's budget.
- (4) The approximate number of spectacles issued during the period 1 August 1999—3 July 2000 under the scheme was 75,164. Targets for the supply of spectacles are not set by Queensland Health as the scheme is driven by client demand and managed by the Health Service Districts.

### 925. Optometry Practices

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Health (24/8/00)—

- (1) Has Cabinet made a decision to deregulate optometry practices and change laws currently requiring optometrists to own optometry practices?
- (2) Is she aware that this would threaten the provision of optometrical services in rural and regional Queensland?

- (3) Can she see the potential for optometry services to be dominated by multinational corporations through Queensland?
- (4) Is the optometrist registration board in favour of this Cabinet decision?

**Mrs EDMOND (25/9/00):**

(1) Cabinet has recently made a decision to discontinue the current legislative restrictions on the ownership of optometry businesses, under which only optometrists can own optometry businesses.

However, the Optometrists Registration Bill 2000 continues to regulate the practice of optometry. That is, only registered optometrists may practice optometry (ie conduct eye examinations and prescribe optical appliances). A review of core practice is yet to be finalised.

In relation to the ownership of optometry practices, stakeholders acknowledge that the market has been effectively deregulated for many years, as the current legislation has been circumvented through various corporate strategies.

The review of ownership restrictions concluded that there was no justification, on health grounds, for having such restrictions. The only other States that have such ownership restrictions are NSW and Tasmania, where the restrictions are currently under review.

The review also noted that, if enforceable ownership restrictions were to be introduced, this would have an adverse effect on optometrists currently employed by non-optometrists.

Removal of ownership restrictions will bring optometry businesses into line with all other registered health practitioner groups (except pharmacists, where a separate review is under way). For example, people other than doctors may own medical practices, and people other than dentists may own dental practices.

(2) The issue of the impact on rural and regional Queensland was specifically addressed in the Public Benefit Test for the review. As the market is already effectively deregulated, the review found that removing the legislative restrictions would not adversely affect rural and regional areas.

(3) The ownership restrictions in the current legislation have been circumvented for many years through various corporate strategies, including the use of nominees. Thus, if takeovers of optometry businesses were on the multinational agenda, this could already have been achieved by circumventing the current legislation.

(4) The Optometrists Board of Queensland initially supported a legislative approach that would restrict ownership of optometry businesses to optometrists only. The Board's submission to the review noted that their position was based on a desire to minimise the risk of clinical decisions being influenced by commercial (rather than clinical) factors.

This Government has directly addressed this issue by including in the Optometrists Registration Bill 2000, a provision under which it will be a statutory offence for any person (including a business owner) to influence the professional practice or clinical

activities of a registered optometrist. This offence provision is mirrored in the 12 other Health Practitioner Registration Acts recently introduced to Parliament.

The Optometrists Board supported the inclusion of the statutory offence provision in the Optometrists Registration Bill 2000, and, in a recent deputation, the Board acknowledged Cabinet's decision to discontinue the current ownership restrictions.

## 926. Australian Meat Holdings, Dinmore

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (24/8/00)—

With reference to her claim in the Queensland Times on 10 August that there is no risk to residents living adjacent to the AMH abattoir at Dinmore and the Government-owned Churchill abattoir, of contracting the debilitating air-borne disease, Q Fever and now that the Deputy Premier has confirmed that a man living adjacent to the Dinmore plant has contracted this disease, contrary to her earlier denial and the Environmental Minister has now directed that the spraying of effluent at the Churchill plant cease because of the health risk—

Will she conduct the mass screening for Q Fever that those residents have requested and provide them with free vaccinations?

**Mrs EDMOND (25/9/00):** Regarding the Queensland Times article on August 10 concerning this matter, the Queensland Times did not speak to me, or my office. I did not say there was no risk.

I subsequently issued a statement to the Queensland Times which said in part:

"The risk to residential communities is very low. While it is not nil, as historically there have been sporadic cases in a community setting, the risk is extremely low, especially in the absence of any evidence of disease"

Q fever is an infection transmitted from animals to humans. There are a number of possible methods by which a person may acquire Q fever. They include the inhalation of contaminated aerosols or dust, ingestion (e.g. contaminated milk), percutaneous transmission (through the skin), vertical transmission (from mother to her newborn) and person to person transmission (e.g. by blood transfusion). The most common of these methods of transmission is the inhalation of contaminated aerosols or dust.

Q fever exists in a number of animals, particularly cattle, sheep and goats, but has also been found in cats, dogs, native wildlife as well as birds and ticks. This means that there are a number of environmental sources of Q fever to which humans may be exposed but that occupations such as abattoir workers, farmers and veterinarians are at particular high risk.

A vaccination to protect against Q fever has been available since the early 1990s and is recommended for those at greatest occupational risk of developing Q fever, for example abattoir workers, dairy farmers, and veterinarians. Prior to vaccination, persons must have serum antibody estimations and skin tests to exclude those likely to have hypersensitivity

reactions to the vaccine resulting from previous exposure to the organism.

In the West Moreton Health District, there have been 11 confirmed cases of Q fever reported in the year 2000 to date, compared with an average of ten per year for the last five years. Almost all of these cases have clear occupational risk factors which have led to their developing Q fever. The community concerns raised about Q fever in relation to the aerial irrigation of waste waters from the Churchill abattoir led to a Queensland Health investigation which recommended that this practice cease and that alternative methods of waste disposal be employed.

In addition, all general medical practitioners in the West Moreton Health District were provided with information on Q fever in order to assist them with community concerns. Since that time, there has been one case of Q fever reported in a patient with occupational risk factors. There has been no increase in notifications and no outbreak identified in relation to either the Churchill or Dinmore abattoirs.

Consequently, mass screening of residents is not a practicable public health strategy in the face of this lack of evidence of community acquired cases of Q fever. The Q fever vaccine continues to remain an important preventive strategy for those at occupational risk of infection. It is not proposed to conduct mass screenings or provide free vaccinations to residents as suggested.

## 927. Electoral Commission

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (24/8/00)—

With reference to the records of the Queensland Electoral Commission and, in particular, the names listed below—

- (1) Will he detail which of the names listed have been recorded as having cast a vote in the Townsville region at each State and Local Government Election since and including 1992 and any by-election?
- (2) In which electorates or council division was the person recorded as having cast a vote at each election and/or by-election?
- (3) How many occasions at each of those elections was the person's name manually crossed-off an electoral roll by electoral staff as having cast a vote?
- (4) How many occasions at each of those elections is the person's name recorded as having made a postal or absentee vote?

Jan Michelle Cox, Sarah Ann Atkinson, Robert John Fawkes, William George Bowering, Rodney Pitts, Janelle Barabara Fawkes, Alana Meredith Sargent, Graham Steven John Houghton, Kevin Court, Leigh-Anne Sargent, Robert William Bradshaw, Jason Heaton, Matthew Heaton, Gralton Thomas Richard Willey, Valerie Jean Willey, Katie Margaret Dawn Willey, Peter Anthony Belk, James Christopher Belk, Bianca Kalhari Hanns, Gloria Desley Sailor, Cherise O'Shea.

**Mr FOLEY** (25/9/00): During the proceedings on 11 August 2000 in the District Court in Townsville before the Honourable Chief Judge Wolfe, the Court was informed that the names listed in the indictment, and subsequently referred to in the member's question, were not fictitious people. The criminal act committed by Ms Erhmann was to alter the electoral enrolment addresses of those people.

In response to the numbered questions asked by the Member:

(1 & 2) In relation to the 1992, 1995 and 1998 State Elections and the fresh Mundingburra Election held on 3 February 1996, records of the Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ) show that each of the twenty-one (21) persons listed in the Question voted/did not vote as shown in Attachment 1 to this answer. The conduct of Local Government Elections does not come within the responsibilities of my portfolio. Questions relating to Local Government Elections should be directed to the responsible Minister.

(3) In respect of the 1995 and 1998 State Elections and the fresh Mundingburra Election, those electors who are shown on Attachment 1 to this answer as having voted, each had a mark manually placed alongside their name in a roll by an electoral staff member. Insofar as the 1992 Election is concerned, the Rolls (Certified Lists) have been destroyed in line with Section 126 of the Electoral Act 1992. Data in Attachment 1 to this Answer relating to 1992 was compiled from a consolidation of rolls used at that election.

(4) In respect of the State Elections and the fresh Election mentioned in (1) and (2) above, no elector is marked as having cast a postal vote. The undermentioned electors are recorded as having cast either an Absentee Vote or a Pre-Poll (In Person) Vote for the District indicated on Attachment 1 to this Answer—Alana Meredith Sargent, Grattan Thomas Richard Willey, Valerie Jean Willey, Peter Anthony Belk, Bianca Hanns, Gloria Desley Sailor, Cherise (Ronelle) O'Shea.

The attached information indicates that none of the persons listed is recorded as having voted more than once at each of the said elections.

The attached information also appears to indicate that these votes did not affect the outcome of the said elections.

A copy of the attached table has been furnished to the Criminal Justice Commission.

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

## 928. Outlook Youth Development Programs, Lake Tinaroo

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (24/8/00)—

Will he give a detailed explanation as to why all the Outlook Youth Development programs at Lake Tinaroo have been cancelled and when will funding be reallocated to have these programs running again?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (18/9/00): The Youth Development Initiative (YDI) was initially funded in 1997/1998 through a Whole-of-Government "Youth Working for Queensland" initiative. Annual funding of \$600,000 was provided over the 1997/1998, 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 financial years.

The Youth Development Initiative (Outdoor Recreation Centres) was designed to provide high quality, safe and low cost developmental programs for at risk young people at the Department's Outdoor Recreation Centres of Lake Tinaroo (Atherton), Yeppoon (Capricorn Coast) and Leslie Dam (Warwick).

The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, through its Outlook Training and Resource Centre, was successful in winning the tender to both develop and deliver this program. Support for the program has been positive, however the initial funding for the program has now expired.

I understand the cost of supporting the Lake Tinaroo program through provision of appropriately qualified and experienced staff is very high. The resumption of the program will also be dependent upon the identification of both appropriate human and financial resources.

Representatives of my Department are working with Education Queensland and Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland to identify options for the continuation of the programs within current budgets.

### 929. Mount Gravatt Showgrounds

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (24/8/00)—

With reference to the allocation of funding through his department to the Mt Gravatt Showgrounds and especially to his statements during the Estimates Debate and to contradictory answers to questions on this subject—

- (1) Under what Local Government program and for what reason, was \$53,908 allocated to the Mt Gravatt Showgrounds in 1999-2000?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of the preparation of the business plan for the further development of the showgrounds for which Sport and Recreation Queensland contributed \$50,000 under the 1999-2001 National Standard Sport Facilities Program?
- (3) When was the application for this funding received by the department, when was it approved and will he table a copy of the application in the House?
- (4) Were tenders called for the preparation of the business plan, who was awarded the tender and has the business plan been completed and submitted to the department?
- (5) Was the responsible Minister advised, at any time, in writing or verbally, that the application was not eligible for funding under the National Standard Sport Facilities Program?

(6) Why were funds from the National Standard Sport Facilities Program applied to this purpose when advice was given by departmental officers that the Mt Gravatt Showground was not, and was most unlikely to ever be, a national standard sport facility and the application for the preparation of a business plan was totally inappropriate and ineligible?

(7) Was the responsible Minister advised, either verbally or in writing, to consider funding the Mt Gravatt Showgrounds business plan under a different funding program such as the Minor Facilities Program or the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (20/9/00):

(1) The Mt Gravatt Showgrounds received funding of \$53,908 under the Showgrounds Capital Works Subsidy Scheme toward various projects as follows:

Roadworks and associated stormwater drainage—\$20,608  
 Equipment storage—\$4,122  
 General stormwater drainage & erosion control—\$10,304  
 Overhead Safety Lighting—\$3,864  
 Hamlyn Harris Building—Toilets—\$15,010  
 Total—\$53,908

(2) As I indicated to the Estimates Committee, the \$50,000 funding made available to the Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Trust ("the Trust") enables the Trust to prepare a business plan for the further development of the Showgrounds. Of the \$50,000 made available to the Trust, I approved that \$15,000 of that amount should be towards the direct cost of preparing the business plan, with the balance of funds to assist the Trust in its operations in the context of—and during—the business planning process.

I understand the direct cost of preparing the business plan was \$15,750.

(3) The Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Trust wrote to the former Minister for Sport on 4 November 1999 seeking financial assistance to support the Trust in their operations and to prepare a business plan which would inform future development of services.

On 10 January 2000, the Trust was advised of approval of funding of \$50,000.

(4) I am advised that tenders were called for the consultancy by the Trust. On 20 March 2000, KMPG were awarded the tender by the Trust.

I understand the business plan has been completed and was presented to the Trust in the week commencing 21 August 2000 and the Trust is now considering the proposed business plan.

(5) I am unaware of whether advice of this nature was provided to the former Minister for Sport. I do not recall receiving such advice when I was asked to consider the Trust's request for assistance. I was however, advised that funds were available from within Sport and Recreation to meet the Trust's request.

(6) I am not aware of the advice to which the Member refers.

Officers in the Sport and Recreation area of my Department have informed me that an administrative decision was made to source the funding to be made available to the Trust from savings identified in the National Standard Sport Facilities Program.

Assisting the Trust develop a business plan is consistent with the Government's objective of supporting sport and recreation organisations throughout the State assure their longer term viability and optimum usage of their facilities.

(7) I have been informed by officers in the Sport and Recreation area of my Department the former Minister was initially advised to consider providing funding to the Trust from the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program. In respect of my consideration of the Trust's request, I refer the Member to my responses to Questions (5) and (6) above.

### 930. Giant Rat-tail Grass

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (24/8/00)—

- (1) Is he aware of the continuous spread of Giant Rat-tail Grass and the absolute and total devastation this grass is having on properties in Queensland?
- (2) Is he aware that this grass has the capacity to spread not only from north to south coastal Queensland but also to western Queensland?
- (3) In view of this and the concern expressed at a seminar held in Rockhampton recently on the subject, will he outline his latest proposals to rid Queensland of this dreadful curse that has the capacity to severely devalue the economy of rural Queensland?

**Mr WELFORD** (5/10/00):

- (1) I am aware of the impact that Giant rat-tail (GRT) grass and related grasses are having in Queensland.
- (2) I am aware of the ability of this and related grasses to increase their distribution in Queensland. For these reasons, GRT and related species are a high priority for my Department of Natural Resources, and a State wide mapping exercise was carried out in late 1999 which resulted in the first complete map of infestations in Queensland.
- (3) My Department recently released guidelines, procedures and protocols (including a voluntary vendor declaration) for preventing weed seed spread in Queensland. GRT is one of a number species targeted during the development of these processes. The materials developed to help prevent weed seed spread have been made available on CD to industry, service utilities and local governments. Adoption of these guidelines, protocols and procedures by the community will reduce the spread of GRT throughout Queensland. My Department, in cooperation with a utility company, recently published a poster raising awareness of the risks of spreading this species.

My Department of Natural Resources coordinated a workshop between key stakeholders from 29 February-1 March 2000. A national strategy for the

management of weedy Sporobolus grasses (rat's tail grasses) drafted after this workshop is currently out for community consultation. The vision of this document is "A community united against Weedy Sporobolus grasses". Major actions to come from this document will be in refining effective management techniques and increasing general community awareness of the problem.

GRT originates in South Africa and a survey for possible biological control agents has just been initiated and is to be carried out from my Department's South African field station. Selective chemical control will be available again shortly with the recent registration of flupropanate products, previously marketed as Frenock.

### 931. Eidsvold and Theodore Timber Mills

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (24/8/00)—

With reference to the Government's stated intention to purchase and resell the timber mills at Eidsvold and Theodore—

- (1) What is the current status of these mills?
- (2) What process is being used to identify potential buyers?
- (3) What conditions are attached to the resale of these mills?
- (4) What timber allocations are being offered with these mills?
- (5) Are those allocations transferable to other timber mills?

**Mr ELDER** (22/9/00):

- (1) The sawmills are currently being operated by Boral Timber. Under a sale and purchase agreement with Boral Timber the sawmills will be transferred to Queensland Government ownership on 1 July 2002.
- (2) It is the Queensland Government's intention that these sawmills will be on-sold so that private ownership can continue. The Queensland Government is currently considering a range of options to identify potential buyers.
- (3) Conditions for the sale are being considered as part of the on-sale process.
- (4) The Crown sawlog hardwood allocation for Eidsvold is currently 7,855 cubic metres per annum and for Theodore is 18,000 cubic metres per annum. A resource review for this region is currently being undertaken. Future allocations will be determined through this process and prior to the sale of the mills.
- (5) Conditions regarding the transferability of the Crown sawlog hardwood allocations are yet to be determined.

### 932. Murray Darling Basin, Salinity

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (24/8/00)—

With reference to his Estimates statement where he stated that "salinity was not presently a problem in

the Murray Darling Basin" and further "that we need to be alert to future potential problems" and in view of the fact that his statement now more accurately reflects the facts and the view of the Opposition—

- (1) Will he cooperate with joint funding with the Commonwealth in a real salinity audit for the Murray Darling Basin in Queensland?
- (2) To gain bipartisan support for a genuine outcome, will he provide genuine input from stakeholders by setting up a special stakeholder group to monitor the study?

**Mr WELFORD** (5/10/00):

(1) My full statement to the Estimates Hearing concerning salinity potential in the Queensland section of the Murray-Darling Basin was:

"Preliminary research indicates that although salinity in the Murray Darling at this stage is not a major problem, potential increases in the river salinity in the Condamine/Balonne, the Border Rivers and the Warrego catchments is something we cannot afford to ignore. We are developing a risk map for the entire state which will help us deal with these issues and work with landholders in addressing these issues, especially in the Murray Darling."

Further salinity audit work undertaken by my Department of Natural Resources in 1999/2000 resulted in the updated projections for groundwater discharge and salt loads from the Queensland part of the Murray-Darling Basin being significantly less than the figures contained in the November 1999 Basin Salinity Audit Report. This updated work was funded jointly by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission and my Department of Natural Resources and has been taken into account in the recently released draft Basin Salinity Management Strategy. A key point from this updated audit work is that whilst Queensland's contribution to Basin salinity increases in the next 15 to 20 years is not significant, long-term salinity levels in Queensland will increase under current land and water management arrangements. There is a need to get better risk assessment and predictive data and establish and implement long-term management plans in consultation with the catchment community.

Consistent with this the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Inc, a Basin catchment coordinating committee with broad representation of natural resource management stakeholders, including rural landholders, environmentalists, local governments, and state government agencies, has in partnership with my Department of Natural Resources, submitted a joint project application to fund the project Managing Dryland Salinity in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin. The project has now been recommended for approval by the Natural Heritage Trust Board. Subject to this approval the project will be jointly funded by Queensland and the Commonwealth from the Murray Darling 2001 component of the Natural Heritage Trust. Two objectives of the project are:

investigate and characterise shallow groundwater catchments at sufficient scale to determine the risk of rising groundwater and

dryland salinity. This information will be used to underpin the development of management strategies; and

develop and implement a long-term framework for ongoing monitoring and reporting of shallow groundwater aquifers and dryland salinity at sub-catchment level.

- (2) The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee has established a project steering committee to provide direction and monitor this project to ensure that the results and outcomes from the project are transparent and credible and are based on the best available information.

### 933. Lang Park Redevelopment

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (24/8/00)—

With reference to his public statement at the Bundy Gold Cup rugby league final on Saturday 19 August, where he stated that construction work would start on the redevelopment of Lang Park in March next year—

- (1) Does this conflict in any way with his statements during the Estimates hearings that tenancy agreements for Lang Park were still being negotiated?
- (2) How many financial and relocation agreements have not yet been reached with local business operators affected by the development and who are those operators?
- (3) Is it normal practice to announce a construction date before the project has been approved by the Brisbane City Council?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (18/9/00):

- (1) No. The Stadium redevelopment schedule proposes construction to commence early in 2001. As advised during the Estimates hearings, work will not commence until the necessary development approvals and tenancy agreements are obtained.
- (2) These are commercial matters which are currently the subject of negotiation. It is not appropriate for me to comment in this regard until negotiations are concluded.
- (3) The date that has been announced is the intended date for commencement of construction, subject to obtaining the necessary development approvals from the Brisbane City Council and finalising major tenancy agreements.

### 934. Mackay Hospital

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Health (24/8/00)—

- (1) Have staff of Mackay Base Hospital been briefed on the downgrading of the ICU facility?
- (2) Will she assure the people of Mackay that she will intervene to have this important service continued?
- (3) What is the current situation in relation to the renal unit at Mackay ie (a) number of patients

currently being treated, (b) number of patients that the unit is currently funded for, (c) number of patients in the Mackay district who require renal services and (d) number of patients that have to travel to other centres for renal treatment?

**Mrs EDMOND (25/9/00):**

(1) There is no plan or proposal to downgrade services of the Intensive Care and Coronary Care Unit of Mackay Base Hospital. To the contrary, the redevelopment of Mackay Base Hospital has provided a single, combined, eleven bed Intensive Care and Coronary Care Unit, which has been recently completed and commissioned. This improved capacity replaces a separate six bed ICU unit and a four bed CCU.

(2) See (1) above.

(3)(a & b) At present, there are 16 patients being treated in the Haemodialysis Unit of Mackay Base Hospital. Mackay Base Hospital is funded to provide this treatment.

(c) There are 16 patients requiring in hospital haemodialysis services in the Mackay District.

(d) Patients are required to travel to other centres for renal services and/or haemodialysis when there is a clinical need which exceeds the capability of the unit at Mackay Base Hospital to provide this service. The Mackay Base Hospital haemodialysis unit operates as a satellite unit of Townsville General Hospital and as such, Townsville General Hospital provides tertiary level referral and support with the renal physician providing outreach services to Mackay.

All patients of the Mackay unit attend Townsville General Hospital initially for clinical assessment before returning to Mackay for continuing haemodialysis. If the clinical need of Mackay Base Hospital patients requires tertiary involvement, those patients are routinely referred to Townsville.

At present, there is one Mackay patient currently being treated at Townsville General Hospital and when this patient is medically assessed as suitable for local haemodialysis, a vacancy will be available to allow their return.

It is expected that one patient currently being dialysed at Mackay Base Hospital will resume community based dialysis which will allow local need for in hospital haemodialysis to be satisfied.

The Member should be aware that clinical decisions are made in the best interests of the patient concerned. They should not be subjected to local political interference and pressure.

The Member should also be aware that his continuous rumour-mongering to score cheap political points is having a detrimental effect on staffing recruitment and is an unfortunate distraction for hard working staff as they have to reassure patients and rebut rumours.

### 935. Boyne River, Dredging

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/8/00)—

With reference to his replies by letter on several occasions that dredging the Boyne River mouth was too expensive on a cost/benefit basis and as boat owners in the area concerned continue to state the need for channel clearing for safety reasons—

Why can't the dredging be done while equipment is in our region in the next few months before a serious incident or death occurs?

**Mr BREDHAUER (25/9/00):** As I have previously advised a trial channel was dredged in the mouth of the Boyne River in 1985 and because of the presence of gravel, the exposed nature of the coast line and the rapid refilling of the dredged channel, the trial could not be completed.

There are many other rivers in Queensland used by the boating public which, like the Boyne River, suffer from restrictions on navigation towards low water.

Queensland Transport endeavours to assist the public to navigate safely in as many popular waterways as possible,

All tide, all weather facilities for local and visiting small craft for the Port of Gladstone exist at the Gladstone Marina and the Auckland Creek Boat Harbour.

### 936. Golden Casket

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Treasurer (24/8/00)—

Will he indicate, in relation to the last \$5 casket drawn in August (a) how many tickets were available, (b) how many remained unsold at the time of the draw and (c) why the Government didn't improve the sales rate by highlighting that this was the final \$5 casket draw?

**Mr HAMILL (22/9/00):**

(a) 110,000.

(b) 26,012. It is believed sales would have been considerably lower, had GCLC not publicly promoted the closure, through:

Colour posters, advising customers of the closure of the \$5 game, were displayed on the results boards at around 1,000 Golden Casket shops throughout Queensland for a few weeks in the lead up to the draw.

Advertisements were placed in the Public Notices sections of The Courier-Mail and major regional daily newspapers (14) in Queensland in July, the month prior to the draw.

Media releases were prepared and issued throughout the state, with extensive radio and TV news coverage achieved, including segments on Channel Ten, Win TV, Triple M and B105.

(c) See (b) above.

### 937. South Bank Development

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Premier (24/8/00)—

With reference to revelations last week that the State Government, through South Bank Corporation, was a joint partner with Mirvac in a \$100m residential-retail development at South Bank—

- (1) What is the extent of the Government equity in this scheme?
- (2) What percentage of the equity does the Government hold?
- (3) What is the approximate dollar value of that exposure?

**Mr BEATTIE** (25/9/00):

(1) The development known as the Arbour on Grey, a \$100 million mixed use complex on Grey Street currently being developed by the Mirvac Group has two components, residential and retail.

The South Bank Corporation (the Corporation) has entered into a joint venture agreement with the Mirvac Group in relation to the ground floor retail component of the development. This agreement formed part of the purchase price of the lease of the land for the development.

The nature of the Corporation's interest in the retail component is that of majority owner and landlord of tenancies in exactly the same manner as the Corporation owns the existing retail tenancies in the Parklands.

The Mirvac Group is selling the residential component of the development to individual owners and investors. The Corporation has no interest in the residential portion of this development. The Corporation is not the developer. It will receive no development profits, nor assume any of the development risk.

(2) The retail component of this development project is being operated as a Joint Venture. The Corporation owns 65% of the Joint Venture.

(3) The Mirvac Group has assumed all of the construction and development risks associated with the residential and retail development.

The Corporation has no financial investment with the construction of either the retail or the residential portions of the development. The Corporation, as part owner of the Joint Venture retail business has assumed none of the construction or development risks.

The risks associated with the retail business are the normal risks of managing retail tenancies; that is the ability to lease the retail spaces, vacancies, or default by lessee. In this regard, the Corporation's ongoing risks are no different to its existing business operations.

### 938. Milk Quotas

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (24/8/00)—

With reference to my Question without Notice regarding milk quotas being abolished with the stroke of a deregulation pen—

Has he inquired as to the status of these quotas which were created under the Act by regulation?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (21/9/00): The additional information I undertook to provide to the Honourable member related principally to his view that dairy farmers should be compensated for the repeal of milk entitlements in a similar manner to payments to milk

vendors under the 1993 Distribution Restructuring Scheme.

The Queensland Dairy Authority's Distribution Restructuring Scheme (DRS) is not comparable to the current situation in which the Coalition Commonwealth Government required the removal of market milk controls in all States to enable farmers and dairying communities to access Commonwealth adjustment assistance funds.

The DRS was an industry proposed and supported scheme with voluntary participation which required regulated milk prices for all sectors to operate. There are now no regulated milk prices on which a similar scheme could be based.

The DRS required all participating milk vendors to surrender their runs, which were then restructured into categories of commercial and household runs. The commercial runs were sold by public auction and this provided about \$30m of the almost \$90m which funded the scheme. About \$60m was a borrowing which was repaid by all industry sectors who contributed for five years from their sector margins from the milk price which was, at that time, controlled from the farm gate price through to the retail price. There was no increase in the milk price to fund these contributions. Industry sectors contributed as follows:

Producers—	0.25 cents/litre
Processors—	0.25
Retailers—	0.6
Vendors—	
non participants—	2.25
wholesale runs —	2.25
supermarket runs—	6.39
tendered litres—	2.25

Clearly such a scheme is not possible in a deregulated environment. The Honourable member should be aware that, in the present situation, the industry carefully assessed all possible approaches to adjustment assistance, and decided to pursue what is now the Commonwealth Dairy Industry Adjustment Program.

I agree that this Program is deficient, and I am seeking additional Commonwealth assistance for the deregulation process. Only the Commonwealth has taxation powers. They have forced States to deregulate to secure adjustment funding and they should fund the process properly.

With regard to the Honourable member's inquires regarding the status of entitlements, a short history is as follows.

A statutory entitlement scheme first operated in South East Queensland. It was created under the Milk Supply Act 1977 to achieve a more equitable distribution of market milk to producers in South East Queensland. On 1 June 1978, the Milk Entitlements Committee was formed and its operations were limited to a designated area, commonly referred to as the South East Queensland region. Its functions included determining access to processor markets, establishing producer entitlements, paying producers who ceased dairying a fixed amount of \$50 per daily



litre of entitlement and redistributing such entitlement under different schemes.

Changes to legislation in 1986 allowed for the trading in entitlements at commercial values, providing that the sale and purchase were within the same processor group. From June 1978 to 1988, it was a closed industry. Licences were not granted to persons wishing to enter the industry unless they purchased a dairy property as a going concern or operated as an approved lessee on an existing dairy property.

Without a licence, a person could not supply milk and could not obtain entitlement. These restrictions were removed in 1988 when new entrants were permitted to join the industry at the discretion of the processor.

The Milk Entitlements Committee ceased in 1989, with the administration of entitlements then becoming the responsibility of the Queensland Dairy Industry Authority and subsequently the Queensland Dairy Authority. The Dairy Industry Act 1993 allowed for entitlement to be traded between producers who supply different processor groups. Producers were able to transfer from one processor group to another and take their entitlement with them.

Entitlements were granted by the Authority to Central and North Queensland on 1 January 1999.

The Government's advice is that there is no obligation to provide compensation for the repeal of milk entitlements.

### 939. Bundaberg Hospital

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Health (24/8/00)—

With reference to the recent loss of Bundaberg Base Hospital staff, including a general surgeon and obstetrician—

- (1) What measures, if any, are being taken to provide short-term relief to elective surgery patients whose operations have been deferred or postponed as a result of the recent upheavals?
- (2) Considering that some elective surgery patients who are experiencing a great deal of discomfort have had dates for surgery cancelled, has Queensland Health considered providing temporary replacements until new permanent doctors can be secured or, will more patients be sent to Maryborough or Hervey Bay Hospitals as a stop-gap measure?
- (3) Will both of these positions be advertised immediately, and how long is it anticipated before replacements will be found?
- (4) As inadequate funding has been blamed by resigned chief surgeon Peter Anderson for most of the hospitals problems, will she now provide extra funding to address the serious hospital service delivery crisis.

**Mrs EDMOND** (25/9/00):

- (1) The Acting Director of Surgery (who has accepted the Director's position on a permanent basis) has agreed to defer his programmed study

leave pending the recruitment of a replacement General Surgeon (Staff Surgeon). The position has been advertised and it is anticipated that an appointment will be made by the end of December 2000.

A locum service started on 14 August 2000 and continued to 11 September 2000. Currently, several avenues are being explored with a view to obtaining further locum services.

Local surgeons are providing additional surgical sessions.

Local Visiting Medical Officers have provided interim 24-hour cover for Obstetrics. Since 14 August 2000, the Royal Women's, Nambour, Redcliffe and Rockhampton Hospitals have provided a weekly full-time locum service. Recruitment has commenced for the appointment of a locum for six months.

(2) Details of the temporary arrangements in place are set out in (1) above. Patient referral to Maryborough and Hervey Bay Hospitals for gynaecological treatment has always been on a voluntary basis and it is expected that this arrangement will continue. The Maryborough/Hervey Bay service was in place before the current staffing issue arose at Bundaberg Hospital.

The member does not seem to be aware that Labor's Waiting List Reduction Strategy specifically identifies movement of patients between hospitals as a way of evening out and reducing elective surgery waiting lists and resources have been provided for this purpose. Labor's prime aim is the timely care of the patient.

The Member for Burnett's continuing attempts to score cheap political points at the expense of the hard working staff at Bundaberg Hospital is detrimental to Queensland Health's ability to recruit top quality staff to Bundaberg.

Please find attached a list of achievements at Bundaberg Hospital under the Beattie Labor Government. Clearly this effort totally overshadows that achieved by the Coalition Government.

(3) The position of Staff Surgeon, Department of Surgery, has been advertised and an appointment is expected by the end of December 2000. The Clinical Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology is on paid leave of absence and a locum replacement is being sought for a six months period. It is hoped that a locum appointment will be made by the end of October 2000.

(4) The resignation of Dr Peter Anderson was not because of inadequate funding as the Member has so mischievously suggested.

Dr Anderson resigned after being confronted by senior management about his work in the private sector when being paid as a full time specialist in the public sector.

When confronted, Dr Anderson agreed to arrangements which will see him repay moneys owed to Bundaberg Hospital.

Clearly Dr Anderson's actions have had a detrimental effect on public surgery and it is preposterous to attempt to blame inadequate funding for his resignation.

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

#### 940. TAFE

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (24/8/00)—

Listed by each TAFE institute in Queensland (a) how many staff are enrolled in CNVOC008, (b) how many students are enrolled in CNVOC008, (c) how many former students are enrolled in CNVOC008 and (d) how many students have attended more than one class in CNVOC008?

**Mr BRADY** (25/9/00):

(a & b) It has been determined that 31 staff are enrolled in CNVOC008 out of a total of 6568 students across all Institutes as at 18 August 2000.

An examination of these enrolments indicate that the majority of these staff are enrolled in a single module LSU002 Introduction to Competency Based Training (5 hours). The module is intended to provide underpinning knowledge in relation to the national vocational education and training system, particularly competency based training and related assessment.

The enrolment figures by Institute are provided as at 18 August 2000 and are attached.

(c) All students enrolled in CNVOC008 have a current student number and are, therefore, current students.

(d) The notion of 'class attendance' is in fact outdated and no longer current in vocational education and training in Australia. Modes of delivery are determined based on the needs of the individual student and may vary throughout a course to include a range of delivery methods.

For students enrolled in the course CNVOC008, delivery in a wide range of modes is encouraged to facilitate the development of learner skills in a wide variety of settings. Aspects of the course can be delivered in such modes as full-time, part-time, on-job, off-job, face-to-face, distance education, self-paced, supervised peer study sessions, videoconferencing, project based or computer based education. The task of identifying each student against mode of delivery would be an unreasonable use of resources.

#### 941. Louise Street, Marburg, Bridge

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/8/00)—

With reference to Louise Street Bridge Marburg, Louise Street being the only access road into and out of the Marburg State School and as the bridge across Black Snake Creek is so very narrow and in the event of fire or an emergency a large emergency

appliance would not be able to cross this bridge and in light of the seriousness of this situation and that during construction of the Marburg bypass and nearby overpass of the Warrego Highway that it is likely to cause serious flooding of the access road—

Will he take urgent steps to have the bridge replaced?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (25/9/00): This bridge is the responsibility of Ipswich City Council.

The Department of Main Roads is presently upgrading the Warrego Highway bypass of Marburg. These upgrading works do not affect access to the Marburg State School via Louisa Street, nor do they increase the effects of flooding on the Louisa Street bridge which is, in fact, downstream of the Warrego Highway.

Emergency access to Marburg State School is currently available directly from the Warrego Highway through a controlled gate in the vicinity of School Street. This access is retained in the upgrading of the Warrego Highway at Marburg. Should the bridge in Louisa Street be inundated, then emergency vehicles are able to access the school in the same manner as previously.

#### 942. Southport Transit Centre, Bus Interchange

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (24/8/00)—

(1) Why was there insufficient money in the Budget for the new bus interchange at Southport to complete the infrastructure of the transit centre leaving bus travellers without even toilet facilities and officers unable to move into the new premises because they had no furniture and fittings?

(2) When will this bumbling ineptitude be rectified?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (25/9/00):

(1) Funding has been made available in the 2000-2001 State Budget to complete the transit centre. The ground floor of the centre is currently being fitted out and will be operational giving the public access to modern toilet facilities.

The first floor offices are not specifically related to activities in the transit centre on the ground floor. The offices are intended for all Queensland Transport public transport and road safety staff on the Gold Coast. These officers will move, with existing furniture, into this space in due course. Funding has been provided as part of the 2000-2001 State Budget.

(2) The bus transit centre was always going to be operational by the second quarter of the 2000-2001 financial year. Delays in a tenant occupying the ground floor have resulted in the postponement of the centre opening for business until the second quarter.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****943. Child Protection Act 1999**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Child Protection Act 1999 and parents going into the Department of Families and also police stations being continually told that the new act only applies to children under the age of 12 years however the only reference to a child under 12 is Part 1 Section 21 Moving the child to a safe place—

- (1) Will she provide further education for her department that Part 3 Section 8 of the Child Protection Act 1999 states that a child is an individual under the age of 18 years?
- (2) Will she reinforce to the Police Department that Part 3 Section 8 of the Child Protection Act 1999 states that a child is an individual under the age of 18 years so that the Police Department can enforce the Act in the correct manner?
- (3) Does she believe her department has a duty of care to protect all children and that any child in a dangerous situation must be removed no matter what the age?

**Ms BLIGH** (5/10/00): If the Honourable Member can provide specific details of any Families, Youth and Community Care Office or Police Station providing this incorrect information, I will take steps to address this issue.

Between July 1999 and March 2000, the Department implemented a comprehensive training and information strategy to prepare departmental staff, our partners in the community sector and the Queensland Police Service for proclamation of the Child Protection Act 1999. More than 500 departmental officers, police officers and key child protection workers from the community sector attended training and information sessions.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) See above.
- (3) The duties and responsibilities of officers of the Department are set out in the Child Protection Act 1999.

**944. Mackay Hospital**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Health (5/9/00)—

With reference to Mackay Base Hospital—

- (1) What level of care will be provided by Mackay Base Hospital ICU?
- (2) Will senior PHOs be employed to cover ICU when specialists are out of the hospital?
- (3) Is there any correlation between hospital administration and the inability to recruit and retain qualified medical specialist staff?

**Mrs EDMOND** (5/10/00):

- (1) The level of care provided by Mackay Base Hospital ICU will be the level that is appropriate to a

Base Hospital situated between two major centres ie Rockhampton and Townsville General Hospital.

The Unit provides intensive care facilities to manage most problems including major trauma and serious medical illnesses and medium term ventilation. However, some patients who require prolonged care or more specialised services may need to be transferred to tertiary services.

- (2) Senior PHOs are employed to cover ICU when specialists are outside of the hospital. At all times there is a PHO on the site with other medical staff as backup.

A program has been put in place to recruit more experienced PHOs as well as to provide a training program which will upskill presently employed PHOs.

- (3) Difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified medical staffing is a national problem and is not specific to Mackay Base Hospital.

Mackay Base Hospital has always relied heavily on overseas recruiting and more recently the emphasis has been to provide additional training for those recruited.

There is no correlation between hospital administration and the inability to recruit and retain qualified medical specialist staff. However, constant negative attacks on the hard working hospital staff clearly must impact on the ability of Mackay Base Hospital to compete for staff against other health districts.

**945. Studies of Society and Environment Syllabus**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Education (5/9/00)—

With reference to the new Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE) curriculum—

- (1) Without providing students with the building blocks of information upon which they can develop skills to understand and analyse concepts and think creatively, how will this new curriculum benefit students?
- (2) What are the advantages in this new curriculum that will benefit the future employment prospects of school leavers?
- (3) Will this new curriculum increase the educational divide between well resourced and autonomous private schools and the ailing public school system?
- (4) With criticism of this form of curriculum across Australia and with New South Wales and Victoria returning to a more detailed syllabus approach to geography and history, why is Queensland going down this path of internally focused learning?

**Mr WELLS** (10/10/00): In Queensland, curriculum is based on syllabuses, which, in Years 1 to 10, are developed by the Queensland School Curriculum Council, a statutory authority established as such by my predecessor, the Honourable Bob Quinn, MLA, under the authority of the Education (School Curriculum P-10) Act 1996.

I refer the Honourable Member to the answer provided to Question on Notice 632.

#### 946. Rosewood-Minden Road

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Oakleigh open cut colliery, Rosewood and in light of the road crossing of the Rosewood to Minden Road by very heavy coal mining trucks—

- (1) What measures have been put in place for the safety of travelling motorists at this dangerous downhill section of the Rosewood to Minden Road?
- (2) Also what registration, if any, is required for these large dump trucks to travel on State roads?
- (3) What third party property insurance is afforded for the protection of the motorists?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (5/10/00):

(1) New Hope Coal Australia has made application for development approval of a temporary haul road for the Oakleigh Open Cut Colliery, crossing the Rosewood-Marburg Road. The application includes all necessary traffic reports.

The reports were examined and a second independent report by a traffic consultant was commissioned. This report confirms that the haul road crossing has adequate sight distance and could operate in safety.

The final New Hope Coal Australia proposal for the crossing of the Rosewood-Marburg Road has been approved by the Department of Main Roads but is subject to conditions to address the issues identified, such as lighting for night-time operations, sealing of the approaches on the haul road and appropriate maintenance.

In evaluating the proposal, some improvements to signage on the Rosewood-Marburg Road were identified. In this regard, additional signage for southbound traffic will be installed by Main Roads.

(2) I am informed that registered trucks are used on this haul route. As registered trucks, they will be covered by statutory third party insurance.

Should New Hope Coal Australia choose to use haul trucks that do not qualify for registration, then specific authorisation issued by Queensland Transport is required. These authorisations would include all necessary conditions to ensure traffic safety, maintenance of the road asset and protection of the public through liability insurance.

(3) There is no requirement by Main Roads or Queensland Transport for registered vehicles to carry third party property insurance. This is a matter for the statutory officers and directors of New Hope Coal Australia to consider.

#### 947. Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

Will he confirm that cane farmers, who have paid their levies to BSES now and in past years, and those farmers who have paid levies in past years and are not paying now, have got access rights to all new PBR cane varieties being formulated by the BSES without question or discrimination?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00): Yes.

#### 948. Lockyer Electorate, Rural Fire Brigades

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (5/9/00)—

With reference to the volunteer Rural Fire Brigades—

- (1) How many new fire fighting vehicles have been issued in the electorate of Lockyer (including the Boonah Shire) in the last three years?
- (2) To which areas have the vehicles been issued?
- (3) What type of vehicles have been issued, at what cost and who shares the cost of these vehicle purchases?
- (4) What other major equipment including storage sheds have been supplied to these brigade areas in the past three years by his department?
- (5) What grants are available to these rural fire brigades to purchase other equipment and facilities?
- (6) What contingency plans does his department have in place in the event of fire emergencies as we are experiencing at this time that will allow these brigades to push fire breaks where necessary?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (5/10/00):

- (1) 20 vehicles have been supplied to brigades in the electorate of Lockyer over the past three years.
- (2) Those brigades that have received new appliances are:

Lockyer Waters RFB—Medium Attack  
 Rosevale RFB—Medium Attack  
 Central Lockyer RFB—Medium Attack  
 Grandchester RFB—Medium Attack  
 Ripley Valley RFB—Light Attack  
 Gatton/Springdale RFB—Light Attack  
 Woodlea RFB—Light Attack  
 Mt Forbes RFB—Light Attack  
 Withcott RFB—Light Attack  
 Killarney RFB—Light Attack  
 Mt Mort RFB—Light Attack  
 Greenbank RFB—Medium Attack  
 Hattonvale/Summerholm RFB—Medium Attack  
 Murphy's Creek RFB—Medium Attack  
 Mt Walker RFB—Medium Attack  
 Roadvale RFB—Medium Attack  
 Flinders Peak RFB—Medium Attack  
 Mulgowie RFB—Medium Attack  
 Iredale RFB—Medium Attack  
 Laidley North & East RFB—Medium Attack

- (3) The contract price of a Medium Attack appliance is \$57,500, with \$11,400 being contributed by the brigade. Light Attack appliances are \$47,500 with a brigade contributing \$9,500. Both vehicles are manufactured in Queensland.

(4) One (1) trailer and two (2) mop-up units have been provided to the Gatton/Springdale Rural Fire Brigade and Ripley Valley Rural Fire Brigade respectively. Sheds have been constructed at Grantham, Hattonvale/Summerholm, Iredale, Flagstone, Mt Forbes and Mt Mort Rural Fire Brigades.

(5) The Rural Fire Service provides a large range of fire fighting, safety and communications equipment. This range is provided either free of charge or at greatly subsidised prices. The Rural Fire Service also meets the cost of freighting the equipment to the brigade. General firefighting equipment and boots are provided at approximately 50% of cost, VHF radios at approximately 25%, and appliances at 20% of purchase price. Brigades approved to purchase UHF radios will be reimbursed 50% of the cost. Personal protective equipment (other than boots) is issued free of charge. Brigades may also be eligible for a \$5,000 grant towards the cost of constructing a Fire Shed, as well as assistance in purchasing chainsaws and grader cutting blade tips. The latter are used to cut firebreaks.

(6) The Rural Fire Brigades provide a response capability to help landowners combat fires on their property. The legislative responsibility for fire suppression still lies with the landowner or occupier. As a consequence, reimbursement of costs above and beyond the normal brigade operating expenses is normally sought from the landowner. An example of this would be for the hire of plant. In cases where this is not possible, perhaps in the case of economic hardship or where operational imperatives do not allow time for negotiation, the Rural Fire Service has in the past and will continue to provide limited financial assistance to brigades faced with such a situation. An operational contingency for emergent plant hire has been provided in the Rural Fire Service budget for this financial year.

#### 949. Education, Science Laboratory Funding

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Education (5/9/00)—

Will he provide documentation to disprove an allegation that funding to refurbish science laboratories in many of the smaller secondary schools and secondary departments has been withdrawn and redirected to the refurbishment of secondary schools across the State, especially in the Labor dominated Brisbane area?

**Mr WELLS** (10/10/00): Unlike former coalition governments, which ignored those schools in most need simply because a school was situated in an electorate of a labor member, this government has introduced and fully funded the Secondary School Renewal Program with the aim of reinvigorating a target group of secondary schools primarily constructed before 1975.

All high schools fulfilling the target criteria have been invited to submit applications for funding under this initiative. Applications were assessed on the basis of educational merit. Successful schools have now been notified.

The department informs me that there is not any specifically tied funding to 'refurbish science laboratories in many of the smaller secondary school and secondary departments'. It has therefore not been possible for this government to "withdraw" funding from this program.

#### 950. St Aubyns Private Hospital

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Health (5/9/00)—

With reference to St Aubyns Private Hospital and previous requests to her for assistance in resolving the issue whereby the area may lose its only private hospital to its possible closure—

- (1) What measures has she investigated in an endeavour to assist in the saving of the hospital?
- (2) With the modification of services in the surrounding public hospitals to bring them into line with Queensland Health's Multi Purpose Health System, what effect will the closure have on the Kingaroy Public Hospital?
- (3) What is the projected additional time delay for all category procedures at Kingaroy Public Hospital in the event of the closure of St Aubyns?
- (4) Will she consider coming to an arrangement whereby the Government and the Wesley could share the facility and address the long needed mental health and other issues as an option?

**Mrs EDMOND** (5/10/00):

(1) It is understood that the St Aubyns Private Hospital at Kingaroy has been operating at a loss for many years. The future of St Aubyns is a matter for the owner and is not one over which the Minister for Health has any jurisdiction.

(2) Should St Aubyns Private Hospital shut, there may well be an increase in activity at Kingaroy Hospital. However, advice from the South Burnett Health Service District indicates that the additional activity could be well managed within the public health care system.

(3) Surgical waiting times are currently very well managed at Kingaroy Hospital with no "long-wait" problem. It is not expected that time delay problems would occur in the event of closure of the private hospital.

(4) Mental health facilities require specialised design and a building such as St Aubyns would not be an appropriate facility for such services.

#### 951. Mackay and Ipswich, Ambulance Service Investigation

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (5/9/00)—

With reference to his answer to part four of Question on Notice No 804 dealing with alleged access to pornographic web sites via QAS computers—

Apart from the reported incidents in Mackay and Ipswich, has he been made aware of, or ordered an

investigation into, claims of other incidents of staff accessing pornographic web sites via QAS computers in other areas of the State?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (5/10/00): I am aware of other instances where it is alleged staff have accessed pornographic web sites on QAS computers. These have been reported to the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) who have referred the allegations back to the QAS for internal investigation. Investigations are now in progress and appropriate action will be taken when findings are known.

In a number of instances staff who accessed pornographic web sites are no longer employed by the QAS.

Staff have been reminded of their obligations and responsibilities with respect to the use of the internet on QAS computers. Additionally, changes have been made to ensure that future access will only be gained through a secure fire wall. This will restrict access to authorised users.

### 952. Sunshine Coast Dental Clinics

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (5/9/00)—

What are the waiting times for dental appointments at (a) Nambour Dental Clinic, (b) Noosa Dental Clinic, (c) Kawana Dental Clinic and (d) Caloundra Dental Clinic?

**Mrs EDMOND** (5/10/00): The waiting times for general appointments at Sunshine Coast public dental clinics varies, but unfortunately remains above the desired benchmarks. Some reductions in waiting times have been achieved, however these are marginal and prone to reversal.

It should be noted however that the majority of patients seeking emergency care are able to access that care on a same day basis.

I recognise that there is an increasingly heavy demand for public dental services across the State. However, the Queensland Government continues to provide the most comprehensive public oral health service in Australia for both adults and children. Queensland was the only State to provide full supplementary funding following the cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program by the Howard Government in December 1996. This was valued at \$20 million per annum.

Queensland has joined with other States and the Australian Dental Association in urging the Commonwealth to once again fund the Commonwealth Dental Health Program which provided dental care to eligible clients.

I am pleased to say that the Federal Labor Party has announced the reinstatement of the funding for a Commonwealth Dental Program as part of its many health policy commitments.

### 953. The Arts, Capital Works Employment

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (5/9/00)—

With reference to his media statement of 28 July 2000, entitled "QUT Cultural Precinct means jobs through the arts" and specifically to his reference to creating construction jobs through cultural development—

Given that Freedom of Information documents No. 99/03736, 99/03740 and an Arts Queensland memorandum dated 1 October 1998 indicate these figures can be provided (a) how many construction jobs (or person hours of employment) have been created through his arts Capital Works Program since 1 July 1998 and (b) what was the projected number of jobs to be created through this program?

**Mr FOLEY** (5/10/00): Because the former Government had only allocated \$100M in the budget forward estimates, it was necessary to review the program for Millennium Arts. As a result of this review, a fully funded allocation of \$260M was announced as part of the recent State Budget. The uncertainty of funding by the former Government has delayed the commencement of the projects.

Similarly, the Empire Office Furniture Building Refurbishment project which was funded by the former Government through a recoverable loan, was reviewed. As the capacity of the arts tenants to repay the loan was found to be ill-conceived, the finalisation of this project was also delayed.

19,177 person weeks of employment have been created and when these arts projects are completed 203,129 person weeks of employment will have been created since 1 July 1998.

### 954. Tourism Investment

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (5/9/00)—

With reference to her statements of \$250m invested this year in tourism infrastructure development—

Will she provide a list of these projects and their individual cost?

**Mrs ROSE** (5/10/00): Major tourism infrastructure project support from the State Government this year includes:

Vision Airlie—\$7.8m  
 Roma Street Parklands—\$57.3m  
 Nelly Bay—\$10.8m  
 Cairns CityPort—\$25.4m  
 Traveltrain—\$64.9m  
 Gold Coast Convention Centre—\$30.0m  
 Queensland Heritage Trail Network—\$25.5m  
 Facilities Upgrades in National Parks—\$11.0m  
 Magnetic Island Waste Facility—\$6.0m  
 Regional Centres Program—\$20.0m  
 Total—\$258.7m.

### 955. Families, Youth and Community Care Department

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (5/9/00)—

What are the names of all organisations to which funding is paid by her department and whose

administration function is based outside of Queensland, together with the amount of funding paid to each of these organisations in the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000?

**Ms BLIGH** (5/10/00): Details of payments made by Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland (FYCCQ) are as follows:

International Social Service Australia received \$6,766 recurrent funds in 1999/2000 under the Child Protection and Family Support Program. This service has been receiving recurrent funding from the Department since 1987-88 to facilitate the provision of social work services to Queensland families divided by borders and/or cross-cultural difficulties.

Speakout Ltd received \$18,000 non-recurrent funds in 1999/2000 under the Youth Justice Funding Program. This one-off grant was provided to assist in the consultation process for the development of an employment enterprise for young unemployed Queenslanders. This project was performed in conjunction with the Foundation of Young Australians.

Addiction Research Institute received \$92,638 non-recurrent funds in 1999/2000 under the Gambling Initiatives Program to pilot the Gambling Help-Line in Queensland. The Help-Line was initially piloted in three locations—Cairns, Mt Isa and Rockhampton and received approximately 150 calls per month.

Total funding provided by FYCCQ is \$117,404.

Disability Services Queensland provided \$181,719 recurrent funds in 1999/2000 to the Royal Blind Society of NSW for the Talking Book Library. This service commenced operation in 1996. The Talking Book Library provides a "borrowing service" to over 1,450 visually impaired Queenslanders per annum.

Total amount of funding provided by both departments is \$299,123.

#### 956. Rural Living Infrastructure Program

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (5/9/00)—

- (1) Will he provide the list of councils who received Rural Living Infrastructure Program funding (formally Rural Community Infrastructure Program) for 1997-98?
- (2) What is the level of funding provided to each council?
- (3) What is the total amount of funding provided for 1997-98?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (4/10/00):

(1) A list of Councils who received offers for funding under the Rural Communities Infrastructure Program in 1997-98 is provided in the attached table.

(2) The level of assistance offered to each Council under the Rural Communities Infrastructure Program in 1997-98 is provided in the attached table.

(3) The budget for the Rural Communities Infrastructure Program in 1997-98 was \$2.25M. The 1997-98 forward estimates provided a further \$2.4M in each of the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, resulting in total funding of \$7.05M for the program.

In 1997-98, the former Minister committed \$8.05M from the Program, including \$0.25M for administration over the three year life of the Program.

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

#### 957. Child Sex Offenders, Convictions

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (5/9/00)—

- (1) For each month since July 1998, how many convicted child sex offenders have been identified by our independent courts as posing a substantial risk of re-offending by having an order made against them under Section 19 of the Criminal Law Act?
- (2) How many of these offenders will be able to be kept in custody at the completion of their fixed sentence if it is still considered that a substantial risk exists that the offender will thereafter commit a further offence of a sexual nature upon or in relation to a child under the age of 16 years?
- (3) How many of the convicted child sex offenders identified in (1) above did he appeal to a court to have an indefinite term of imprisonment imposed upon?

**Mr FOLEY** (5/10/00): The Criminal Law Amendment Act 1945 gave power to courts under Section 18 to order indefinite detention of child sex offenders at Her Majesty's Pleasure. Accordingly, Mr Springborg's announcement (Courier Mail 2/9/00) that "the Coalition was considering amending the Criminal Code to keep offenders locked up until deemed safe for release" appears to be based on an ignorance of a law introduced to Queensland 55 years ago. Mr Springborg also appears to be unaware of the modern provisions for indefinite sentencing introduced by a Labor government in 1992 in the Penalties and Sentences Act.

(1) Applications for an order under section 19 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1945 were successfully made by the Director of Public Prosecutions (an independent statutory officer) since July 1998 as follows:

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

The former Director of Public Prosecutions identified 14 cases in which an offender was sentenced during the period 1 March 1996 to 30 June 1998 and in which an application under section 19 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act was to be belatedly sought.

(2) No offender can be kept in prison indefinitely unless an order that an offender be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure was made under section 18 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1945 or an indefinite sentence was imposed under section 163 of the

Penalties and Sentences Act 1992. An attempt by the New South Wales Parliament to keep offenders in prison at the conclusion of their sentences failed when the High Court of Australia found the Community Protection Act 1994 (NSW) to be unconstitutional.

(3) The honourable member's question is somewhat confused. The process for seeking such an order involves an application to the court, not an appeal as the honourable member's question suggests. The consent of the Attorney General is required for an application to be brought under section 163 of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992. Such consent has been sought by the Director of Public Prosecutions and given on four occasions since 1 July 1998. Three applications succeeded and the fourth application has yet to be heard. (According to records of the Director of Public Prosecutions, three such applications were made in the term of the previous Coalition government.)

#### **958. Cairns Athletics Facility, Barlow Park**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (5/9/00)—

With reference to the \$350,000 allocated to the Cairns City Council for the development of an athletics track at Barlow Park—

- (1) When did the Cairns City Council submit a detailed application for funding for the development of an athletics facility at Barlow Park?
- (2) When were detailed plans for the redevelopment of Barlow Park submitted by the council and are those completed plans available for public inspection?
- (3) Has he announced Government funding of \$1.7m for the project; if so, out of which fund has the balance of the funding been allocated?
- (4) What is the projected starting date for construction of the project and what is the projected completion date?
- (5) What is the total estimated cost of the project including all facilities and ancillary works?
- (6) What management structure and on-going maintenance and development program has been put in place to ensure maximum benefit for all users of Barlow Park?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (4/10/00):

- (1) Over the last twelve months, Sport and Recreation Queensland have been working with the Cairns City Council to identify an appropriate site and responsible entity for the development of a tartan track in Cairns. This work has been undertaken to progress the commitment made by this Government in 1998 to fund a tartan track in Cairns.
- (2) The detailed planning for the redevelopment of Barlow Park is currently being undertaken. My Department is working with the Cairns City Council in the design, development and delivery of the project. The plans are not available for public inspection at this time.

(3) On 30 July 2000, I announced Government funding of \$1.7m for the development of a synthetic athletics track in Cairns. These funds will be allocated from the National Standard Sport Facilities Program, which provides financial assistance to eligible organisations to develop venues that can attract and host State or national level competitions. The Athletics facilities provided for at Barlow Park when complete will be of international standard.

(4) The projected starting date for construction is March 2001, and the project is due to be completed in early October 2001.

(5) The total estimated cost for the track is \$1.7m which includes the synthetic surface and associated civil works.

(6) My Department and the Council have established a Steering Committee comprising representatives from the Barlow Park user groups. This committee will consider the management options and further capital development options for the site. My Department has also requested Council prepare a master plan for the site and a management plan for the venue in order to maximise the benefits of the facility for the area.

#### **959. GST on Stamp Duty**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Treasurer (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Government's decision to impose and calculate stamp duties payable by including the liable GST component—

What is the additional revenue anticipated/forecast in 2000-01 from the decision to calculate stamp duties payable by including the liable GST component?

**Mr HAMILL** (5/10/00): Most Stamp duties are based on the amount of the consideration for a transaction or the value of property involved. Stamp duty revenue will therefore be affected by price movements resulting from the Goods and Services Tax ("GST").

Where the GST has increased the consideration for a transaction or the value of the dutiable item, stamp duty will naturally be higher. Conversely where the consideration or value has been reduced under the GST, the stamp duty will be lower.

In preparing revenue forecasts for the 2000-01 State Budgets, consideration was given to the stamp duty revenue.

Due to the uncertainty of GST impacts on prices and values, it is impossible to quantify stamp duty revenue impacts from the GST.

Due to this uncertainty, the impact of the GST on stamp duty revenue has not been built into the forward estimates for the 2000-01 budget and is unable to be calculated.

#### **960. Teacher Resources**

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (5/9/00)—

With reference to the draft enterprise bargaining agreement between Education Queensland and the Queensland Teachers' Union with respect to



"Monitoring Procedures" as follows—"Education Queensland will provide to the relevant unions the following information: permanent and temporary teacher numbers and the number of teachers on leave, including details of type of leave, at the same agreed times each year; the allocative methodology used as the basis for staffing schools, including allocation of specialist teachers and services; class size data. Where available, a breakdown of information by district and sector will also be provided"—

What are the same agreed times each year and will he table copies of this information on the first sitting day after these times so Members of Parliament have the same information as the unions?

**Mr WELLS** (10/10/00): The department informs me that the monitoring procedures that were contained within the draft enterprise bargaining agreement between Education Queensland and the Queensland Teachers Union are now contained within the Interim Orders issued by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission on 7 September 2000. These monitoring procedures are exactly the same as those contained within the Department of Education Queensland Certified Agreement 1997.

#### 961. Arthur Gorrie Corrections Centre

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (5/9/00)—

What has been the result of the investigation into two hangings and an alleged gang rape at Arthur Gorrie during August?

**Mr BARTON** (5/10/00): All deaths in custody are subject to police and internal investigations, which are provided to a Coronial Inquiry. This is a requirement of the Corrective Services Act 1988.

It would be inappropriate to comment publicly on these matters until the coroner has reached a decision.

Serious assaults are investigated by the CSIU, a specialist unit of the Queensland Police Service. They are investigating the alleged sexual assault.

It would be inappropriate to comment on a matter under police investigation.

#### 962. Bus Safety; Driver Authority

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/9/00)—

With reference to the recent fatal accident which involved a bus carrying backpackers—

- (1) Was the bus a courtesy transport service under the provisions of the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act?
- (2) Was the operator of the vehicle the holder of appropriate operator accreditation?
- (3) Was the driver the holder of driver authorisation or restricted driver authorisation?
- (4) Had the vehicle passed the appropriate vehicle inspections?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (5/10/00):

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes, the operator is the holder of a General Service Accreditation with an expiry date of 30 April 2001.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes, the vehicle was inspected by Queensland Transport on 7 August 2000 and was passed with nil defects.

#### 963. Gatton-Gympie Gas Pipeline, Resumption of Land

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (5/9/00)—

Will he assure land owners through whose properties the Gatton to Gympie gas pipeline passes that no easement resumptions will occur until all reasonable questions, suggestions and concerns of affected land owners have been satisfactorily addressed?

**Mr McGRADY** (5/10/00): The Petroleum Act 1923 requires the licensee of a pipeline to make all proper endeavours to acquire the rights to the lands required for the pipeline by agreement with landowners.

#### 964. Transmission Networks

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

- (1) If the Townsville-Tully and Innisfail-Cairns portions of the transmission network are the same age as Kareeya-Innisfail, what justification for major budgetary expenditure which would see one new line section constructed ten years before possible commissioning to 275kv and with no evidence of upgrading of the Townsville-Cairns portions of equal present age?
- (2) What evidence justified the mid 1999 commissioning of independent consultants to review coastal options?
- (3) What resultant EIA of decommissioning Kareeya-Innisfail line in the 1995 Sinclair Knight Merz trade-off allowed adequate costings to be reflected on the economic impost of removing and revegetating this line?
- (4) Have all the moneys expended to investigate a coastal Tully-Innisfail route purely been the result of a Chalumbin-Woree assessment process carried out five years ago?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00): These questions relate to issues relevant to the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Mines and Energy (Hon Tony McGrady MLA) and Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (Hon Rod Welford MLA) and should be referred to them.

#### 965. Sunshine Coast Indigenous Health Service

**Mr WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Health (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Sunshine Coast Indigenous Health Service which has a very important role to play in delivering improved health and related services to people located on the Sunshine Coast—

- (1) How much money has her department provided for the delivery of this service on the Sunshine Coast this year?
- (2) How much money did her department provide last year for the delivery of this service on the Sunshine Coast?
- (3) Where does her department anticipate the money will be spent during this year and where was the money spent last year?
- (4) Where is the service actually delivered from on the Sunshine Coast and does her department have any plans to change the locations on the Sunshine Coast where the service is currently delivered from?

**Mrs EDMOND** (5/10/00):

(1) The indicative 2000/01 budget allocation to the Sunshine Coast District's Indigenous Health Service is \$160,000 from State-funded sources and \$106,000 from the Commonwealth-funded program—giving a total budget of \$266,000.

(2) Funding provided in 1999/00 was \$128,171 from State-funded sources and \$106,000 from Commonwealth funding—a total of \$234,171.

(3) An Indigenous Health Operational Plan is being developed based on the requirements of the District Service Agreement and any local issues identified by the community-based Indigenous services. It is anticipated that health programs associated with nutrition, mental health support and liaison, access to hospital and other health services, immunisation, and general community development activities will continue to be the direction of the 2000/01 objectives. To accomplish these programs, funds will be used to cover salaries, program development, and support services.

Expenditure in 1999/00 was incurred against the respective direct program costs of the service including relevant infrastructure support from within the broader community health services.

(4) The office base for the Indigenous Health Team is the Maroochydore Community Health Centre in Sixth Avenue, however, the majority of services are provided within the local community, particularly in clients' homes. Staff have access to facilities in all Community Health Centres across the District. At this stage there are no plans to relocate the Indigenous Health Team.

#### **966. Primary Industries Department, Forestry Assets**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Statement of Financial Position for the Department of Primary Industries Forestry on page 1-49 of the 2000-01 Ministerial Portfolio Statement, Self Generating and Regenerating Assets are valued at \$1,072,952,000 for 2000-01 (Note 17 states), however, in the Future Directions section on

page 1-46, it is stated that the Accounting Standard AAS 35 will be applied on self-generating or regenerating assets from 2000-01—

- (1) Can a breakdown of DPI Forestry's assets be provided that would demonstrate the adoption of the AAS 35 Standard?
- (2) What method applied before this standard was imposed?
- (3) If this figure reflects the net increment in forest plantation values estimated from historical data, as Note 17 suggests, how was the data collected and how regularly was it assessed?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00):

(1) At this point in time, asset valuation methodologies to apply under AAS35 from 2000-01 are still being developed. Accordingly, no asset breakdown under this standard, which promotes the 'Net Present Value' methodology for valuation of self generating and regenerating assets, can yet be provided.

(2) The asset valuation methodology currently in use for plantation growing timber is 'Net Realisable Value' (NRV). This methodology values the plantation as if it were to be 'cashed in' today. That is, all commercially saleable products are valued at current prices in their current form eg final crop logs, thinnings material and pulp wood.

(3) The plantation valuation process under the existing NRV methodology is an extended exercise carried out immediately after balance date.

#### **967. Gladstone Courthouse, Equipment**

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (5/9/00)—

With reference to a trial which was recently aborted at the Gladstone Courthouse because of "technical difficulties"—

- (1) What equipment had to be purchased and/or replaced?
- (2) Had a requisition been placed by Gladstone Courthouse staff for equipment and was that request rejected?

**Mr FOLEY** (5/10/00):

(1) To enable a witness to give evidence from another room within the court building, a room adjacent to the courtroom was equipped with a camera and hands free telephone link to the courtroom. The presiding judge made an order that both counsel sit with the child in the adjacent room. This had not been the previous practice. The installation of a second telephone with inbuilt microphone for use by counsel in such close proximity to the one being used by the witness caused voice distortion and breaks in the link.

Provision of more sophisticated equipment requires 5 television monitors, 4 cameras, and audio amplification equipment.

(2) Action has been taken to remedy the problem. A request had been made to the project officer responsible for the building of the Gladstone

Courthouse, but funding for the more sophisticated solution was deferred having regard to other priorities and the reasonable expectation that available equipment was adequate.

Upon becoming aware of this problem, leading to the aborted trial, I instructed my Department to take steps to correct it. On 15 September the Department placed an order with a firm to supply and install video conferencing equipment and services in the Gladstone Courthouse.

In the week 25 Sept-2 Oct QBuild undertook preliminary work to allow cabling for the equipment to be installed.

That work was completed and tested on Wednesday 4 Oct, and fully completed by Thursday 5 Oct. The State Reporting Bureau inspected and accepted the system at that time.

This action has been taken to ensure that our courts protect the rights of victims of crime appearing in court and continue to provide safe, secure and sympathetic environments for vulnerable witnesses such as children and victims of sexual violence.

#### **968. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Registration Approvals**

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (5/9/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No 595—

Will he now table the formal instrument by which the powers to undertake all the functions listed in his response were legally delegated to the "registration management committee" by VETEC, the Accreditation Council and the State Training Council?

**Mr BRADY** (5/10/00): The Registration Management Committee was established through delegations from VETEC, the State Training Council and the Accreditation Council, following acceptance by Cabinet of the recommendations in the Schofield Report that regulatory processes should be streamlined.

The Committee brought together all decision-making processes concerning the registration of training organisations in Queensland.

Following a decision by a magistrate, on a technical point of law, concerning the deregistration of a provider by the Accreditation Council, new instruments were prepared in February 2000. The approach taken included remaking the delegations and reaffirmation by the Committee of decisions made prior to remaking the delegations. An application to obtain these instruments should be lodged pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

Under the Training and Employment Act 2000 the Training Recognition Council will assume the Committee's functions.

#### **969. Queensland Abattoir Corporation**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Government's negotiation of enhanced redundancy arrangement for QAC workers which the QAC board warned in their 1999 annual report were excessively generous and may be unable to be fulfilled from QAC's resources—

- (1) What is the total value of these arrangements?
- (2) What provisions have been made to ensure these obligations can be met?
- (3) Given the standard industry award provides for a maximum of eight weeks severance pay for displaced employees, how can he justify to the Queensland taxpayers who ultimately own QAC, the payment of up to 52 weeks severance pay for QAC workers?
- (4) What impact will this have on the returns to the State from the disposal of QAC's assets?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00):

(1) A total of approximately \$4.2M for employee related liabilities is expected to be paid out over the course of the QAC wind down.

(2) These liabilities have been accommodated in the QAC's balance sheet forecast.

(3) In general terms the payments and conditions set out under the "Certified Agreement" follow the Termination Change and Redundancy Standards.

(4) All workers who are eligible under the "Certified Agreement" will be paid when QAC ceases operations on 30 November 2000. This "Agreement" does not result in any additional cost implications on Government.

The liability payments during wind down are normal payments and the effects are what would be expected when any commercial business winds down.

#### **970. Biotechnology**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Estimates hearings and specifically to his answer to Question on Notice No 7 in which he failed to provide the requested breakdown of the research being conducted by his department in the field of biotechnology—

- (1) Will he now provide that information; if not, why not?
- (2) Given the Beattie Government's heavy promotion of biotechnology, what provisions has he introduced to ensure the integrity of organic production and the safe production of genetically modified produce?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00):

(1) The information provided for the Estimates Question on Notice gave a breakdown of resources across the major areas of activity in DPI. Below is a breakdown of the areas of work:

Fundamental studies of food protein structures (the functions of the genes or functional genomics) carried out in collaboration with the Centre for Drug Design and Development (University of Queensland).

Identification of crop and horticulture plant genes which provide improved insect resistance, drought resistance, disease resistance or increased yield (larger at harvest for the same inputs or higher protein or carbohydrate levels per unit) and their transfer to commercial varieties.

Rapid screening tests using a data base of genetic fingerprints to assess purity and identify commercially important strains (markers).

Vaccines to control respiratory and other diseases and fertility of commercial animals and feral animals.

Molecular tags for selective breeding programs and restocking of fisheries; sexing and sterility of aquaculture species.

Biotechnology applied to diagnostics to greatly improve the accuracy of identification of diseases, presence of contaminants in food, parentage of animals and varieties of plants.

(2) The integrity of organic production in relation to genetically modified produce is the same issue as integrity between organic and non-organic production (and processing and retailing systems), except for the two factors of seed mixing and cross pollination.

Currently, the National Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committee assesses and approves all field trials of genetically manipulated crops to ensure that buffer zones are in place to prevent cross pollination and seed handling, storage and labelling practices prevent mixing of seeds.

The Queensland Government is actively involved in the development of National and State Gene Technology legislation which will provide a transparent and responsible regulatory system for the release of genetically modified products to protect:

the safety of people and the environment from any potential risks; and  
every consumer's "right to choose".

As a measure of our commitment to ethical practice, the Queensland Government is the first in the world to develop a 'Code of Ethical Practice for Biotechnology'.

AFFS (QHI) staff have established close linkages with all National organic production accreditation agencies to ensure all advice to clients and research practices for organic systems promoted by DPI have the highest level of integrity.

#### **971. Fish Habitat Resource Inspections and Assessments**

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Fisheries Output on page 1-25 of his 2000-01 Ministerial Portfolio Statement which reveals that the department fell short of last year's target to conduct 955 fish habitat resource inspections and assessments and as this year, the target has been reduced to just 800—

- (1) Why was last year's target not met?
- (2) Why has this year's target been reduced?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00):

(1) Fish habitat resource inspections are undertaken when applications are received for approvals under the Fisheries Act 1994.

(2) Recognising the extent of the administrative load placed on a number of major client groups, the Department of Primary Industries is introducing a series of Fish Habitat Codes of Practice.

Fish Habitat Codes of Practice are developed in conjunction with the specific client group.

The strategic permit/code system reduces the need to inspect all sites to be authorised. As this system is progressively introduced, the overall number of fish habitat resource inspections will decrease. This has already been evidenced in seeing the number of inspections for last year being lower than estimated and with further decreases estimated for this year's target.

#### **972. Wood Supply Allocations**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to his department's issue of wood supply allocations to sawmillers—

- (1) What assurances will he give that all sawmills around the State that hold a wood supply allocation will have that allocation renewed?
- (2) Are there any areas where his department may not renew allocations or may reduce existing allocations; if so, for what reason?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00):

(1) Wood supply allocations apply to the hardwood and cypress sawlog resources available from the State's native forests.

Cypress and hardwood sawmillers with State wood supply allocations have, until 1999, operated under supply arrangements as short as 5 years and more recently only 1 year. Such resource security arrangements were generally insufficient to allow sawmillers to plan and underpin required capital and marketing investment programs.

Since 1999, the Queensland Government has entered into 15-year wood supply agreements with all relevant cypress sawmillers in Western Queensland, and, as a result of the historic SEQ Forests Agreement of 16 September 1999, has entered into 25-year wood supply agreements with eligible hardwood sawmillers in South East Queensland.

On the basis of these wood supply agreements there has been recent major investments in sawmill plant and equipment upgrades and industry rationalisation

in South Queensland. Such investment is ensuring a stronger, more viable, timber industry for regional and rural Queensland.

(2) I am advised that there is currently no known areas where wood supply allocations may be reduced or not renewed.

The Queensland Government will progressively review the status and potential of the native forest timber resource throughout the State and put in place measures to promote industry development and to support the associated rural communities. The Government has demonstrated in the past a serious approach to delivering quality outcomes to the timber industry.

### 973. Fisheries Service

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the newly formed Queensland Fisheries Service—

- (1) Why have the research, development and extension functions been hived off to the Agency for Food and Fibre Sciences?
- (2) What role will industry play, if any, in determining research and extension priorities and expenditure?
- (3) Will he confirm industry speculation that this is part of his push to centralise the Department of Primary Industries research and development responsibilities and limit industry's influence?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00):

(1) The Department of Primary Industries has a significant investment in research development and extension functions across the agriculture and pastoral industries, horticulture, forestry and fisheries. Until recently, these functions were spread throughout a range of business groups and a range of management structures which did not lead to the most efficient utilisation of those resources. More importantly, it prevented the process of prioritisation and reallocation of those resources across the various sectors. Until recently all of the agriculture, pastoral and horticulture research functions were together, but those of forestry and fisheries remained as separate units. By amalgamating all of these functions under a single management structure, it is more efficient to direct a prioritisation and resource reallocation process within these structures. Furthermore by combining all of these functions into a single agency in the Department, it is possible to use the size and strength of such a research agency to leverage additional research development and extension funding from a wide range of external funding bodies.

(2) Industry plays a significant role in determining research and extension priorities through their membership of a number of Institute Boards and their ongoing membership through a wide range of industry development councils.

(3) The creation of the Agency for Food and Fibre Sciences has centralised the Department's research and development responsibilities but I totally refute that it is about limiting industry influence.

### 974. Primary industries Department Budget

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Operating Statement on page 1-35 of the 2000-01 Ministerial Portfolio Statement in which no explanation has been given for what exactly constitutes "Other" as an Operating Revenue when this entry has doubled to over \$5.2m over the previous year—

What revenue is regarded as "Other" and why did it increase so dramatically?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00): The increase in Other Revenue is due to the merger of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) and DPI's Fisheries Group forming the Queensland Fisheries Service with effect from 1 July 2000. The QFMA have \$3.65m of Licenses, Fees and Fines included in the 2000-1 Estimate. These revenue items are classified as Other Revenue in the Operating Statement of the 2000-1 Ministerial Portfolio Statement.

### 975. Plantation Timber Resources

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the 1999-2000 Estimates Committee hearings at which he indicated in reply to Question on Notice No 5 that Department of Primary Industries' Forestry would invest \$2.5m sourced from its timber revenues, purchasing cleared agricultural land to further expand State-owned coastal exotic pine plantations during 1999-2000 and at page 1-47 of the 2000-01 Ministerial Portfolio Statement which indicated that 1,100 hectares was purchased adjacent to existing plantations at Byfield—

- (1) Did that purchase account for the entire \$2.5m allocation?
- (2) Was any other land purchased?
- (3) Was any budgeted expenditure diverted elsewhere or carried over?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00):

(1) Total moneys spent in 1999-2000 on land purchase were \$660,000 being for two blocks of land adjacent to existing plantations at Byfield.

(2) No other land was purchased during 1999-2000.

(3) Unspent moneys were not diverted but have been carried forward for reallocation in 2000-01.

### 976. Plantation Timber Resources

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to page 1-46 of the 2000-01 Ministerial Portfolio Statement where Department of Primary Industries revenue was reportedly \$6m higher due to increased sales as a result of the pre-GST surge in building activity and plantation timber removals were up 13 per cent to 1.6m cubic metres—

- (1) What impact will this increase in the harvest, coupled with the decrease in plantings last

year, have on long-term supplies from the plantation resource?

- (2) What provisions have been made in the reforestation program to cater for this increased demand?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (5/10/00):**

(1) DPI Forestry manages a maturing plantation estate of 178,000 hectares. Current harvest volumes of more than 1.6 million m<sup>3</sup> per year are projected to increase over the next ten (10) years to 2.2 million m<sup>3</sup> per year as the plantations mature. As such, the increased harvest last year is not expected to have any impact on long-term supplies from the plantation resource.

(2) DPI Forestry has budgeted for a 5500 hectares plantation re-establishment program during 2000-01, the largest commercially-funded planting program undertaken by DPI Forestry since it was established as a commercialised agency in 1995. A further 2000 hectares of new hardwood plantation will be established on Crown and private land under the Government's South-East Queensland Forests Agreement funding package.

### 977. Fishing Industry

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Fisheries Output on page 1-25 of his 2000-01 Ministerial Portfolio Statement, a target of 40 per cent has been set for the percentage of commercial trawl fishing vessels adopting bycatch reduction devices, up from 30 per cent last year—

- (1) Given community concerns with the taking of bycatch by the commercial fishing industry, why has this target only been increased by 10 per cent?
- (2) Why has the number of fisheries where bycatch is monitored been reduced to just three in 2000-01?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (5/10/00):**

(1) The Government has implemented legislation for the compulsory use of bycatch reduction devices in most areas of the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery through the East Coast Trawl Fishery Management Plan. Amendments currently being drafted to this Plan will extend the requirement to use this gear to the majority of the fishery within twelve months of the amendments being made law. In addition, the fishing industry has been proactive in developing appropriate designs for these devices over the past few years in most sectors of the trawl fishery. Even though a target of forty percent of commercial trawl fishing vessels adopting bycatch reduction devices was set for 2000-01, it has now been estimated that in the order of sixty percent of trawl operators are using these devices in their trawl gear.

(2) In regard to the number of fisheries where bycatch is monitored I wish to advise that the figure presented in the Outputs Statement refers only to those fisheries where scientific research on bycatch monitoring is being undertaken. These fisheries are:

the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery, the East Coast Gill Net Fishery for Barramundi and the Gulf of Carpentaria Gill Net Fishery for Shark and Mackerel.

What the Ministerial Portfolio Statement does not identify is that periodic monitoring of bycatch by way of fishery observers under the Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS) Long Term Monitoring Program is also occurring in the following fisheries: mud crab, blue swimmer crab, ocean beach net fishery, and other inshore net fisheries.

Also, a review of all fishery logbooks is currently being undertaken with a view to making provision for all fishers to record bycatch retained and discarded during their fishing operations.

### 978. Animal Welfare

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Output Statement for Market Access and development on page 1-15 of the 2000-01 Ministerial Portfolio Statement which rates Queensland's credibility in animal welfare as "high" and as last year's MPS listed the new animal care and protection legislation as a task for completion last year and the delivery of animal welfare extension package to ensure that 80 per cent of all livestock producers have an understanding of animal welfare standards by December 2000—

- (1) Why wasn't the legislation delivered as forecast?
- (2) How was the "high" rating verified?
- (3) How many producers were provided with the extension package?
- (4) How was this figure established and verified?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (5/10/00):**

(1) Since June 1998, the Queensland Parliament has passed 9 pieces of primary industries legislation that I have introduced, including the Sugar Industry Bill 1999, far exceeding the legislative program of the Borbidge Government for this portfolio.

The Animal Care and Protection Bill takes its place not only within the ambitious legislative timetable of the primary industries portfolio, but is also in competition with a busy schedule of legislation across Government. The Animal Care and Protection Bill has been accorded a high priority within this context.

- (2) Credibility was demonstrated by:

Our international standing. No markets were lost or threatened because of Queensland's animal welfare standards nor, to my knowledge, was there international criticism of Queensland's standards.

In conjunction with the Commonwealth, DPI has led the national workshop for the recent national review of layer hen housing and egg labelling.

DPI has demonstrated that it has the skills, resources and commitment to address animal welfare issues in the livestock production industries and to improve overall welfare

standards in those industries. It has done this through undertaking several sensitive welfare investigations, through its extension and education expertise and through its presence on the ground with officers spread over sixty centres throughout the state.

DPI is leading the development of three national codes of animal welfare practice, namely Rodeos, Land Transport of Sheep and Domestic Poultry.

DPI has developed and delivered Australia's most comprehensive suite of training programs for people involved with animal ethics committees, which assess the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

(3 & 4) The extension "package" on animal welfare standards is delivered to livestock producers through a diverse range of mediums. The extension program is professionally prepared by the Department's four full time animal welfare project leaders and their animal welfare training officer. Some examples of these and an indication of the size of the target audience are demonstrated by:

10,000 wallets of notes on animal welfare in the beef industry have been given to producers. This is ongoing.

"Pocket Guide" brochures on various animal welfare issues have been published and are available at DPI information centres and counters at over sixty centres throughout the State.

Animal welfare material including electronic availability of all the animal welfare model codes of practice, is posted on the DPI Internet web site.

Animal welfare extension articles have been published in DPI newsletters which are circulated widely to livestock producers:

- Beef Talk (circulated to 10,000 producers)
- Tropical Beef Bulletin
- Northern Muster
- Insufferbulletin (1,200 circulated north Queensland)

Newspaper articles in regional and rural newspapers.

Articles on animal welfare and codes of practice on DPI FarmLink (1,150 recipients).

DPI Prime Notes on animal welfare, available electronically and hard copy.

Several thousand copies of various codes of practice distributed at venues—agricultural shows, producer presentations/meetings, and on targeted mailouts and mail on request. Specifically, at the RNA there were approximately 800 inquiries and 500 codes distributed.

Beef 2000: 13 presentations delivered to approximately 200 producers and 600 codes distributed.

Animal welfare is being included in Futureprofit activities.

Animal welfare displays at all the major stud sales at Gracemere.

Production of a video on animal welfare with the key message delivered by industry leaders (all sectors). The video is being distributed and shown widely at a range of appropriate venues and opportunities, as well as in major DPI foyers.

Development of a farm livestock module for Pet PEP (An Australian Veterinary Association school education program).

Development of "paddock to plate" animal welfare displays for DPI Centres.

Liaison with the Queensland Dairy Farmers Organisation to ensure animal welfare guidelines being drawn up by the industry. Arranged for distribution of animal welfare awareness brochures to dairy farmers throughout the State.

### 979. Regional Forest Agreement

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Performance Statement on page 1-47 of his 2000-01 Ministerial Portfolio Statement, a footnote states that only 130 hectares of joint venture forestry was planted by 30 June under the Government's new measure for South East Queensland RFA plantings and that another 2000 hectares will be planted this year—

- (1) What is the cost of land acquisition and preparation to date?
- (2) What are the cost projections for 2000-01?
- (3) Has the balance of the 880 hectares prepared for planting but not planted by 30 June been carried over in the 2000-01 target?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00):

(1) The cost of the Hardwood Plantation Program to 30 June 2000 was \$1.4M which includes the ongoing maintenance costs of existing plantations established under the previous Joint Venture Program in south-east Queensland.

(2) The Hardwood Plantation Program's 2000-01 budget is \$5.3M.

(3) The balance of the 880 hectares, which had been prepared for planting but remained unplanted as at 30 June 2000, is progressively being planted as weather and operational conditions permit. The MPS target for 2000-01 specifies a further 2000 hectares with the final objective being 5000 hectares by 30 June 2003.

### 980. Northwatch Surveillance Systems

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the Northwatch surveillance systems—

- (1) How much has been allocated to Northwatch this year and how does this compare with expenditure last year?

- (2) What are the three Northwatch surveillance systems that are to be implemented or maintained this year?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (5/10/00):**

(1) The allocation for Northwatch in 2000/01 is \$1.210 million, which compares with an actual expenditure of \$1.183 million in 1999/2000. The Northwatch project also receives an additional annual grant from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service of \$100,000 for the Coen Information and Inspection Centre. This will continue.

(2) The progress on implementing Northwatch surveillance systems has actually progressed more rapidly than anticipated in the budget estimates. Nine systems are in place and will be maintained in 2000/01. These are:

Plant pest surveys in Cape York Peninsula, comprising major surveys just prior to the wet season (September/October) and as soon as practicable after the wet season.

Urban surveys for plant pathogens and insect pests, particularly in Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.

Delimiting surveys for mango leafhopper, which is an invader from the north.

Delimiting surveys for tomato leaf curl, which is a native virus spread by whiteflies.

Database for target pest recordings.

Surveillance for Asian honey bee.

Monitoring for exotic fruit flies, which is part of a national strategy for containment of incursions through Torres Strait and high risk ports.

Livestock buffer zone surveillance and preparedness.

Diagnostic laboratory support, particularly at Redden Street and Oonoonba, but also at DPI laboratories throughout Queensland.

### 981. Animal Welfare Organisations

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to the 2000-01 Estimates Committee hearings and to his reply to the Opposition's Question on Notice No 2 indicating that grants to animal welfare organisations have been cut from \$345,000 to just \$225,000—

- (1) Given he did not provide an explanation in that answer as requested, will he explain why those grants were reduced?
- (2) Which organisations were awarded grants?
- (3) Which organisations were refused grants and why?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (5/10/00):**

(1) The grants to animal welfare organisations have not been reduced. The 1999-2000 Adjusted Budget erroneously includes an amount of \$120,000 which represents DPI's member contribution to Animal Health Australia. This member contribution was reclassified in the 2000-01 Estimate and no longer

appears as a grant or subsidy. The grants paid and to be paid to animal welfare organisations are \$225,000 in each year.

(2) Grants were paid to: Innisfail Animal Refuge, Toowoomba and District Society for the Prevention of Cruelty Inc, Herbert River Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Northern Queensland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Maryborough and District Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Young Animals Protection Society, Mackay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Mount Isa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Animal Welfare Incorporated, Mareeba Tableland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and Pet PEP

(3) No organisations were refused grants.

### 982. Queensland Abattoir Corporation

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

As stakeholding Minister for the Queensland Abattoir Corporation of which the Government-owned abattoirs at Cannon Hill and Churchill are being sold as going concerns, (a) are these abattoirs and their sites compliant with the Environmental Protection Act, (b) will they be passed onto the new operators in a compliant condition and (c) when was the last EPA audit done at each of these sites and what were the results?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (5/10/00):**

(a) Cannon Hill abattoir has already been sold to Australian Country Choice (ACC), a major supplier of meat to Coles Supermarkets. It is understood that the environmental matters identified in the contract of sale are currently being addressed by the new owners in conjunction with EPA.

In relation to the Ipswich site the Administrator of QAC and the new owners Churchill Abattoir Pty Ltd received approval on 7 September 2000, from the Ipswich City Council to undertake major environmental works on the site. This includes installation of a secondary effluent treatment system, upgrades to the biofilter, and Dissolved Air Flotation system.

(b) It is anticipated that this work will be completed prior to hand over to Churchill Abattoir Pty Ltd on 1 December 2000.

(c) As part of the negotiations of purchase in 1999, Churchill Abattoir Pty Ltd had an environmental audit done on the facility. The environmental audit was funded by QAC as part of an extensive due diligence process for the sale and continued use of the site for meat processing. Churchill Abattoir Pty Ltd made a commercial decision to purchase the site after consideration of the environmental issues identified in the report. Government has offered financial assistance to Churchill Abattoir Pty Ltd to carry out the necessary environmental upgrades. Churchill Abattoir Pty Ltd has accepted this level of assistance.



**983. Timber Industry**

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/9/00)—

With reference to explanatory note number 1 to the Operating Statement on page 1-41 of his 2000-01 Ministerial Portfolio Statement in which reference is made to the reduced funds received for the Forest Industries Development Adjustment Package due to the commencement of the South East Queensland RFA and page 1-45 which also makes reference to the provision of a rebate on Crown hardwood sawlog royalties to compensate sawmills for significantly increased cartage costs as a result of the RFA—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for this assistance over each of the next three years?
- (2) Does this funding cease in three year's time; if so, how are sawmills to continue covering the increased cartage costs under his RFA?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (5/10/00):

(1) The Queensland Government in open consultation with the peak industry body, the Queensland Timber Board, has developed and implemented a scheme to financially assist relevant hardwood sawmillers affected by higher landed log costs as a result of the South East Queensland (SEQ) Forests Agreement. The scheme, known as the Hardwood Sawlog Haulage Assistance Scheme, provides a rebate on the price of purchased hardwood sawlogs in specified circumstances so that the SEQ Forests Agreement doesn't have any adverse impact on the cost of delivering sawlogs to the sawmills.

Provisions have been made within the budgets for the Department of Primary Industries and for DPI Forestry to provide financial assistance to the following extent to hardwood sawmillers to offset appropriate higher landed log costs:

- \$350,000 during the 2000-01 financial year;
- \$600,000 during the 2001-02 financial year; and
- \$350,000 to 31 December 2002 during the 2002-03 financial year.

(2) The Scheme is currently funded to 31 December 2002. Mechanisms for the State to financially assist affected sawmillers beyond this time are the subject of a review involving the Queensland Timber Board, DPI Forestry and the Timber Taskforce of the Department of State Development. Terms of Reference for this Review have already been drafted addressing such matters as the efficiency of the current Scheme to achieve its objective and suitable post 1 January 2003 arrangements to ensure equity in landed sawlog costs between sawmillers.

**984. Maryborough and Hervey Bay Hospitals, Transit Scheme**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Health (6/9/00)—

With reference to the close proximity of the Maryborough and the Hervey Bay hospitals and it not being viable for all hospital services to be duplicated in both hospitals and with some services

provided in the Maryborough hospital while other services are provided in the Hervey Bay hospital, there is a constant flow of patients needing to travel from one city to the other for treatment which causes little problem when the patient is in a fit condition and when a patient is able to drive, however there are many instances where the frail, aged and disabled have no means to travel to the other city and the Transit Scheme only comes into effect when the distance is greater than 50 kilometres—

- (1) Will she consider reducing the 50 kilometre requirement in the unique case of the Maryborough and Hervey Bay hospitals?
- (2) If the travel from Maryborough to Hervey Bay hospital and from Hervey Bay to Maryborough hospital was included in the transit scheme, would a taxi fare be covered within the scheme as the bus service between the two cities is limited?

**Mrs EDMOND** (6/10/00):

(1) The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) has been put in place to assist Queensland residents to have access to specialist medical services from which they are isolated. Where the specialist service is not available within 50 kilometres of a patient's nearest public hospital, the Scheme subsidises the cost of travel and accommodation for patients to attend the nearest specialist treatment available.

A review of the PTSS was undertaken in April 1999. The recommendations proposed by the review committee were submitted to the Director-General, Queensland Health for endorsement in June 1999. The PTSS policy, which requires a 50 kilometre eligibility criteria, was recommended to remain unchanged.

(2) The distance between the Maryborough and Hervey Bay main Post Offices is 41 kilometres, and the distance between the two Hospitals is 32 kilometres. As previously mentioned, under the PTSS guidelines, the 50 kilometre criteria applies from the patient's nearest public hospital to the specialist medical facility. The costs associated with travelling to the patient's local hospital, and from a transport terminal such as a bus terminal, railway station or airport, are not covered under the Scheme. Assistance for taxi fares is not provided.

Therefore, under the PTSS guidelines a taxi fare incurred travelling between Maryborough and Hervey Bay would not be eligible for subsidy.

After seeking advice from the District Manager of the Fraser Coast Health Service District, it is understood that the key services available at only one of the Fraser Coast Hospitals are:

- Maryborough Hospital—Inpatient Mental Health; Pain Clinic
- Hervey Bay Hospital—Renal Services.

**985. School Crossing, Cox Street, Ayr**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (6/9/00)—

- (1) How can he justify the proposed closure of the supervised school crossing in Cox Street, Ayr

given the (a) inaccurate data collected by Queensland Transport officers especially when counts were held on wet days and also when the crossing was unmanned as the supervisor was withdrawn due to medical reasons with no replacement, (b) position of the crossing is only 6 metres from a T-intersection of James and Cox Streets making it a dangerous crossing for pedestrians especially primary school children, (c) proposed relocation of the bus zone from Ross Street to Davenport Street will see an increase in vehicle traffic on Cox Street and (d) expanding housing developments of Sunvale and Ti-Tree Gully on the northern side of Cox Street will see more students using this crossing in the future?

- (2) As Cox Street is a busy street and many children rely on the crossing supervisor to get them across safely as many drivers do not stop when people are waiting to cross and as this was witnessed on a number of occasions by his officer when the crossing was unmanned and in light of the evidence above, how can he place the safety of primary school children at risk?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (6/10/00):

- (1) The School Crossing Scheme exists to assist with safe access to and from school for primary school aged students.

The provision of a School Crossing Supervisor is dependent upon the meeting of specified criteria such as a minimum number of 25 unaccompanied primary school aged students using the facility both morning and afternoon and the crossing being no more than 200 metres from the school or within sight of the school boundary. Traffic volumes, speed, number of heavy vehicles and road designs are factors also considered when assessing the safety of pedestrians.

These criteria and the need for ongoing supervision at crossings is reviewed annually to ensure those limited resources are utilised in areas of most need.

- (a) Queensland Transport officers collected data on traffic and pedestrian movements on 6 different occasions over a period of a few months to ensure accurate information was obtained. Three counts were conducted during fine weather, two during overcast conditions and one during drizzle. Counts conducted when the crossing was unsupervised were not taken into consideration.
- (b) Cox Street is a long straight road that provides excellent visibility for motorists and pedestrians in the vicinity of the pedestrian crossing. The crossing is located close to a T-intersection, which caters for one-way traffic that is exiting from a cul-de-sac type environment. The intersection is used predominantly by local residents and school community traffic who are aware of the location of the crossing and their responsibilities as drivers
- (c) The relocation of the bus zone to Davenport Street would see only three extra vehicles, namely school buses, at the crossing. These drivers are also well aware of the location of the

crossing and their responsibilities for the safety of school children.

- (d) The new housing developments at Sunvale and Ti-Tree Gully were taken into consideration and, given the location of these two developments, it was considered that students accessing the East Ayr State School would generally use routes to school that would take them away from the crossing in Cox Street.

- (2) Officers of Queensland Transport have observed that the number of vehicles travelling along Cox Street is low and the flow of the traffic is not constant. Investigations have shown that the low traffic volume allows children ample opportunity to cross the road safely without supervision.

Queensland Transport requested support from Ayr Police in monitoring traffic and enforcing the road rules. Recent discussions with the Police indicate that no incidents have occurred at the crossing nor have any complaints been received during the month that the crossing was unsupervised.

#### **986. Mackay Hospital, Waiting Lists**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Health (6/9/00)—

With reference to Mackay Base Hospital—

What is the waiting time in weeks for specialist outpatients services for new case appointments by each specialist service available?

**Mrs EDMOND** (6/10/00): Urgent cases are either admitted or seen at the next available clinic. The waiting times for new non urgent outpatient appointments at the Mackay Hospital are as follows:

- Cardiology, four weeks;
- Cardiothoracic, one week;
- General Medicine, eight weeks;
- General Surgical, one week;
- Haematology, seven weeks;
- Oncology, three weeks;
- Orthopaedic Surgery, 12 weeks; and
- Obstetrics, one week.

#### **987. Ipswich, Booval and Karana Downs, Police Resources**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (6/9/00)—

With reference to operational police staff in Ipswich, Booval and Karana Downs—

- (1) What is the police ratio to police vehicles available at each of the above stations?
- (2) What is the number of operational police at each of the above stations and the number of vehicles for use for each of the above stations inclusive of bicycles?

**Mr BARTON** (5/10/00):

- (1) Booval (inclusive of Booval Shopfront)—This establishment has a ratio of 4.5 operational officers to one vehicle.

Karana Downs—This establishment has a ratio of six operational officers to one vehicle.

Ipswich—This establishment has a ratio of 5.8 operational officers to one vehicle.

- (2) Booval (inclusive of Booval Shopfront)—This establishment has nine operational officers with 2 marked vehicles and 1 bicycle available for use.

Karana Downs—This establishment has six operational officers with 1 marked vehicle and 2 bicycles available for use.

Ipswich—This establishment has 152 operational officers with 24 motor cars and two motor cycles available for use. In addition Ipswich also has one speed camera vehicle which has not been included in these calculations.

### 988. Toowoomba and Ipswich Hospitals, Waiting Lists

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Health (6/9/00)—

With reference to the waiting lists for surgery at the Toowoomba General Hospital and the Ipswich General Hospital—

- (1) How many category 2 and 3 patients are on the waiting list for surgery at each of these hospitals?
- (2) What is the average waiting time for patients in each of the categories at each of these hospitals?
- (3) What is the average waiting time for other non-essential elective surgery at each of these hospitals?
- (4) What is the current budget allocation for surgery in each of these hospitals?
- (5) What plans does her department have in place or is considering to decrease these waiting lists?

**Mrs EDMOND** (6/10/00):

(1) As at 1 July 2000, there were 580 category 2 patients and 1,184 category 3 patients booked in for elective surgery at Ipswich hospital. At Toowoomba Hospital there were 430 category 2 patients and 1,480 category 3 patients booked in for surgery.

(2 & 3) Average waiting time is not used as a performance indicator under the Waiting List Reduction Strategy.

(4) For the 2000-01 financial year, the Toowoomba Hospital has been provided with an indicative funding allocation of \$3.0M to perform additional elective surgery over and above core activity funded in the hospital's base budget. The Ipswich Hospital has been provided with \$3.79M for additional elective surgery procedures over and above core activity funded in the hospital's base budget.

(5) The Waiting List Reduction Strategy was implemented by the Beattie Government to improve waiting times for elective surgery in Queensland. Ongoing initiatives under the Strategy include:

the publication of the quarterly Elective Surgery Waiting List Report;

supplying General Practitioner Briefings containing local hospital waiting list information in conjunction with the Divisions of General Practice;

allocation of recurrent funding for complex elective surgery procedures; and

review of workforce issues.

The Strategy has achieved major success in improving waiting times for elective surgery. Waiting times for category 1 patients have remained below the 5% benchmark and the proportion of 'long wait' category 2 patients has fallen each year from 41.3% in July 1997 to the lowest ever result of 8.5% at 1 July 2000.

It should also be noted that usage of Queensland public health system is continuing to increase despite the Commonwealth putting over \$2 billion into propping private health insurance and forcing people to take private cover through punitive means.

I will continue to join other Health Ministers of all political persuasions in lobbying the Commonwealth Government to increase funding to the delivery of public health services, as this is the clear choice of the vast majority of Queenslanders for health care.

### 989. Lake Broadwater Environmental Park

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (6/9/00)—

With reference to the repeated approaches by the CEO of the Wambo Shire Council and myself to have part of the Lake Broadwater Environmental Park excised for a recreational area and as he had indicated his support for this excision and named a date earlier this year when the Motion of Excision would be introduced into the House and as this has never occurred—

Will he give an assurance this matter will be finalised in the House before the end of 2000?

**Mr WELFORD** (10/10/00): I support the revocation of the area of Lake Broadwater Conservation Park that is used for intensive recreation so that it can be transferred to Wambo Shire. However, I do not support revocation and transfer of the land on which the former Ranger's residence is located.

It is usual for non-operational housing such as this to be declared surplus by my Department and disposed of under the principles of the Government Property Management System.

It is my belief that Council needs to renegotiate the revocation and transfer proposal to exclude the former Ranger's residence and that the required survey plans should be prepared at Council's expense.

### 990. Organ Donation

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Health (6/9/00)—

With reference to her answer to a previous Question on Notice No 463 asked on 30 May 2000, in which she stated that Australians Donate and the Commonwealth are exploring the options for funding a national registry of intending donors and those negotiations included the provision of an information pack—

Will she advise what progress has been made?

**Mrs EDMOND (6/10/00):** In 1999 Queensland showed the lowest organ donor rate in Australia. From January to December 1999 there were only 20 organ donors in the State.

By contrast, in the year to date we have achieved 29 donors.

It is hoped that the development of the Australian Organ Donor Registry (The Registry) will make more people aware of the benefits of organ donation and increase the number of donors.

The Registry is expected to commence in November 2000. The Health Insurance Commission, which also manages Medicare, will manage the scheme. The Health Insurance Commission has experience with managing similar registries such as the Child Immunisation Registry Database, which has been most beneficial for the establishment of this Registry.

All Australians will be able to record their intention to donate (or record their intention to not donate) using a paper registration form or electronic form via the internet. The Registry is entirely voluntary and people will be informed on the registration form and other literature about how their details will be used. Information packages will be available through Medicare Offices and a variety of locations such as pharmacies and general practitioner surgeries before November 2000.

The Registry will be separate to the Medicare database system, although, if potential donors give consent, as changes are made to the individual's Medicare file, those changes can be updated on the Registry.

Access to the Registry will only be made available to authorised personnel via a secure internet site. The site will be accessible 24 hours per day via a national dial-up system. Confidentiality and privacy is of paramount importance and all access to the Registry will be recorded.

#### **991. Local Content Policy, Made in Australia Label**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Premier (6/9/00)—

With reference to the proposed study announced by Mark Vaile, Federal Trade Minister, in relation to the formal links between New Zealand and the Asian free trade area and the rules of origin under the Trans-Tasman Closer Economic Relations which requires a 50 per cent local content to label products "Made in Australia" and considering his Government's commitment to Queensland industry and primary producers to ensure greater local content in policy—

What does he intend to do in relation to the study that is currently considering dropping the local content policy to 40 per cent rather than 50 per cent and still allow a "Made in Australia" label?

**Mr BEATTIE (6/10/00):** There is no direct link between the Rules of Origin agreements negotiated by the Commonwealth with Australia's trading partners (which seek to define the minimum proportion of a product that must be sourced in the exporting country to qualify as a product of that country) and my Government's Local Content Policy, which aims to give local industry a full, fair and reasonable access to major project proposals.

That said, my Government would be concerned with any action by the Commonwealth that reduces the ability of Queensland companies to compete in global markets by enabling substantially foreign sourced goods to masquerade as Australian. This approach is consistent with the statement made by Ministers at the recent National Trade Consultations Ministerial meeting, which the Deputy Premier hosted in Brisbane on 16 June 2000.

The Department of State Development has responsibility for ensuring that the interests of Queensland exporters are protected on issues such as this, and is currently examining the best mechanism for Queensland to make its views known to the Commonwealth.

#### **992. Koala Habitat**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (6/9/00)—

With reference to fire activity in the area of the Mt Petrie exit of the Gateway in which exists a large koala sanctuary—

How much damage to the koala habitat has been done and what action has been taken to deal with it?

**Mr WELFORD (10/10/00):** Although the area referred to falls generally within the Koala Coast area, it is more specifically called the Brisbane Koala Bushland. This tract of land contains Brisbane City Council (BCC) bushland reserves as well as private land. BCC has primary responsibility for the management of this area.

Officers of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) understand that the Mount Petrie block of the Brisbane Koala Bushland has been recently burnt by wildfires. In addition, there have been smaller fires in other sections of the Brisbane Koala Bushland. However, most of the fires have been ground fires with limited effect on the canopy. As a result, there is a significant refuge of unaffected bushland remaining as koala habitat in the area.

At the moment the focus is still on fighting wildfires, but it is understood that as soon as practicable an analysis of the impact of the fires will be undertaken by officers of BCC. BCC should be contacted for further details on the fires and their impacts.

While fire is an integral and natural part of the koala habitat ecosystem, QPWS officers are not aware of any koalas being sighted or captured which show any sign of their being caught in a fire.

#### **993. Brigalow-Tarong Railway Corridor**

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (6/9/00)—

With reference to the proposed railway corridor currently under negotiation with landholders—

Will he guarantee the landholders that (a) no forced resumption of land will occur, (b) no pressure will be applied to landholders to accept less than a reasonable and fair compensation package and (c) all reasonable questions, suggestions and concerns of landholders will be resolved or adequately addressed?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (6/10/00): The proposed Brigalow to Tarong Rail Project was previously being undertaken by SUDAW Developments Limited under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act (SD & PWOA) which is administered by the Hon Jim Elder MLA, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade.

Tarong Energy Corporation Limited purchased the rights for the project in February 2000, and was subsequently recognised as proponent for the rail project by the Coordinator General, and the project is continuing to be carried out in accordance with the SD & PWOA.

It is suggested the question be directed to the Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (Mr Elder) who administers the relevant Act.

#### 994. Apprentices and Trainees

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (6/9/00)—

With reference to the pilot program, conducted in the department's Brisbane North and Central Queensland regions between 1 February and 30 June of this year to trial and evaluate new administrative arrangements pertaining to apprenticeships and traineeships—

- (1) During the period of this pilot program, were any apprentices enrolled in user-choice programs at TAFE colleges within the two regions specified above charged full fees for any module of their course or any introductory module relevant to their course?
- (2) Were any employers charged such fees for modules undertaken by their apprentice(s)?
- (3) Whilst his response to Question on Notice 323 indicates that "as a general policy, if an apprentice has completed a module from their learning program prior to their enrolment as an apprentice, they should receive recognition of prior learning", is it the case that any training provider which 'encouraged' an apprentice to pay for and undertake a short introductory learning module would be able to receive user-choice funding for that apprentice without having to wait until the apprentice completed his/her probation period?

**Mr BRADY** (6/10/00):

- (1) The Department is not aware of any circumstances where an apprentice enrolled in an apprenticeship program was charged full fees for any competency delivered within that qualification.

Apprentices are however, required to pay tuition fees unless they are exempted under the Department's Fees and Charges Policy. Funding for a competency delivered outside an apprenticeship qualification is a private arrangement between the Registered Training Organisation and the participant.

(2) The Department is not aware of circumstances where employers were required to fund the delivery of training to an apprentice.

Employers are not charged tuition fees for modules undertaken by apprentices but may choose to pay the fees on behalf of their apprentices.

(3) Once the apprentice is registered, the Department will fund registered training organisations for all training in the apprenticeship program including any training delivered in the probationary period.

It is a condition of the User Choice Contract that Registered Training Organisations must award credit transfer where the student can provide documented evidence of achievement in the relevant training product. The Registered Training Organisation must also advise participants of arrangements for recognition of prior learning. The Department audits of Registered Training Organisations under User Choice include fees and charges practices and any practices which contravene guidelines represent a breach of contract and of the relevant regulation. Any specific allegations will be immediately investigated.

#### 995. Mount Cotton State School, School Crossing

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (6/9/00)—

With reference to a dangerous situation confronting parents and students when they are picked up and dropped off before and after school at Mt Cotton State School where the car park is situated across busy Mt Cotton Road from the school and there have been several incidents where cars have failed to stop and driven through the school crossing endangering the lives of the crossing supervisor and students and, to improve safety, it is proposed that the Redland Shire Council construct a car park and pick-up and set down area on the school property adjacent to Sanctuary Drive—

Will he ensure funds are available under the dollar for dollar agreement with Local Government Authorities so that this project can proceed this financial year?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (6/10/00): Both the Departments of Main Roads and Transport have been liaising with the Mount Cotton School community to improve the safety of children using the crossing outside the school. The initiatives implemented include the use of a fluorescent overvest by the School Crossing Supervisor to highlight the presence of the crossing and the installation of pedestrian fencing to deter jaywalking.

During investigations, it became apparent to departmental officers that an opportunity existed to create an internal drop-off/pick-up area off Sanctuary Drive, which would provide the optimum long-term

outcome for the school. The concept has been supported by the school community and Redland Shire Council.

Council has made an application for funding of an off-street car park incorporating a bus set-down facility under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme. The application is for a sum of \$60,000 which contributes 50 percent of the total estimated cost of \$120,000.

The scheme for the 2000-01 and 2001-02 financial years currently is being developed in conjunction with other applications received from across the State.

It is an extremely effective scheme and many demands are made on the limited funding available.

Allocation of funds to specific projects will be announced when the Roads Implementation Program 2000-01 to 2004-05 is finalised and presented in Parliament later this year.

#### 996. Sale of Tobacco to Minors

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Health (6/9/00)—

With reference to the sale of tobacco to minors—

- (1) How many convictions have taken place?
- (2) How many Government employees work in enforcing these laws?
- (3) What is the budget for enforcement?

**Mrs EDMOND** (6/10/00):

(1) To date, there has been one conviction under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Prevention of Supply to Children) Act 1998 (the Act). The Queensland Police Service undertook this prosecution after officers witnessed the sale of cigarettes to a minor. Since the Act commenced in May 1998, Queensland Health Environmental Health Officers have responded to 208 alleged breaches of the Act.

(2) Sixty Queensland Health Environmental Health Officers are authorised to enforce the Act. All of these officers have received extensive training in the enforcement policies and procedures of the Act. All Queensland Police Officers are also authorised to enforce the Act.

(3) Enforcement of the Act is part of the day-to-day duties of Queensland Health Environmental Health Officers and Queensland Police Officers and there is no dedicated enforcement budget. In addition to the ongoing enforcement and monitoring of the Act, in 1999/00 Queensland Health spent \$35,000 on an education campaign for tobacco retailers to assist compliance with the Act. The campaign involved the mailing of free signage and information brochures to retailers located across Queensland, as well as the provision of a Hotline for answering retailer and staff inquiries.

#### 997. Minister for Health, Staff

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Health (6/9/00)—

How many departmental staff were seconded to the Ministerial office during 1999-2000, who paid for their salary and how much did these salaries amount to?

**Mrs EDMOND** (6/10/00): 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 Coalition Minister for Health at June 1998. Another officer is responsible for liaison between the office of the Minister and the department.

#### 998. Licence Applications, Radiation Safety Act

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Health (6/9/00)—

Is there a backlog in licence applications under the new Radiation Safety Act and what is the waiting period for applicants?

**Mrs EDMOND** (6/10/00): At present there is a backlog in the processing of licence applications under the Radiation Safety Act 1999 (the new Act). The new Act commenced on 1 January 2000. As part of the transitional arrangements, the new Act allowed six months for persons exempted from holding a licence under the previous Radioactive Substances Act 1958 (the previous Act) to obtain a licence under the new Act. The six month period ended on 30 June 2000. Although a significant number of licence applications from previously exempted persons were received well before the 30 June 2000 deadline, a large number of licence applications were submitted on or near 30 June 2000 because people had left it until the last minute to apply for licences. It is anticipated that any backlog in licence applications will have been addressed by the end of November 2000.

All applications, including those made by persons who held licences under the previous Act must be considered under the new Act as new applications. This process is quite time consuming.

It is imperative that all applications be given due consideration and that licences are only granted to applicants who have demonstrated that they have satisfied the requirements of the legislation. Most applications are being granted within one month of their receipt, however there are some applications which may take up to three months to consider. The consideration of some licence applications is complicated when the requirements for applications have not been fully addressed or when further information is required. An example of the latter is when applicants cite training courses in their applications, the content of which is unknown. Such training cannot be accepted until it is verified.

Some additional resources have been provided to Radiation Health to assist in working through the large number of applications received.

As part of the transitional arrangements, applicants who held licences under the previous Act continue to be licensed beyond the expiry date of their licences issued under the previous Act provided they have made an application for an equivalent new licence under the new Act before the expiry of their old licence. Also, when new licence applicants

express a demonstrable need to have their licences processed quickly, these licence applications are given priority. In this way the impact of the current backlog on business is being minimised.

### 999. Pap Smear Register, Privacy

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Health (6/9/00)—

Given that women's personal information is included upon the Pap Smear Register and the onus is on the women to "opt out" if they do not want the information included, who is independently monitoring their privacy concerns and complaints to ensure these issues are appropriately handled?

**Mrs EDMOND** (6/10/00): The Health and Other Legislation Amendment Act 1998 (the Act) requires both Pap smear providers and pathology laboratories to ensure women are included on the Pap Smear Registry unless otherwise specified by the woman.

The legislation requires all women be informed of the Register at the time of their Pap smear and that they be given the option to opt off. For this reason, specific requirements are built into the legislation for service providers to inform women of the Register. A range of strategies has been implemented to ensure that doctors are aware of this obligation.

A GP Information Kit was sent to each Queensland general practitioner, relevant specialists and hospitals. The kit outlined the legislative obligations for Pap smear providers in relation to the Register. New promotional resources are routinely disseminated to GPs with a covering letter relating to the cervical screening program and their obligations with regard to the Registry. The "welcome letter" also details the means for women to opt off the register.

If there is a case where the Pap smear provider or pathology laboratory fails to perform their obligations and the woman is registered in error, the woman can call the Registry's 1800 number and request a deletion request form. Once the deletion request form is returned the woman's details are deleted from the Register and a confirmation letter is sent to the woman. The woman is also asked if Registry staff can investigate why she has been included on the Register in error. Registry staff can then take the appropriate action such as informing the Pap smear provider of his/her obligations and sending out an information pack to assist the Pap smear provider in informing women.

As governed by section 100FU of the Act, the Pap Smear Registry has implemented strict protocols and procedures to monitor the access of women's information by health practitioners and nominated staff from pathology laboratories. Before Registry information is disclosed to health practitioners, they are required to give their Medicare number, a Registry password and a reason why they wish to access Registry information. Similarly, directors of the various Queensland pathology laboratories must nominate staff members to have access to Registry information for the purposes of interpreting results and for quality assurance. Screening history inquiries made by authorised laboratory staff is closely monitored.

This allows the Registry to ascertain whether subsequent results should be expected for women on whom screening history inquiries have been made. The governing legislation includes penalties for unauthorised access to registered screening histories.

The Registry is located in a secure building. Additionally, the Register has built in triggers that will not allow users to access information if they do not have authority to do so. All Registry staff are required to sign confidentiality declarations.

Privacy concerns are handled firstly by Registry staff and if further action is required concerns are forwarded to the Manager, Women's Cancer Screening Services and/or the State Manager, Public Health Services.

Since the Pap Smear Register started on 8 February 1999, more than 400,000 women have been registered on the Pap Smear Register. The estimated opt off rate, that is, women who request that their results be marked "Not for Pap Smear Register" is 0.27%.

I also refer the Honourable Member to my answer to Question on Notice No. 637 asked by the Member for Maroochydore on 21 June 2000.

### 1000. Sunshine Coast Health District Budget

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (6/9/00)—

With reference to the cutbacks in the Nambour Hospital budget—

- (1) How much money has been cut back across individual hospital departments and what were these departmental budgets last year?
- (2) How much extra money was supplied for the so-called new initiatives in last year's Sunshine Coast Health District Budget and how much of these initiatives were funded from within existing budget?

**Mrs EDMOND** (6/10/00):

(1) The Member's question is based on incorrect information. There has been no cutback to Nambour Hospital's budget. The Sunshine Coast Health District budget has been increased every year under this Labor Government. New funding has also been provided by this Government for the purchase of additional new public patient services from the Noosa Hospital which commenced operation in September 1999. This funding was not taken out of the existing Sunshine Coast Health District budget as was intended by the previous Coalition Government.

(2) More than \$4.8m was allocated to the Sunshine Coast Health District last year for new initiatives including the Labor Government's innovative and successful school based youth health nurses and Triple P programs. This too was extra funding to the District.

### 1001. Sleep Disorder Clinics

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Health (6/9/00)—

With reference to the Sleep Disorder Clinics situated in the public hospital system in Brisbane—

- (1) What is the current waiting time for appointments and assessments?
- (2) How many people are on the waiting list from the following areas (a) Sunshine Coast Health District, (b) Gympie Health District and (c) Fraser Coast Health District?

**Mrs EDMOND** (6/10/00):

- (1) Appointments (Initial Consultation)

Sleep Disorder Centres in the public hospital system in Brisbane are located at Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH), Royal Brisbane Hospital (RBH) and The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH).

All patients undergoing overnight sleep investigations are required to have a prior initial consultation with a Respiratory/Sleep Physician attached to the Sleep Disorders Centre.

A three category system is used to assign priority for both the initial consultation and overnight sleep study bookings, as follows:

Urgency Category—Waiting Time

urgent—<30 days

semi-urgent—30-90 days

non-urgent—>90 days

Patients who are considered extremely urgent are assessed, diagnosed and commenced on treatment within one week.

The average waiting time for an initial outpatient appointment for other patients generally falls within the suggested standard time frames at all three centres.

- (2) There are 52 people booked for treatment from the Sunshine Coast, nine people from Gympie and 11 people from the Fraser Coast.

#### 1002. Legal Profession Reforms

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (6/9/00)—

With reference to the Green Paper on legal profession reform—

- (1) What progress has been made to date?
- (2) What is the time frame to implement the reforms outlined in the paper?

**Mr FOLEY** (5/10/00):

(1) The Green Paper was released in June 1999. Public submissions closed on 9 August 1999. Urgent proposals relating to the Legal Practitioners' Fidelity Guarantee Fund were enacted in December 1999. Public submissions are under consideration and there has been further consultation with the key stakeholders. Proposals arising from the review are expected to be finalised in the near future.

(2) A timetable for implementation will be announced after the proposals arising from the review have been settled.

#### 1003. Orchestras

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (6/9/00)—

With reference to the amalgamation of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra—

- (1) Will any QPO or QSO employees lose their jobs as a result of this merger; if so, what positions will be lost?
- (2) What is the proposed size of the new orchestra?

**Mr FOLEY** (5/10/00):

(1) The composition of the new orchestra and the associated business structure is still to be decided and will be determined by the new Board in response to the business planning process the Board will implement.

(2) The size of the new orchestra will also be a matter for the new Board.

#### 1004. Powerlink

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (6/9/00)—

- (1) What studies were available to him to provide him with the base information necessary to sanction right of entry onto freehold lands and justify budgetary expenditure to independently assess coastal options for the existing Kareeya-Innisfail line, the budgetary expenditure which also encompassed initial site works in the Basilisk Ranges, additional remedial expenditure for those civil works and the further awarding of an additional major contract to C & B Group to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment on Powerlink's preferred coastal corridor?
- (2) What budgetary limits are evident for the capping of this exploratory expenditure considering the force majeure \$250,000 expenditure which has effectively constructed an access road in the Basilisk Ranges as a direct result of unpermitted works carried out therein, after the assessment process by C & B Group and prior to Ministerial approval to an Environmental Impact Assessment findings being publicly released?

**Mr McGRADY** (6/10/00):

(1) Powerlink Queensland is not required to seek Ministerial approval to undertake the investigative work associated with the Tully to Innisfail transmission proposal. The investigative work is part of Powerlink's activities to meet its regulatory obligations under the Electricity Act 1994, the National Electricity (Queensland) Law and the National Electricity Code.

(2) No budgetary funding has been allocated, therefore no Government budgetary limits have been set.



**1005. Teacher/Student Ratio**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Education (6/9/00)—

With reference to the importance placed on teacher/student ratio and with student numbers fluctuating during the year in many smaller schools and the continuous threat of losing teacher numbers—

- (1) Will he or Education Queensland consider allowing district managers flexibility when deciding teacher allocations mid year and for the coming year especially in rural and remote Queensland?
- (2) Will he also consider retaining teacher/student continuity for the enhancement of the quality of education for all students in smaller schools?

**Mr WELLS** (10/10/00): Schools are living vibrant places. Some schools experience large swings in student numbers during the course of a school year. The department is sensitive to this issue, and does all it can to ensure that schools have the appropriate number of excellent teachers to cater for the number of students.

The department informs me that in order to ensure that state schools are equitably resourced, Education Queensland uses an allocative methodology fundamentally based on student enrolments in order to provide an allocation of teachers. For the 2000 school year, teacher allocations were based on day 8 student enrolments. However, in order to ensure that the department is in a position to respond to the individual needs of school communities, a process is in place to manage school and district requests for additional teacher allocations during the year.

The department informs me that the retention of teacher/student continuity is at the forefront of the department's consideration when determining teacher allocations to state schools, and in particular small schools.

**1006. Men's Info Line**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (6/9/00)—

With reference to Men's Info Line—

- (1) What funds were budgeted for 1999-2000 and what was actually spent?
- (2) What funds have been budgeted for in 2000-01?
- (3) What are the guidelines for this telephone information help service and what are the hours of service and the organisation contracted by the Government to provide this service and is it statewide?
- (4) What is the detailed breakdown of the number of services provided in 1999-2000?

**Ms BLIGH** (6/10/00):

- (1) \$104,716 of which \$94,397 had been expended as at 30 June 2000.
- (2) \$105,747.

(3) The service is funded to provide counselling, information and advice on relationships, health, family and domestic violence. The service receives calls from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Available counselling hours will increase to 10.5 per day, five days a week. The service is operated by Kinectons Inc, an affiliate of the Anglican Dioceses of Brisbane and is statewide.

(4) Approximately 66% of calls are from people affected by domestic and family violence, 16% are from concerned others and 17% are professional inquiries. The balance of calls are not otherwise classified.

**1007. Special Education Unit, Bundaberg West State School**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Education (6/9/00)—

With reference to the important work undertaken by the Special Education Unit located at Bundaberg West State School and the significant increases in student enrolment numbers—

- (1) Given that 3.9 teachers currently operate out of three classrooms and that the unit's expected enrolment of 40 next year will warrant a new teacher, where does Education Queensland intend to house the additional students and teacher?
- (2) When will funds be allocated to expand facilities at the unit, which currently encompasses offices for nine professional development and support teachers, but does not provide any storage areas, preparation areas or a withdrawal room?
- (3) Does he acknowledge that the resource situation at the Special Education Unit is unsatisfactory and that it is beginning to cause undue stress on dedicated teaching staff and the school community?

**Mr WELLS** (18/10/00): The department informs me that Bundaberg West State School has made internal arrangements to deliver a comprehensive range of educational services to students with special needs.

The Coordinator of Low Incidence Unit has been to Bundaberg to review the strategic direction of special education programs and services across the district. It is anticipated that recommendations in relation to Bundaberg West State School will follow that review. In addition to that review, the replacement of the present building attached to the Special Education Unit at Bundaberg West State School will be undertaken. Departmental officers will consult with the principal in due course to determine the needs associated with the provision of the new modular.

**1008. Distance Education Schools**

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (6/9/00)—

- (1) Is he aware that no new non-Government schools of distance education have been approved since 1996?
- (2) Is he aware that under the current moratorium on granting such approvals, new approvals probably won't be granted before approximately 2002?
- (3) Since the granting of such approvals is not necessarily linked to the outcome of the Webb Report, what action does he intend to take in order to expedite the approval of such schools?
- (4) Will he guarantee that it won't take another four years before the next non-Government school of distance education is approved?

**Mr WELLS** (18/10/00): The Honourable Member is aware that the moratorium was in place during 1996 and his time as Minister for Education. I have merely continued his policy.

#### 1009. Prisoners

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (6/9/00)—

With reference to his revelation at the Estimates hearing that the cost per day of custodial prisoners had risen from \$167.65 (1998-99) to \$184.75 (1999-2000) (6/9/00)—

- (1) What is the breakdown of these costs and of the cost increase?
- (2) What is the estimated number of custodial prisoners for 2000-01 and 2001-02?
- (3) What is the cost per day of a prisoner in high security prison, prison farm, low security prison (eg. Darling Downs Correctional Centre)?

**Mr BARTON** (5/10/00):

- (1) Breakdown of costs and of the cost increase

The cost per day quoted by you for 1998-99 of \$167.65 is actually the estimated actual cost per day for the 1999-2000 financial year (see page 3-10 of the Ministerial Portfolio Statement). Similarly, you have incorrectly quoted the cost per day for 1999-2000 as \$184.75. This cost, in fact, is the 2000-01 target figure (see page 3-10 of the MPS).

The estimated actual cost per day for 1999-2000 of \$167.65 was calculated using the methodology applied by the National Correctional Advisory Group (NCAG) and is the same as reported in the 1999-2000 Ministerial Portfolio Statement. A detailed break-up of cost of the \$167.65 figure, to enable comparison with the 2000-01 target figure of \$184.75, is not available because the methodology used by NCAG to construct the data is dissimilar.

The method of calculation of the 2000-01 target figure of \$184.75 has been changed so that it aligns with the state contribution for the output and now includes corporate oncosts. Since the methodology has changed significantly it would not be appropriate to compare one figure with the other.

- (2) Estimated number of custodial prisoners for 2000-01 and 2001-02

The average number of prisoners is as follows:

Estimated annual average daily state

	2000-01	2001-02
Secure custody	4,014	4,135
Open custody	793	818
Community custody	420	420
Total	5,227	5,373

(Note: The statistics in the MPS are based on the average for June in each year and therefore differ from the above averages for the year).

- (3) Cost per day of a prisoner in high security prison, prison farm and low security prison

The cost per day of a prisoner in custody for 2000-01 is as follows:

Secure custody: \$184.75  
Open custody: \$121.43  
Community custody: \$110.73.

#### 1010. Public Transport, Integrated Ticketing

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (6/9/00)—

With reference to the proposed introduction of integrated ticketing for public transport in South East Queensland—

- (1) What specific funding for the introduction and administration of integrated ticketing has been provided for in 2000-01?
- (2) When will integrated ticketing across the network be implemented and will the system include contracted private bus companies?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (6/10/00):

- (1) The Integrated Ticketing Project has been allocated \$768,000 in the 2000/01 financial period, to accommodate project administration costs.
- (2) It is expected that the first trials for the system will commence in early 2002 as previously advised.

The project includes the geographic region of South East Queensland involving eighteen Public Transport Operators including private bus companies.

#### 1011. Member for Greenslopes

**Dr WATSON** asked the Chairman, Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee (6/9/00)—

Given the Parliament's referral to the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee of possible Electoral Act changes and given the reference in the CJC report tabled on 6 September 2000 to the conduct of preselection plebiscites in the area of East Brisbane, will he step aside if matters under investigation refer to his preselection or to other preselections in his electorate?

**Mr FENLON** (6/10/00): No. I know of no reason why I would be required to stand aside as Chair of the Legal Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee.

**1012. Transport Vehicle Registration**

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (6/9/00)—

As the community have been told that the majority of State finances would be provided by the GST and this is netting significant income, does he intend tying transport vehicle registration charges to the cost of living so yearly increases will be automatic and not subject to the scrutiny of Parliament?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (6/10/00): Heavy Vehicle registration charges (those over 4.5 tonnes) are determined and agreed nationally and applied by all states and territories. The National Road Transport Commission is currently examining indexing these charges to provide greater certainty to operators and end the present situation of infrequent and substantial rises in fees. Indexation of these charges would be subject to an Australian Transport Council vote. Light vehicle registration charges are set by the Queensland government and like all government fees and charges are adjusted annually by the CPI to maintain parity.

**1013. Stamp Duty on Postal Delivery Run Transfers**

**Mr LAMING** asked the Treasurer (6/9/00)—

What was the total amount of stamp duty raised from the transfer of postal delivery runs in 1998-99, 1999-2000, the estimated amount from this source for 2000-01 and the amount charged out for this stamp duty to 31 August 2000?

**Mr HAMILL** (5/10/00): The statistics available in respect of the collection of stamp duty do not provide a break up for the duty obtained from the transfer of postal delivery runs.

**1014. Member for Lytton**

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Chairman, Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee (6/9/00)—

Will he stand aside as Chair of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee for the duration of the CJC inquiry into allegations of electoral fraud if matters under investigation refer to his preselection or other preselections relating to his electorate?

**Mr LUCAS** (6/10/00): No. I know of no reason why I would be required to stand aside as Chairman of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee.

**1015. Public Housing, Pensioners**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (6/9/00)—

- (1) What average weekly rents for pensioner couples and singles have been charged for Government housing in each of the past 10 years and what were the respective formulas used?
- (2) As a percentage of the aged pension for married couples, what percentage has this been for each of the past 10 years?

- (3) As a percentage of the aged pension for single persons, what percentage has this been for each of the past 10 years?
- (4) What type/s of accommodation are offered to pensioners under the Government housing scheme ie (a) average size of premises and (b) flats, houses etc?
- (5) Are there any cases where additional facilities are provided to pensioner residents of public housing eg (a) swimming pools, (b) barbecue facilities, (c) bowling greens, (d) recreation halls and (e) libraries; if so, please give details?
- (6) What are the avenues for appeal in disputes over rent levels?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (9/10/00):

- (1) Information provided by the Department of Housing indicates that rent typically paid by clients in public housing receiving an aged pension, and no other income, is outlined in the table below.

Weekly Income is the maximum Social Security/Centrelink benefit payable for the Aged Pension.

Prior to August 1994, rent was assessed at the following rates:

20% of income to the State Minimum Wage (\$234 per week in April 1994)

25% of additional income to National Average Earnings (\$555.60 per week in April 1994)

30% of additional income above National Average Earnings.

Single clients on a pension with no additional income paid the minimum rent, which was revised annually. Couples on a pension with no additional income paid a 'concessional' rent that worked out to approximately 20% of income and was revised annually.

From August 1994 to November 1997, a sliding scale of 21.5% of income for the first \$299.08 per week, plus 26% of additional income was used to calculate rent payable.

Following the Coalition's housing policy changes of November 1997, a flat rate of 25% of income was charged for tenants allocated public housing after 1 November 1997. As a result, the department now has two public housing rent rates in place.

- (2) Information provided by the Department of Housing on the percentage of income paid in rent by couples on the aged pension for the past ten years is outlined in the table below.
- (3) Information provided by the Department of Housing on the percentage of income paid in rent by single persons on the aged pension for the past ten years is outlined in the table below.

(4) Through the public rental housing program, the department provides specific seniors' accommodation to meet the needs of those older persons (55+ age group) identified as requiring housing assistance.

Floor areas for non-adaptable seniors' units range from 52.5m<sup>2</sup> for a one-bedroom unit, 57.5m<sup>2</sup> for a one and a half bedroom unit to 80m<sup>2</sup> for a two-

bedroom unit. The department's seniors' units are also provided with additional security, an additional phone line in the bedroom and picture rails in the living room.

It is also the department's aim with all multi unit complexes, including senior's complexes, to have all ground level accommodation constructed to adaptable housing standards, therefore creating easily modifiable dwellings for older people with disabilities. These accessible units have larger floor areas ranging from approximately 65m<sup>2</sup> for one-bedroom units; 70m<sup>2</sup> for a one and half bedroom units to 90m<sup>2</sup> for a two-bedroom unit.

Those seniors eligible for accommodation larger than two bedrooms are housed through general rental stock which ranges from three to five bedroom housing.

(5) The department has provided community rooms in large seniors' complexes. (usually 20 units and above). In addition, barbecue facilities have been provided through Urban Renewal and Estate Improvement projects where a justified need has been identified. The department does not provide swimming pools, bowling greens, recreation halls or libraries.

(6) If a client feels that a decision regarding rent levels or any other departmental policy decision is incorrect, they can lodge an appeal to the decision with the Area Office. Generally, an appeal is reviewed and answered within 14 days of its receipt.

Where a person is not satisfied with the outcome of an appeal they may use any of the following avenues for a further review of the decision:

the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman);

the Minister for Housing;

local Members of Parliament; and

the Residential Tenancies Authority (in matters relating to the Residential Tenancies Act 1994).

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

#### 1016. Rural Fire Brigades

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (6/9/00)—

With reference to comments attributed to a South East Regional Rural Fire Inspector that Rural Fire Brigades were not a fire service and in view of the huge work load and excellent performance of Rural Fire Brigades in fighting a record number of large fires in South East Queensland—

- (1) What plans does he have to counter these comments?
- (2) What extra resources are being provided to help rural fires deal with this emergency situation?
- (3) Will he direct that Rural Fire Service be allowed to be more proactive in reduction burn-offs in future?

- (4) As most fires start on road edges, will he instigate talks with the Department of Transport for early fuel reduction burns in conjunction with land holders and provide incentives for this to take place?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (6/10/00):

(1) Brigades and volunteers have been advised that the comments attributed to the Regional Inspector are a misrepresentation. This Government remains committed to continuing and enhancing its support for Rural Fire Brigades across Queensland and the valuable service they provide to the community.

(2) Total Funding for the Rural Fire Service for 2000/01, including Capital Expenditure, has been set at \$13.52M. This investment allows the Rural Fire Service to provide volunteers with the support they need to undertake the various tasks of fire mitigation and fire suppression in rural Queensland.

(3) The Rural Fire Service and its brigades have not relented in their efforts to encourage landowners and occupiers of land to undertake regular hazard reduction activity to mitigate the risk of fire.

(4) The Department of Main Roads is a member of the Interdepartmental Committee on Bushfire Management. Moreover, their district staff across the state work closely with the Rural Fire Service and Rural Fire Brigades to mitigate the risk of fires occurring along the state's roads. While land and property owners are able to access Rural Fire Brigade support in planning and completing hazard reduction activities, they do not receive any specific incentives other than the knowledge they are contributing to the protection of their families, properties, community and livelihood.

#### 1017. Sand and Gravel Extraction, Coominya

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (7/9/00)—

With reference to an application made by Boral Resources Sand and Gravel Extraction for extraction on Buaraba Creek Pocket View, Coominya—

- (1) Has his department issued any licences for the go-ahead of this business?
- (2) What impact study has been made of the area?
- (3) What will be the impact on the farmers and irrigators from Buaraba Creek, Lockyer Creek and the Brisbane River?

**Mr WELFORD** (10/10/00):

(1) In October 1999, my Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Part 4A, Section 60J licence (Personal Licence), under the Environmental Protection Act 1994, to Boral Resources (Qld) Pty Ltd for ERA 20(c)—Extracting rock or other material and ERA 22(c)—Screening etc materials. The Agency is currently assessing an application for a Development Approval (under the Integrated Planning Act 1997) for Foxs Road, Coominya and the response is due by 13 October 2000.

(2) An impact assessment study has been conducted for this site and potential impacts were identified.

(3) Any approval for the Development Approval application will focus on the applicant demonstrating that the proposed environmental management measures can protect and conserve adjacent groundwater and surface water resources, which farmers and irrigators from Buaraba Creek may share. EPA will consult with my Department of Natural Resources to assess the potential impacts to farmers and irrigators during the Development Approval process.

#### **1018. Bus Safety; Driver Authority**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/9/00)—

With reference to bus safety—

- (1) As the driver authority that all Queensland bus drivers must have includes a medical check and a police check for their suitability to drive these vehicles, why can backpacker hostel owners (accommodation or tourist transfer category) now issue temporary driver authorities, costing local jobs and creating an unsafe environment for the travelling public?
- (2) Recently two events, one at Childers and one at Home Hill resulted once again in calls for seat belts in school buses, if their respective hostels issued the driver accreditation, was the seating arrangements as set down for buses or did the vehicles involved have longitudinal seating?
- (3) If seat belts are to be fitted, will the Department of Transport reimburse the operators for their fitment at invoice cost?
- (4) Will his department exonerate any operator from liability for any injuries sustained should a child not be wearing their seat belt?
- (5) Will his department explain to the public that in a vehicle that has had seat belts retro fitted that the roof may collapse in a rollover resulting in restrained passengers receiving crush injuries?
- (6) Will his department raise operators pay rates to at least equal with New South Wales rates, so they can update to vehicles that do comply with rollover standards?
- (7) Will his department raise pay rates to cover the increased maintenance costs?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (9/10/00):

(1) Until last year, there were no requirements for courtesy/community coach drivers to have any authorisation. Restricted Driver Authorisation (RDA) is a new category of Driver Authorisation (DA) introduced for community and courtesy transport services by the Beattie Labor Government. An operator of a community or courtesy transport service can use drivers that have Queensland Transport (QT) issued Driver Authorisation, or can issue their own Restricted Driver Authorisation.

Restricted Driver Authorisation was introduced to cater for community transport operators that rely on volunteer drivers, and courtesy transport operators that are located in remote areas and employ short term staff.

It should be noted, that a courtesy transport service must be provided totally free of charge and is only available to customers of the operator. If the backpackers are required to contribute towards the cost of the service, the operator must use drivers with Queensland Transport issued Driver Authorisation.

(2) With regard to the recent mini bus accident at Home Hill (14 August 2000), the operator of the bus was providing an 'undefined' public passenger service, for which General Operator Accreditation is required. Under the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, the operator of this type of service is required to use drivers that hold Driver Authorisation for general services. This type of Driver Authorisation can only be issued by Queensland Transport.

The accident at Childers involved a vehicle with 11 seats. Under section 15 of the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 1994, operators that provide a courtesy transport service using one or two vehicles that can be driven on a C class driver's licence are exempt from the requirements of Operator Accreditation and Driver Authorisation.

(3) Where buses with seat belts are purchased, this is a commercial decision by the bus operator involved and Queensland Transport does not reimburse costs associated with decisions of that nature.

(4) At present, such liability could only arise as a result of a judicial finding of negligence, and Queensland Transport will not exonerate any operator from liability for any injuries unless negligence is proven.

(5) The national standard for bus rollover strength, Australian Design Rule 59/00, was introduced for long distance heavy buses built from 1 July 1992, and for all other buses built from 1 July 1993. Consequently, buses built prior to these dates may not have the same structural strength as buses built to the rollover standard and may suffer greater structural deformation in the event of a rollover crash.

Any decision to retrofit seat belts into a bus built prior to the introduction of rollover standards needs to consider, in addition to the seat and floor strength, the structural standard of the bus.

(6) Any comparison of payment rates paid to school bus operators in Queensland and those in New South Wales is invalid because of the different nature of the School Transport Assistance Schemes in each state.

(7) Operators are currently required to comply with the Australian Design Rules, which are applicable to the vehicles being operated. The operator must meet any costs incurred in upgrading vehicles to meet or exceed minimum requirements.

#### **1019. Caboolture, Northern Bypass**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/9/00)—

With reference to the promise that he made at the Community Cabinet Meeting at Caboolture in February 1999 concerning the northern bypass of Caboolture—

- (1) When is the actual work to be started on the bypass?
- (2) As the end of the year 2000 is looming large on the horizon, will the dangerous Moodlu bridge be removed and replaced before December 2000 as promised?
- (3) When will the resumption process be completed thus taking the fear and the uncertainty away for the many affected land and home owners in the Caboolture town?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (9/10/00):

- (1) Design of the bridges for the Caboolture Northern Bypass is well advanced and detailed design of the roadworks will be completed by early 2001.

While the Caboolture Northern Bypass is being constructed in two stages, it will be necessary to complete the construction of the interchange with the Bruce Highway before the bypass can be considered to be fully operational. Detailed design and construction of the interchange is dependent on Federal funding being made available.

Preliminary works for the bypass will commence very early next year.

- (2) The Moodlu Bridge will be removed from operation early in the construction process.
- (3) Some delays have been encountered in association with the resumption process. These have been brought about by the need to conduct a number of meetings with affected property owners in an effort to resolve their concerns and avoid subsequent objections.

It is anticipated that Notices of Intention to Resume will be issued in late October, thereby delivering certainty to the remainder of those affected.

#### **1020. Drought, South-east Queensland**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (7/9/00)—

With reference to the current severe drought conditions in south-east Queensland and if individual properties or whole shires are declared drought stricken—

- (1) What current grants or low interest loans are available from his department to assist these farmers in time of need?
- (2) What other assistance can be provided by the State Government?
- (3) What grants, low interest loans or other assistance are available from the Federal Government?
- (4) In regard to the current bushfires and the havoc they are causing to grazing country, is there any assistance that his department can provide to help these farmers replace lost fences, other farming infrastructure and what assistance can be provided for fodder replacement?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (9/10/00):

- (1) The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) administers the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme

(DRAS) for primary producers whose properties are officially drought declared under individual or shire based declarations. This scheme provides producers with access to freight subsidy assistance for the transport of fodder and water used to nourish drought affected livestock. It also encourages producers to reduce stocking levels to appropriate levels by providing subsidies at completion of the drought for the transport of livestock returning from agistment and/or the transport of livestock purchased for restocking.

- (2) Producers who have an Individually Declared Property (IDP) or who are in a drought declared shire have access to numerous other forms of assistance through various State Government agencies. These include:

Concessional loans, through the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority for restocking and crop replanting at completion of the drought;

The School Transport Assistance Scheme, family support for distance education and parent liaison officers through Education Queensland;

Drought road train permits for drought affected livestock, vehicle height limit increases for the transport of hay and a waiver of farm vehicle inspection fees through Queensland Transport; Electricity tariff relief through Energex and the Regional Power Authorities;

Stock route fee reductions and waivers and land rent deferrals through the Department of Natural Resources.

- (3) The Federal Government provides assistance to primary producers affected by extreme drought through the Exceptional Circumstances (EC) program. Individual properties are not declared under EC provisions. To be declared under EC provisions an area or shire must be experiencing drought conditions equivalent to a one in twenty to twenty five year event ie; the event is equivalent to the worst four or five events in the last hundred years. The event must also result in a severe downturn in farm income over a prolonged period and not be as result of structural adjustment.

(4) Bushfires are an eligible event under Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA). Primary producers affected by bushfires can apply to their local Stock Inspector for an Individually Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) declaration. Successful IDSP declarations provide producers with access to concessional loans through the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA). Maximum loan amounts of up to \$100,000 apply for both carry-on assistance and for restocking with a cumulative total of \$150,000.

#### **1021. Dalby Crisis Centre**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (7/9/00)—

With reference to funding from the Child Protection Agency and as the child counselling services at Dalby have missed out on funding in the latest

allocation and as this service has one paid counsellor and had enjoyed the honorary services of a qualified counsellor for the last two years, yet this could not fully service the local demand and, in addition, it has been revealed the local counsellor has been underpaid at \$27,000 pa while counsellors at the Toowoomba service are paid \$39,000 per annum—

Will she, as a matter of urgency, review the funding for the Dalby Crisis Centre and investigate and, if necessary, compensate the local counsellor for any improper salary losses she may have suffered?

**Ms BLIGH** (9/10/00): The Dalby Crisis Centre unsuccessfully applied for additional funding under a recent funding round. There is no need to review this matter as there has been no change since this application was assessed.

Dalby Crisis Support Association is one of 33 services across the State receiving an annual funding allocation to employ Family Support Workers. The Toowoomba service to which the Honourable Member refers is sponsored by Drug Arm and receives the same annual allocation as the Dalby service and all other services funded by this program. The level of funding was established by former Minister Lingard when the program was implemented. However, the Toowoomba service, along with many of the other services, has negotiated to reduce the amount of funds allocated to operating costs in order to make more of the total funds available to meet salary requirements.

I am advised that departmental officers have advised the service that this option is available to it to increase the salary of the local counsellor. This is a decision for the management committee of the organisation.

#### **1022. Rail Corridors, Back-burning**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/9/00)—

With reference to the region around Townsville where a number of bush fires have raged out of control, some as a result of Queensland Rail employees burning back stretches of rail corridors and while landowners adjacent to these QR corridors have no objection to burning off, landowners are concerned with the degree of training and knowledge QR employees have in dealing with escaping fires. A further issue is the seemingly lack of communication between land owners, Main Roads and the Departments of Natural Resources and Environment. A further issue was raised regarding the lack of notification between land owners and QR to indicate a burn-off was to be commenced that day. Many land owners and residents have been absent during burn back hours or days and were unaware QR were burning off and were not present at their properties to safeguard their homes when the fires escaped from the QR corridors. Further, at a recent meeting a combined concerned group of landowners, local government, residents, QR representatives, rural fire services and all concerned stake holders the following resolutions were made—(a) That QR give greater forewarning to

adjacent communities and land owners of their intentions to burn, (b) QR choose earlier or later times of the day when less wind could fan fires, (c) that QR commit employees to further overtime so that fires can be watched to reduce out of control burns and (d) QR pick earlier times of the year when grass and ground contain more moisture so fires have less chance of escaping out of control—

- (1) Will he investigate these resolutions?
- (2) Will he ensure these recommendations are carried through?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (9/10/00):

RE QR:

(1) I have been advised by QR that it makes every effort to meet its legal requirements and its community obligations in regard to notifying neighbours as part of the process to obtain a Fire Permit. QR is required to comply with the conditions of the Fire Permit and therefore cannot burn outside the times specified on the Fire Permit.

QR staff has been vigilant when undertaking controlled burn offs to minimise the risk of fire emanating beyond the area defined on the fire permit. However as you would appreciate a change in weather conditions can affect what was otherwise a safe burn off.

QR personnel involved in burning off operations are appropriately trained and qualified to a standard equivalent to local Fire Brigade Members.

Although there may be variations in climate from year to year, it has been determined through consultation with the Fire Warden, that around September is an appropriate time for controlled burns as grass has dried out and the south easterly winds have generally abated.

(2) I am satisfied that QR is meeting its statutory obligations and has made reasonable efforts to avoid controlled burn offs from escaping. I have asked Queensland Transport to raise the issues of greater forewarning, vigilance and burn off times with QR as aspects of duty of care for rail corridor land provided for under the QT sublease to QR.

RE DMR:

(1) The Department of Main Roads undertakes slashing of roadside vegetation and, consequently, the need to initiate burn-offs is reduced. Landowners or other agencies such as the Rural Fire Brigade usually initiate this. When requested, Main Roads does approve vegetation burn-offs in accordance with its "Roadside Fire Threat Management" policy and guidelines. These approval permits ensure that safety, the environment and potential damage to road infrastructure are carefully considered.

The guidelines also require appropriate consultation with the adjacent landowners and stakeholders, such as the Department of Natural Resources, in cases where the State-controlled road is adjacent to a State forest.

(2) Main Roads' procedures already incorporate the suggested recommendations for managing burning off within Queensland Rail corridors.

**1023. Island Industries Board, Bamaga; Aboriginal Enterprises**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (7/9/00)—

With reference to an article in the Torres Strait News about a corporation known as IBIS Bamaga, a corporation which, it would appear, trades as a food and general department store supplying the general public in and around Bamaga at the top of Cape York Peninsula with branches or outlets on various Torres Strait islands trading with the residents thereto and from the story contained in the paper it appears this department store has experienced or is in serious financial difficulties and has continually sought and been given monetary assistance from this Government—

- (1) Does she know of these problems?
- (2) Will she name the directors of this corporation?
- (3) Is she aware of the amount of deficits incurred by IBIS Bamaga to date?
- (4) For how long have these amounts been allowed to continue to grow at the Queensland taxpayers' expense?
- (5) What efforts have been commenced by her to seek recovery of the amounts so far expended by the Government in propping up this corporation?
- (6) Is she aware if there was a substantial amount of money "borrowed" by the chairman of this corporation for the purpose of funding a funeral for his father on a Torres Strait island?
- (7) What efforts have been implemented to recover this amount?
- (8) Would requests for funding for similar or indeed any worthwhile aboriginal enterprises of any magnitude in the electorate of Hervey Bay receive the same sympathetic Government responses and opening of the purse strings as has been freely given to Ibis Bamaga, as well as the indicated financial assistance the directors have been afforded?
- (9) Would the financial assistance the directors of IBIS Bamaga have been afforded be available for directors of any aboriginal enterprise in the electorate of Hervey Bay and the electorate of Whitsunday?

**Ms SPENCE** (9/10/00):

(1) The store referred to by the Honourable Member is the Island Industries Board store at Bamaga. The Island Industries Board, a statutory body under the Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984, is also known as IBIS. The store at Bamaga is one of 19 general stores or supermarkets operated by IBIS in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. In November 1999 I became aware of the serious difficulties IBIS was experiencing not only at Bamaga but in other aspects of its operations. As a consequence I initiated a review to address the

problems and an action plan designed to improve IBIS's performance was put in place in May this year.

(2) Until April 2000 the Board of IBIS comprised Mr Getano Lui (Jnr)(Chair), Mr John Abednego, Ms Romina Fujii, Ms Margaret Mau, Mr Elia Doolah, Mr Miseron Levi, Mr Peter Head (resigned February 1999) and Mr Paul Toolis.

From mid April this year the Board comprised Mr Joseph Elu (Chair), Mr Edward Dau, Mr Ted Billy, Mr Terrence Whap, Mr Elia Doolah. Ms Romina Fujii and Mr Paul Toolis.

Mr Toolis was an ex officio member as a result of his position as an officer of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development based on Thursday Island. He has recently been transferred and another Government officer will replace him on the Board.

On 7 September 2000 Mr Lui Garozzo, a Cairns-based businessman, was appointed to the Board.

(3) The results for the IBIS store at Bamaga are not released separately. The financial results for IBIS as a whole were included in its 1999/2000 Annual Report tabled by me in Parliament on 11 August 2000. The financial results of IBIS were also discussed in the Auditor-General's Report (No. 6) tabled in Parliament on 6 September 2000.

(4) I am always very conscious of the taxpayers of Queensland. I have made it very clear to the IBIS Board that I will protect the taxpayers of Queensland. IBIS incurred losses in 1998/99 and 1999/2000. As soon as I became aware of the losses in 1999 I took action as described in (1) above.

(5) The Government has not given IBIS any money to help it with its financial difficulties. It should be noted that in 1997 two loans totalling \$4.0M were made to IBIS by the then Queensland Government. While IBIS is required to repay these loans, I have publicly questioned the lack of commercial judgment of the then Government in approving these loans.

(6) The previous Chair of IBIS, Mr Getano Lui, incurred considerable expenses in relation to his father's funeral. These expenses were at the time paid for by IBIS but are considered to constitute a personal debt by Mr Lui.

(7) On 26 May 2000 the Board of IBIS confirmed that letters of demand had been sent to all past Board members owing money, including Mr Lui. As the money has not been repaid, nor any repayment arrangements agreed, IBIS has advised that it is taking legal action to recover the amounts owed by Mr Lui.

(8) The Government has not opened its purse strings to IBIS or its store at Bamaga, nor has it provided financial assistance to the directors of IBIS as suggested in the Question.

(9) As there was no financial assistance given by the Government to the directors or members of the IBIS Board, the Honourable Member's question does not follow. However requests, if any, for financial assistance from any indigenous enterprise whether in the Hervey Bay or Whitsunday electorates or elsewhere would be assessed on the merits of each case in accordance with Government policies.



**1024. QE II Hospital and District Health Service**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and Health Service District was calculated on \$64.8 million.

**1025. Princess Alexandra Hospital and District Health Service**

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Princess Alexandra Hospital and District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Princess Alexandra Hospital and Health Service District was calculated on \$137.8 million.

**1026. Mater District Health Service**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Mater District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

As Mater Hospital and Health Service District's assets are not controlled by Queensland Health, they are not included in the Department's Statement of Financial Position. Consequently, they are not incorporated in Queensland Health's net assets and are not subject to equity payments.

**1027. Northern Downs District Health Service**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Northern Downs District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Northern Downs Health Service District was calculated on \$27.7 million.

#### **1028. Gold Coast District Health Service**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Gold Coast District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Gold Coast Health Service District was calculated on \$91.0 million.

#### **1029. Gympie District Health Service**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Gympie District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to

increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Gympie Health Service District was calculated on \$16.3 million.

#### **1030. Southern Downs District Health Service**

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Southern Downs District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Southern Downs Health Service District was calculated on \$31.9 million.

#### **1031. North Burnett District Health Service**

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all North Burnett District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the North Burnett Health Service District was calculated on \$15.7 million.

### 1032. Royal Children's Hospital and District Health Service

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Royal Children's Hospital and District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Royal Children's Hospital and District Health Service was calculated on \$93.8 million.

### 1033. Nambour Hospital Emergency Department

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What are the full time equivalent staffing levels for the Nambour Hospital Emergency Department at 10 September 1999 and 10 September 2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): Staffing positions (Full Time Equivalents) for the Department of Emergency Medicine have remained constant between September 1999 and September 2000 and are as follows:

Nursing—FTE Positions—38.21  
Medical—FTE Positions—18  
Administration—FTE Positions—8.32.

### 1034. Warwick, Toowoomba and Dalby Police Districts

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (7/9/00)—

- (1) Will he provide an individual breakdown in each of the police areas within the Warwick Police District (Clifton, Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Killarney, Stanthorpe, Texas, Talwood and Warwick) of all offences reported (including a breakdown of what those offences categories are) in each area for each year since 1995-96?
- (2) Will he also provide a breakdown for each of the above areas on all reported offences for each month so far for 2000-01?
- (3) Will he provide similar figures for each area within the Toowoomba and Dalby Police Districts for the same periods?

**Mr BARTON** (9/10/00):

(1) A breakdown of the number of reported offences requested for each Police Division within Warwick District is provided in the attached tables for each year from 1995-96 to 1999-2000.

(2) A breakdown of the number of reported offences requested for each Police Division within Warwick District is provided in the attached tables for each month in the 2000-01 financial year.

(3) A breakdown of the number of reported offences requested for each Police Division within Toowoomba and Dalby Districts is provided in the attached tables for each year from 1995/96 to 1999/00 and for each month in the 2000-01 financial year.

Please note that the statistics provided for the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 financial years are to be considered preliminary and may be subject to change.

It should also be noted that crimes in the Other Offences category are mainly due to investigations or operations generated by police and are not normally reported crime. For example, a large number of drug offences may be due to proactive operations carried out by police because increased resources have enabled police to be more proactive in this area and detect crime. Caution should be exercised in comparing figures because of the low base of some figures. For example, property crime in the Goondiwindi division may seem to have increased but a major contributing factor was the large increase in fraud offences. This may be due to one or two offenders being charged with multiple fraud offences. It should be noted that in most categories, there has been a decrease in crime and I would expect you to acknowledge the great work our police have done to achieve that result. In those categories where there have been increases the totals for 1999-2000 are normally lower than when your government was in power.

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

**1035. Bundaberg Health District**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Bundaberg Health District facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Bundaberg Health Service District was calculated on \$54.4 million.

**1036. Health Department, Risk Management**

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

In light of a Health Department spokesperson's statement that the health service had developed "an overall strategic risk analysis and management plan to ensure that all assets were maintained in a way which reflected health facility needs"—

Given that 81 patients in North Queensland and 32 patients on the Gold Coast had to be called back for blood tests after sterilisation failures of surgical equipment, does she still have full confidence in this "risk management" approach to equipment maintenance?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): The 'strategic risk analysis and management plan' referred to is for building and building plant assets such as ventilation and water/electricity supply systems.

The potential risk at the Gold Coast arose out of human error which has been addressed.

The potential risk in North Queensland involved a specialist piece of surgical equipment which had been modified. Again, steps have been taken to prevent a similar situation occurring.

**1037. Health Department, Asset Base**

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

(1) What was the total value of the asset base upon which the Health Department's equity return was calculated for 1999-2000?

(2) What is this year's estimated total value of the asset base for equity return purposes?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): (1 & 2) As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 was calculated on \$2.75 billion, which equated to the average value of net assets in Queensland Health's Statement of Financial Position during 1999-2000.

All Departments have been funded in the 2000-01 Budget for the budgeted average value of net assets during 2000-01. For Queensland Health this figure is \$2.95 billion.

**1038. Hospital Waiting Lists**

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Health (7/9/00)—

What is the waiting time for radiotherapy services and how many patients are waiting at (a) Royal Brisbane Hospital, (b) Townsville Hospital and (c) Mater Hospital?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): The waiting time for radiotherapy services varies according to priority. The most urgent cases are seen immediately.

Radiation Oncology services are networked across hospitals so that patients can access the first available treatment option.

At 31 August 2000 a total of 387 patients were booked to receive radiation therapy treatment at Royal Brisbane Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital and Townsville Hospital.

I have just released the Radiation Oncology Services Plan 2000-03 which outlines the Beattie Government's strategy for enhancing the delivery of cancer treatment services and radiation oncology technology over the next three years.

The Government has committed \$25 million to this plan which includes two new linear accelerators for an \$8 million radiotherapy unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. As well, five existing linear accelerators (four at the RBH and one at Townsville)

will be replaced with new machines over the next three years to alleviate the ongoing problem of breakdowns and hard-to-get spare parts. The previous Coalition Government allocated no funding at all for cancer treatment equipment.

The new technology announced in the Radiation Oncology Services Plan is in addition to more than \$2.5 million in extra cancer services announced in this year's State Budget. Included are an extra 13 permanent staff positions to be shared between Brisbane and Townsville, which will result in reduced waiting times at both centres.

As I said at the time of announcing the plan, I am determined that the days of ad hoc planning for cancer treatment services in this State are over.

#### 1039. Australia, Police to Population Ratio

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (7/9/00)—

What is the latest police to population ratios for Australia, and all districts and regions in Queensland in the same format as provided in previous Questions on Notice?

**Mr BARTON** (9/10/00): As at 30 June 2000, the estimated national police to population ratio was 1:465.

As at 1 September 2000, the estimated Queensland police to population ratio was 1:481.

The following additional information is attached:

A schedule indicating the estimated police to population ratios in all police regions and districts in Queensland (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane).

#### 1040. Capricorn Coast, Respite Care

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (7/9/00)—

- (1) Is she aware of the desperate need for a respite centre ie a four unit centre and access for emergency care to be located at Wood Street, Emu Park, based on the Kalkeah centre in Rockhampton?
- (2) As the Capricorn Coast is part of the eighth fastest growing area in Australia and third fastest growing area in Queensland, will she make available the establishment funds and recurrent funds to establish this urgently required facility which would be such a help to give parents of children with disabilities just a little time out from the great job they do in continuously caring for their children?

**Ms BLIGH** (9/10/00):

- (1) I am very aware of the critical levels of unmet need for disability support services within both the Livingstone Shire and Queensland generally. Strategies to address this issue are being considered on an ongoing basis.

(2) DSQ will continue to monitor ongoing respite needs throughout the State, and will allocate funds in accordance with community priorities. The communities of Yeppoon and Emu Park will certainly be considered in this process.

#### 1041. Barambah Electorate, Schools

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Education (7/9/00)—

With reference to the schools of the Barambah Electorate?

- (1) What schools will definitely receive money alluded to the Treasurer's Press Release 'Barambah a big winner'?
- (2) What is each specific amount for each school?
- (3) What is the specific purpose of each amount of funding?
- (4) Are there any plans for the closure of any schools in the electorate; if so, which schools?
- (5) What are the enrolment numbers of students for each school in the electorate for 1999 and 2000?
- (6) What are the staffing numbers (teachers) for each school for 1999 and 2000?
- (7) What are the project staffing (teacher) levels for each school in 1999 and 2000?
- (8) Will he assure the people of the Barambah Electorate that the entire \$700,000 will be spent in the Barambah Electorate?

**Mr WELLS** (18/10/00):

- (1) The Honourable Member asked similar questions in Question on Notice 812. In relation to questions 1-3, I refer the Honourable Member to the response provided to QON 812.
- (2) Refer to 1.
- (3) Refer to 1.
- (4) The best configuration of school locations is a routine matter for ongoing review and consultation throughout Queensland, including in the Members electorate. No decision has been taken to close any school in Barambah.
- (5) This information is published on the internet.
- (6) This information is published on the internet.
- (7) The department informs me that staffing numbers are provided in line with Day 8 enrolments. However I am informed that three schools, Cherbourg SS, Murgon SS and Taabinga SS have been provided with above allocations for 2000 based on Day 8 enrolments.
- (8) The department informs me that adjustments are commonly made to the Capital Works Program, to add, delete, accelerate and delay projects and to adjust the scope and budgets of projects as circumstances require. The \$700,000 will be spent if it is warranted. However, the final product delivered may differ to that estimated in the original program documentation due to these changing needs and priorities.

**1042. Lamington National Park**

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (7/9/00)—

With reference to the allocation of \$350,000 under the "Better Parks Program" for new and upgraded walking tracks in Lamington National Park—

Is this allocation over and above the normal budget?

**Mr WELFORD** (10/10/00): Yes, this project is over and above the normal budget allocations for my Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The project is part of the Government's four year \$37.7M Better Parks Program. These funds will be distributed across the State to improve national park management, create jobs in regional Queensland and stimulate flow-on benefits to the tourism sector.

The funding for Lamington National Park will be directed at providing young unemployed youth with traineeship opportunities whilst contributing to the improvement of visitor facilities at that park.

**1043. Sunshine Coast, Tourism**

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (7/9/00)—

- (1) What is Tourism Queensland's budget allocations for the marketing campaigns dedicated to the five major regions (tropical North Queensland, Whitsundays, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and the Gold Coast) for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000?
- (2) How were these budgets allocated eg electronic media, print media etc?

**Mrs ROSE** (9/10/00):

(1) In 1998/1999 Tourism Queensland committed a total of \$7.1 million to domestic marketing in Queensland's five major destinations. This contribution reflects a special grant of \$5 million allocated in 1998/1999 to minimise the impact of the Asian markets downturn. The contribution to the five main domestic markets in 1999/2000 was \$5.3 million.

These figures do not include cooperative support from industry; the activities of the corporation's Special Interest and Cultural Tourism Units; or marketing activity, relating to these destinations, undertaken on a whole-of-state basis, internationally, or through media and trade familiarisations.

In 1999/2000 Tourism Queensland:

received \$11.4 million in cooperative support from over 400 cooperative marketing partners

generated over \$84 million in free Queensland tourism publicity through publications and television lifestyle programs

organised over 380 separate media and trade familiarisations including 68 different film crews and 177 groups of print media

invested a further \$1 million in the drive market and a further \$700,000 in the Where Else but Queensland marketing campaign.

In addition, Tourism Queensland will contribute approximately \$1.1 million over three years to the

Commonwealth Government's See Australia domestic tourism initiative.

This activity further boosts Tourism Queensland's support to Queensland's five major destinations.

(2) Budgets are allocated across a range of mediums appropriate to the target markets in each destination.

**1044. Central Queensland Police District, Strip Searches**

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (7/9/00)—

With reference to the Central Queensland Police District during the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 years—

- (1) How many strip searches were conducted?
- (2) How many people after being so searched were charged?
- (3) How many were males?
- (4) How many were females?

**Mr BARTON** (9/10/00):

(1) During the year 1998/99 a total of 3103 were conducted while during the year 1999/00 there was a total of 1894.

(2) For 1998/99 a total of 1424 or 46% were charged while 883 or 47% were charged in 1999/2000.

(3) For 1998/99 a total of 2789 or 90% were males while there was a total 1643 males or 87% for 1999/2000.

(4) For 1998/99 a total of 314 or 10% were female while there was a total of 251 females or 13% for 1999/2000.

It should be noted that the figures quoted have been taken from the Custody Index which is noted every time a person is 'taken into custody' by police. A person does not necessarily have to be arrested to be in custody. The term 'custody' also includes the term 'detained'.

There are occasions when a person is detained, strip searched and not charged, for example, a person detained under the provisions of the Drugs Misuse Act.

As suggested, the figures quoted include situations where people are strip searched and not charged because there are irrespective prisoners, arrested on warrant and not further charged and those detained searched, given an attendance notice and released.

**1045. Public Transport Concessions, Postgraduate Students**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/9/00)—

With reference to his decision to prohibit postgraduate students (of Queensland Universities) from obtaining concessional fares on public buses, trains and ferries—

- (1) When was this decision made?
- (2) What was the basis of this decision?
- (3) Who was consulted in making this decision?
- (4) When was this new policy enacted?

- (5) How can he reconcile this policy decision against the statements on the Queensland Transport web site which state and I quote " (1) We will make decisions that are consistent across all groups and regions; and (2) We will consult with you, and take into account the possible effects of our decisions"?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (9/10/00): Queensland Government, as part of its contractual arrangements with Queensland Rail (QR), requires them to offer concession (half) fares on Citytrain services to full time tertiary students. Successive State Governments have supported this approach.

It is not a contractual requirement for urban bus operators to provide this concession. However, Brisbane Transport has altered its product mix to mirror this QR concession. A small number of other operators, at their own discretion and in full knowledge that they will receive no Government funding, also offer this concession in a limited form.

Representatives of Post Graduate Students Associations have written to me regarding concessions. A meeting with these representatives is to occur in the near future and I will provide further advice once this has occurred.

#### **1046. Public Transport Concessions, Postgraduate Students**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/9/00)—

- (1) Has Queensland Transport withdrawn travel concessions to post graduate students from Griffith University and the QUT?
- (2) Does the department propose to withdraw travel subsidies from all post graduate students in 2001; if so, what is the reason for withdrawing these concessions?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (9/10/00): The Queensland Government, as part of its contractual arrangements with Queensland Rail (QR), requires them to offer concession (half) fares on Citytrain services to full time tertiary students with varying eligibility criteria. Successive State Governments have supported this approach.

It is not a contractual requirement for urban bus operators to provide this concession. However, Brisbane Transport's product mix reflects the QR concession. A small number of other operators, at their own discretion and in full knowledge that they will receive no Government funding, also offer a concession in a limited form.

Representatives of Post Graduate Student Associations have written to me regarding concessions. A meeting with these representatives is to occur in the near future and I will provide further advice once this has occurred.

#### **1047. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Deaths in Custody**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (7/9/00)—

What are the full details of each death in custody that has occurred within facilities operated or administered by her department in 1999-2000 and from 1 July to date?

**Ms BLIGH** (9/10/00): There have been no deaths in custody during the period in question.

#### **1048. National Standard Sport Facilities Program**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (7/9/00)—

With reference to his answer to Estimates Debate Question on Notice No 1 and, in particular, to the ambiguity regarding allocation of funds under the National Standard Sport Facilities Program (NSSFP) (7/9/00)—

- (1) What financial year budgets provided funding for the (approx) \$20m worth of projects listed as 1999-2001 but referred to as 1999-2000?
- (2) What financial year budgets will provide funding under the NSSFP for projects that were due to be announced on 31 August 2000?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (4/10/00):

(1) As I indicated in the response to the Question on Notice to the Estimates Committee, the NSSFP is administered over two years with a budget of \$10M per year. The projects identified in the list provided to the Estimates Committee for the NSSFP Program 1999-2001 are funded from the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 Budget Allocation for NSSFP.

(2) The Projects approved on 9 August 2000 under the NSSFP 2000-02 will be funded from the 2000-01 and 2001-02 Budget allocations for the Program.

#### **1049. Unemployment**

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (7/9/00)—

What was the unemployment rate in each State electorate for each month of 1999-2000 (listed by electorate) and for each month of 2000-01 to date (listed by electorate)?

**Mr BRADY** (9/10/00): The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations has been able to obtain estimates of unemployment rates at a given point in time by using a methodology that relies upon small area estimates of unemployment rates produced by the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business.

As a result, the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations has not produced such figures on a monthly basis. The methodology to derive estimates for electorates is resource expensive and time consuming. To produce these estimates for every electorate on a monthly basis over two years would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

**1050. Sporting Facility, Redland Shire Council**

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (7/9/00)—

With reference to the \$2m allocated in the Redland Shire Council for a multi-purpose indoor court under the National Standard Sport Facilities Program 1999-2001—

- (1) What stage has this project reached?
- (2) What is the total estimated cost of this project?
- (3) When were detailed plans for the project completed and approved under the terms of funding agreement?
- (4) Where is the facility being constructed?
- (5) When was the application for funding received, did the application contain full details of the project and, according to the application, what is the projected completion date for construction of the facility?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (4/10/00):

(1) The project is currently in its preliminary planning stage. While a concept design has been developed, Redland Shire Council has made a decision to undertake a full recreation facilities planning study for the Shire. The detailed scope of works for this project will be determined following the completion of the results of the study.

(2) The total estimated cost of the project is \$6 million.

(3) These plans will be developed following the completion of the Council's current study into the recreation needs for the Shire. In accordance with the terms of the funding agreement, Council has been granted an extension of time to December 2000 to undertake this study.

(4) The proposed site for the facility is John Fredericks Park, Old Cleveland Road, Capalaba.

(5) The application was received on 30 July 1999. The application contained full details of the project including need, feasibility, cost, site details, concept design, and supporting letters. The project completion date for the construction of the facility is not yet determined and it is anticipated a program of works will be developed following the completion of the Council's planning study.

**1051. Rural Fire Brigades, Air Reconnaissance Flights**

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (7/9/00)—

With reference to claims in August that urgent requests for an air reconnaissance flight to survey the path of a massive fire which was threatening the Wild Pig Creek area were refused by senior officers of the Rural Fire Brigade and that local rural fire brigades had to pay for the flight themselves—

- (1) Has he ordered an investigation into these claims?

(2) Has he received, or been made aware of, any written or verbal complaints from rural fire brigades about a lack of departmental support for rural fire brigades during the recent spate of serious fires?

(3) Has he made any attempt to provide additional resources to rural fire brigades whose resources have been severely stretched in recent weeks?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (10/10/00):

(1) Yes.

(2) The Rural Fire Service is not aware of any formal written or oral complaints concerning the level of support being afforded rural fire brigades. This government appreciates the efforts of all those who have been involved, either directly or indirectly in extinguishing the fires that have occurred across the state. Every effort is being made to support and resource the rural fire brigades in accordance with the risks faced in the local area.

(3) I recently obtained Executive Council approval for the expenditure of \$3.31 million to purchase 65 new fire appliances for Queensland rural brigades. Requests for assistance presented to the Rural Fire Service are assessed on their merits. Replenishment of consumable items and the replacement of equipment used in fighting the recent spate of fires is being coordinated through the respective district offices of the Rural Fire Service.

**1052. Bellyache Bush**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (7/9/00)—

With reference to the increasing problem over the last couple of years I have witnessed with the expanding growth of bellyache bush across North Queensland and research showing that this weed has the potential to have more devastating effect on pasture degradation and grazing stock than most currently listed noxious weeds—

(1) When will this noxious weed be listed as a menace as it has been on the program to be listed for many years?

(2) Is there any funding available to maintain any further spread of this weed?

**Mr WELFORD** (10/10/00):

(1) Bellyache bush will be listed as a declared plant in the Land Protection Bill in the very near future as it is now in the final stages of revision following public consultation.

(2) \$75,400 has been allocated this financial year to the Tropical Weeds Research Centre, Department of Natural Resources, Charters Towers, for research on the ecology and management of bellyache bush. Since 1998, my Department has contributed \$35,000 per annum to a biological control research program being conducted by CSIRO. This funding will continue until June 2001.



**1053. First Home Buyer Grant**

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (7/9/00)—

With reference to the First Home Buyer Grant of \$7,500 from the Office of State Revenue—

Does this grant also apply to purchasers of Housing Queensland homes within the Urban Renewal Scheme?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (9/10/00): Information provided by the Department of Housing indicates that the First Home Owners Grant, which is \$7,000, is available to purchasers of Queensland State Housing rental properties, provided they meet the Grant eligibility criteria.

**1054. Dalby Crisis Centre**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to social workers attached to the Dalby Hospital and as I am advised these officers can only counsel clients referred to them by the Medical Superintendent of the hospital—

Given the inability of the Dalby Crisis Centre (once funded by the Child Protection Agency) to meet local demand for child counselling, will she liaise with the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care in an endeavour to better service Dalby and district?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): The Social Worker at the Dalby Hospital provides counselling services to clients who self refer. A referral from medical staff at the Dalby Hospital is not required. The Social Worker prioritises the referrals in accordance with established criteria.

Counselling services for the 0 to 13 age group is also available from the Bush Children's Service, which employs a full time psychologist.

Funding will be made available to the District as from October 2000 to employ two Child and Adolescent Mental Health Workers to provide mental health services to the 0 to 18 age group. It is anticipated that this will meet current demand across the District.

**1055. Goods and Services Tax**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Premier (8/9/00)—

- (1) Does he know of any agency in Queensland that is conducting any kind of survey into the effect that the GST is having on voluntary work?
- (2) Is any data being collected on this valuable asset that has contributed to Australian egalitarianism beyond financial measure?
- (3) Now that the Howard Government has in effect enlisted every member of the community into the ranks of small, medium or large business, will he outline what steps will be taken to motivate people to offer their valuable service and still pay a tax that will indiscriminately compel them to enter the market economies scramble for survival?

- (4) Will a division of caring people who are already unrepresented, uninsured, as well as unpaid, become even further marginalised or will they now be disfranchised completely?

**Mr BEATTIE** (9/10/00):

(1) The Government is assisting the Queensland Council of Social Service to undertake research with a grant from the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund. QCOSS is conducting a series of surveys on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and related tax changes on community service organisations in Queensland, including the impact on the contribution made by volunteers. The surveys will be supplemented with a number of detailed case studies of small agencies across Queensland.

(2) See (1) above.

(3) The Government has acted to assist the community sector deal with the inherent unfairness of the GST by providing additional funds to organisations registered for the GST to cover any GST liability and avoid these groups effectively losing 1/11th of their grants to the Federal Government. This means that government grants to registered organisations providing community services, and other not-for-profit organisations, will be "grossed-up" by a full 10 percent.

In addition, the Government has allowed these organisations to retain any savings from the abolition of indirect taxes—a contribution by this Government estimated at \$20 million in the long run.

(4) As demonstrated by our efforts to assist the community sector, the Government remains concerned about the iniquitous impact of the GST and particularly the onerous compliance burden it places on community service organisations.

**1056. Legal Practitioners Fidelity Guarantee Fund; Solicitors Fidelity Fund**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (8/9/00)—

With reference to the administration of the Legal Practitioners Fidelity Guarantee Fund and in light of the terrible financial position of the Solicitors Fidelity Fund and the Auditor General's grave concerns of the viability of this disgrace and although a \$600 levy is to be paid by solicitors—

What steps is he taking to address the long term financial viability of the fund?

**Mr FOLEY** (5/10/00): My response, published on page 29 of the Auditor General Report No. 6 1999-2000, answers this question.

**1057. Lockyer Electorate, Hospitals**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

With reference to the rural hospitals located at Boonah, Laidley and Gatton in the electorate of Lockyer—

- (1) How much has her department spent on each of these hospitals since June 1998 on (a)

- refurbishment and/or rebuilding and (b) equipment and what type of equipment?
- (2) How much has been budgeted in 2000-01 for each of these hospitals in the above areas?
- (3) What other plans for refurbishment/rebuilding are proposed in the next five years for each of these hospitals?
- (4) What were the staffing levels for doctors/nurses for each of these hospitals at June 1998?
- (5) What are the staffing levels currently at each of these hospitals?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00):

- (1)(a) Approximate amount spent on refurbishment/rebuilding since June 1998 is as follows:

Laidley	\$905,341
Boonah	\$848,433
Gatton	\$84,857.

- (b) Approximate amount spent on equipment since June 1998 is as follows:

Laidley	\$ 87,641
Boonah	\$191,335
Gatton	\$ 35,405.

Type of Equipment purchased:

clinical equipment eg Oximeter, Lifepac 12 defibrillation/monitor, slit lamp

kitchen equipment

computer hardware and software

office equipment eg facsimile, furniture.

- (2) Budgets for refurbishment/rebuilding and equipment in 2000/01 have not as yet been finalised.

- (3) Further plans proposed include:

upgrade of the Dental Clinic at Laidley  
 replacement of a generator at Boonah  
 air conditioning refurbishment at Boonah  
 creation of palliative care area at Gatton.

- (4) The staffing levels for doctors/nurses for each hospital as at June 1998 are as follows:

Gatton	1 FTE Medical Superintendent 17.84 FTE Nursing
Laidley	1 FTE Medical Superintendent with Right of Private Practice 1 FTE Medical Officer with Right of Private Practice 15 FTE Nursing
Boonah	1 FTE Medical Superintendent with Right of Private Practice 1 FTE Medical Officer with Right of Private Practice 19.4 FTE Nursing.

- (5) The current levels of staffing for doctors/nurses for each hospital are as follows:

Gatton	1 FTE Medical Superintendent 18.99 FTE Nursing
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Laidley	1 FTE Medical Superintendent with Right of Private Practice 1 FTE Medical Officer with Right of Private Practice 15 FTE Nursing
Boonah	1 FTE Medical Superintendent with Right of Private Practice 1 FTE Medical Officer with Right of Private Practice 19.4 FTE Nursing.

#### **1058. Apprentices, Building Industry; Levy**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (8/9/00)—

With reference to a letter circulated by the National Subcontractors Association wherein they propose a 1 per cent levy on all building applications above \$40,000 to raise funding to relieve subcontractors of the burden of WorkCover—

- (1) In view of the potential for this scheme to allow increased employment of apprentices and to avoid retrenchments, is the proposal currently receiving urgent consideration by his department?
- (2) If the decision is made to proceed, when will regulations be framed to bring it into effect?

**Mr BRADY** (9/10/00):

(1) As part of its election commitments this Government made an undertaking to examine the feasibility of introducing an activity-based workers' compensation levy collection scheme for the building and construction industry.

The Government released a preliminary proposal for the scheme as part of the Restoring the Balance package of reforms in March 1999. The proposed scheme was also brought to the attention of the House in my Second Reading speech introducing the WorkCover Queensland Amendment Bill 1999 on 25 March 1999.

Since that time the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations has been investigating the feasibility of the proposed scheme. To ensure that key stakeholders are fully consulted in the development of the proposal, I also established an Industry Consultative Group, which includes a representative from the National Subcontractors Association. The Consultative Group has provided advice on issues and acted as a conduit between the Department and the industry as the proposal develops.

The matter is continuing to receive the full attention of the Department and I am aware of the views of the National Subcontractors Association on this issue. However, as this is a world first model for workers' compensation in the industry the Government is not prepared to rush into such a scheme without a full and proper assessment.

The Department is continuing to work with stakeholder groups, including the National Subcontractors Association, on the detail of the proposed scheme.

(2) The decision to proceed will only be made after a full and proper assessment of the proposal.

#### 1059. Pumicestone Electorate

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Premier (8/9/00)—

With reference to the bitter factional battle in the plebiscite for the seat of Pumicestone, in the Bribie Island Branch of the Labor Party that saw the wife of the former Member, Jon Sullivan, who by the way is now enjoying his Parliamentary pension, pre-selected as the candidate for Pumicestone, that has split that branch with half of its members now supporting the Labor Branch at Burpengary—

Can he assure the public of Queensland, especially those in the seat of Pumicestone that no electoral roll rorting occurred in that viscous and bitter plebiscite to secure this candidate's position?

**Mr BEATTIE** (9/10/00): The honourable member's question is based on a false premise—there was and is no "factional battle" in the new State seat of Pumicestone.

As for the allegation relating to electoral rolls, I would suggest that the honourable member has, at the very least, a moral obligation to present any information he has in relation to this to the current CJC inquiry.

I trust that the honourable member, who I understand is contesting Pumicestone at the next State election, is acting in the interest of all Queenslanders when making these allegations and not in self-interest.

#### 1060. Primary Industries Department, Wacol

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (8/9/00)—

(1) Is he aware of the use which is made of the Department of Primary Industries branch at Wacol by cattle breeders of South East Queensland?

(2) Is he aware that if the branch closes it will have an adverse affect on assistance which is given to the breeding of beef cattle?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (9/10/00):

(1) Beef Breeding Services (BBS) operates as a commercial unit within the Department, with staff and resources distributed across facilities at Rockhampton, Biloela and Wacol. The BBS collection and processing operations at Wacol facility have been underutilised to the extent that the average cost of production per straw from July 1998 to March 1999 was \$2.57, more than double the cost of production at Biloela. This high cost of production is directly related to the low utilisation of the services at Wacol compared to the Biloela site.

(2) The on-site collection and processing service at Wacol will be wound down and relocated, initially to Biloela and later to Rockhampton when the new facility is built at Rockhampton. The storage and distribution service currently at Wacol is relocating to DPI's Yeerongpilly site until clients have adjusted to the changes. Modern freight and communication systems now mean that one collection and

processing site in the State can serve the needs of the whole industry.

#### 1061. Sugar Industry

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (8/9/00)—

With reference to Question on Notice No 311 which I asked on 13 April 2000 and which I believe was not adequately answered hence the rephrasing of the question in a bid to receive a more satisfactory response—

(1) Although I know many countries hold stocks of raw sugar (the question I asked was how much do these countries have stored in surplus) in the interests of my constituents, will he provide specific tonnages on a country by country basis, figures which I believe the Queensland Sugar Corporation (QSC) would know as they deal with world stockbrokers continually and closely monitor such statistics?

(2) As overseas raw sugar brokers have contacted my office personally requesting orders to purchase Australian raw sugar and QSC informs me there is not a surplus of sugar in Australia to provide to these potential customers, why is it that these sugar brokers are unable to purchase raw sugar from any other countries when there is a so called glut of raw sugar production?

(3) (a) Could it be that the reality is that globally there is not a glut of sugar at all despite assertions from industry leaders, stockbrokers and the media and (b) could he provide current figures to prove me wrong?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (9/10/00):

(1) According to UK sugar analysts Landell Mills, there are surplus sugar stocks of some 26 million tonnes at March 2000. The major holders of these surplus stocks are: India—4.5mt; South Africa—1.0mt; Russia—4.4mt; USA—0.7mt; Indonesia—2.0mt; Mexico—0.6mt; EU—1.4mt; Belarus—0.6mt; China—1.0mt; Columbia—0.5 mt

(2) Queensland Sugar Limited does not have a surplus of stocks. International sugar brokers may be unable to purchase sugar for a number of reasons. Firstly, other countries may not have the same quality attributes as Queensland this season. Indeed, three of the top four countries holding surplus stocks produce white sugar, not raw sugar. Secondly, analysts have suggested the quoted surpluses are statistically inaccurate as there is no incentive for many of the major importing countries to have an accurate picture of their stock levels available for public consumption. Thirdly, some analysts also note that the traditional measure of stocks to consumption actually captures more "pipeline" stocks rather than "surplus" stocks, because the traditional measure is taken in the middle of the Southern Hemisphere cane production season.

(3) Yes, it could be that there is currently not a surplus of sugar stocks, however several analysts reports to date are suggesting that surplus stocks are available.

**1062. Gladstone District Health Service**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Gladstone District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Gladstone Health Service District was calculated on \$15 million.

**1063. Moranbah District Health Service**

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Moranbah District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Moranbah Health Service District was calculated on \$14.4 million.

**1064. Fraser Coast District Health Service**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Fraser Coast District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Fraser Coast Health Service District was calculated on \$89.4 million.

**1065. Mackay District Health Service**

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Mackay District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Mackay Health Service District was calculated on \$72.8 million.

**1066. Townsville District Health Service**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Townsville District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Townsville Health Service District was calculated on \$134.8 million.

**1067. Toowoomba District Health District**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Toowoomba District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Toowoomba Health Service District was calculated on \$172.9 million.

**1068. Bayside District Health District**

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Bayside District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Bayside Health Service District was calculated on \$45.2 million.

**1069. Royal Women's Hospital and District Health District**

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Royal Women's Hospital and District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Royal Women's Hospital and Health Service District was calculated on \$8.8 million.

#### 1070. Rockhampton District Health District

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Rockhampton District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Rockhampton Health Service District was calculated on \$73.1 million.

#### 1071. Tablelands District Health District

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Tablelands District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan

funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Tablelands Health Service District was calculated on \$24 million.

#### 1072. Hope Island Road, Upgrade

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/9/00)—

Given community concern about the condition of Hope Island Road, the Oxenford-Hope Island connector road, east of the Monterey Keys roundabout—

When will the upgrade be undertaken and what is the expected completion date of these works?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (9/10/00): The 1999-2000 to 2003-04 Roads Implementation Program includes \$16 million for three projects on the Oxenford-Southport Road. However, there is no provision for upgrading works east of the Monterey Keys roundabout on Hope Island.

The Roads Implementation Program is reviewed annually, and as part of this process, competing projects are considered and prioritised in consultation with Local Government and subject to available funding.

#### 1073. Firefighting Resources

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (8/9/00)—

With reference to claims made in the 23 August edition of the Jimboomba Times that the delivery of urgently needed fire appliances was delayed by the Department of Emergency Services because the department was waiting for a September media event to hand the vehicles over—

- (1) Has he investigated the claims and is there any truth in the claims?
- (2) When were the vehicles ready for delivery?
- (3) When was the date set for the media event?
- (4) When will he be handing over the vehicles?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (10/10/00):

(1) Claims in the Jimboomba Times that the Department of Emergency Services is delaying delivering rural fire appliances for a September media event are untrue and completely baseless, and only cause unnecessary anguish amongst volunteer firefighters and the communities they serve.

(2) There are no appliances ready for delivery as was claimed in the Jimboomba Times.

(3) There are no plans to hand over rural fire appliances to brigades in the Jimboomba area at this time.

(4) A new Nissan Light Attack appliance valued at approximately \$49,000 will be delivered to Jimboomba this financial year as part of the Veteran Replacement Program. This appliance will be delivered to the brigade as soon as it becomes available from the manufacturer.

**1074. Banana District Health District**

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Banana District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Banana Health Service District was calculated on \$5.3 million.

**1075. Transmission Network**

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (8/9/00)—

- (1) If the Townsville-Tully and Innisfail-Cairns portions of the transmission network are the same age as Kareeya-Innisfail, what justification for major budgetary expenditure which would see one new line section constructed ten years before possible commissioning to 275kv and with no evidence of upgrading of the Townsville-Cairns portions of equal present age?
- (2) What evidence justified the mid 1999 commissioning of independent consultants to review coastal options?
- (3) What resultant EIA of decommissioning Kareeya-Innisfail line in the 1995 Sinclair Knight Merz trade-off allowed adequate costings to be reflected of the economic impost of removing and revegetating this line?
- (4) Have all the moneys expended to investigate a coastal Tully-Innisfail route purely been the result of a Chalumbin-Woree assessment process carried out five years ago?

**Mr McGRADY** (11/10/00):

- (1) Whilst there are other lines in Far North Queensland of similar age, it is the condition of this particular line, coupled with the difficult access for maintenance, which dictates the need for its replacement now.

The design of a new transmission infrastructure would also enable transmission at 275 kV in the future to meet demand by stringing an additional line on the towers. If the proposed infrastructure was designed for only 132 kV, the transmission line and towers would need to be duplicated in 7 to 10 years time and a wider or second powerline easement would be required.

(2) Forecasts of demand growth in Far North Queensland indicate that Powerlink will be unable to meet the National Electricity Code mandated security and reliability standards with the existing Kareeya to Innisfail line. The regulatory environment also requires Powerlink to build any network augmentation at the lowest cost to electricity consumers. Therefore, Powerlink initiated the route investigative study, which included a coastal route, to identify options for network augmentation to meet its regulatory obligations.

(3) Powerlink advises that there was no trade-off of the Kareeya-Innisfail line with the Wet Tropics Management Authority in exchange for their approval of the Chalumbin to Woree powerline into Cairns. Cost estimates for the dismantling and removal of the old line, and the costs for revegetation work, have not been incorporated into the Options Report because these costs are common to all feasible options which could meet the reliability and security standards of the National Electricity Code.

(4) Expenditure on the investigation of the Tully to Innisfail transmission line route is not the result of the Chalumbin to Woree assessment process. Expenditure is associated with meeting Powerlink's regulatory obligations (refer to question 2).

**1076. People with a Disability, Carers**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/9/00)—

- (1) What were the numbers of primary carers of people with a disability in Queensland at 1 August 2000?
- (2) How many of these were aged 65 years or older?
- (3) What were the corresponding figures for 1 August 1999?

**Ms BLIGH** (9/10/00):

(1) Disability Services Queensland does not compile this data as this is a Commonwealth area of responsibility. The Honourable Member may be interested in reviewing the Australian Bureau of Statistics 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

(2) See (1).

(3) See (1).

**1077. Brisbane Light Rail Project**

**Mr TURNER** asked the Premier (8/9/00)—

As the light rail system will not be going ahead, what is planned for the \$64m from this failed project?

**Mr BEATTIE** (9/10/00): With regard to the Federal funding of \$65 million which the Federal

Government allocated to this project, I wrote to the Prime Minister, the Honourable John Howard MP, on 24 July 2000 requesting that the funding be transferred to other high priority public transport projects in Brisbane.

At this stage, I have not received advice from the Prime Minister on this request.

#### 1078. Jericho Railway Station

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/9/00)—

- (1) Is Queensland Rail proposing the closure of the Jericho Railway Station?
- (2) Are there plans for the closure of other rail facilities in 2000-01; if so, where and when?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (9/10/00):

- (1) There is no intention of removing the QR staff member from Jericho station, or closing this facility.
- (2) QR, like other commercial businesses, will continue to review and refine its business and operations to ensure it best meets the needs of customers and the market. Any changes are undertaken in consultation with staff, unions and other stakeholders.

#### 1079. Chandler and ANZ Stadium, Redevelopment; Goodwill Games

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (8/9/00)—

With reference to the \$3.4m allocated to the Brisbane City Council under the National Standard Sport Facilities Program 1999-2001 for the development of Goodwill Games facilities at Chandler and ANZ Stadium—

- (1) Is this expenditure in addition to the \$30m allocated by Treasury for the Goodwill Games?
- (2) Is Brisbane City Council contributing any financial resources to the redevelopments at Chandler and ANZ Stadium?
- (3) What is the total amount of funding being provided to the Goodwill games out of the Sport and Recreation Queensland budget?
- (4) What is the \$1.275m being spent on at Chandler?
- (5) What is the \$2.125, being spent on at ANZ Stadium?
- (6) Will all the facilities being provided by the \$3.4m under the National Standard Sport Facilities Program 1999-2001 be available to Queensland sport after the Goodwill Games have been held?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (9/10/00):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Department has to date allocated \$3.8M towards the 2001 Goodwill Games which includes works at Sleeman Sports Complex, Chandler, and ANZ Stadium together with track fixtures and some

equipment for athletics, weightlifting and beach volleyball.

(4) The budget of \$1.275M will be spent on refurbishment works, communications, timing and scoring equipment, ventilation and seating at the Chandler Aquatic Centre and the Chandler Velodrome.

(5) The budget of \$2.125M will be spent on the installation of an athletics track and associated field facilities at ANZ Stadium.

(6) These upgrades at Chandler and ANZ Stadium will provide ongoing international standard facilities for athletics, cycling and swimming and will therefore be available for broader usage. In the immediate future the works will also support the hosting of other secured major national and international events including the World Veterans Athletics Championships to be held in Brisbane in July 2001.

#### 1080. Designer Steel Homes

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/9/00)—

Will he provide the House with a copy of the documentation provided by the BSA which indicated that Designer Steel Homes had on all occasions the financial capacity to complete the work tendered for?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (9/10/00): The information was provided by the Building Services Authority to the Department of Public Works on the basis of "for the confidential use of the Department of Public Works" and is therefore not able to be publicly released by this Department.

#### 1081. Cairns, Government Offices

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/9/00)—

Will he provide the House with the cost/benefit analysis undertaken including a summary of available office space in Cairns which led to the decision to build a new Government office building in Cairns?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (9/10/00): This question is predicated on the assumption that the decision to go ahead with the new Cairns office building is open to debate.

It is not.

The need for a major State Government office building has been known for some time.

In fact, the decision to acquire the site for the new building was taken in March 1997 by the then Minister for Public Works, Ray Connor.

The land was acquired at that time as a "strategic holding" to allow for construction of a new State Government office building.

The cost benefit analysis for the proposed Cairns office building considered the following four options:

1. do nothing;
2. lease existing accommodation;
3. pre-commitment lease of a privately owned, purpose-built new building; and



4. ownership (build and retain ownership).

Option 1—Option 1 assumed maintaining the status quo, and was not considered a viable option.

Option 2—Option 2, to lease existing space was not a viable option, because vacant accommodation of a suitable size, standard, and cost was not available in the Cairns CBD.

Option 3—Option 3, the pre-commitment lease option was viable, but a discounted cash flow analysis showed it to be more expensive than Option 4, the ownership option.

Option 4—Option 4, the 'ownership' option, offered the lowest cost to taxpayers.

At the time of a Knight Frank report in September 1999, the vacancies in "A" and "B" grade Cairns office accommodation totalled approximately 5,900m<sup>2</sup>. However, these vacancies were normally in smaller modules of between 60m<sup>2</sup> and 200m<sup>2</sup> in floor area, and were thus unsuitable for Government use.

#### 1082. Community Jobs Plan; Community Employment Assistance Program

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (8/9/00)—

With reference to CJP and CEAP funding—

- (1) What is the budgeted project funding by electorate for 2000-01 (listed by electorate)?
- (2) What are the details of each budgeted project?
- (3) How much of this money has been expended to date?

**Mr BRADY** (9/10/00):

(1) The budgets for new projects under the Community Jobs Plan and the Community Employment Assistance Program are allocated on a Statewide regional basis, not specifically on an electorate basis. The Department only has the capacity to report on the electorate distribution of funding once projects are approved.

(2) As outlined above, budgets are not allocated for new projects until they have been approved.

(3) \$4.93 million for Community Jobs Plan and \$1.19 million for the Community Employment Assistance Program.

#### 1083. Aged Pension

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/9/00)—

With reference to the fact that when one of a pensioner couple dies, the remaining partner receives seven fortnightly payments and in almost every case, this money is used for funeral expenses and further when the second partner dies, the estate receives nothing and in cases where there are no relatives, that person has to receive a pauper's funeral—

Will she make representation to the Federal Government on behalf of Queensland Pensioners to have this anomaly changed for a fairer system?

**Ms BLIGH** (9/10/00): If representations have been made to the Honourable Member in this regard, she should refer this information to the Honourable Senator Jocelyn Newman, Minister for Family and Community Services.

#### 1084. Atherton Hospital, Gynaecological Service

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Health (8/9/00)—

Is it correct that because of financial constraints and staff shortages, the specialist gynaecological service provided at Atherton Hospital has been suspended?

**Mrs EDMOND** (9/10/00): At the end of 1999 Commonwealth funding was withdrawn for a gynaecology registrar position which was part of the Far Northern Regional Gynaecology Service (FROGS).

FROGS was established primarily to provide a visiting high risk obstetrics service to women in remote areas who have difficulties accessing specialist services in Cairns.

The Commonwealth funded position had, however, allowed the service to expand closer to home including routine clinics on the Tablelands. The loss of the Commonwealth funded position has forced the proposed changes.

Outreach services to women in the Cape and all women in remote areas of the north will continue under this program unaffected.

Routine antenatal and obstetrics services, as provided by local doctors will continue on the Tablelands and all urgent obstetrics and gynaecology referrals will continue to be seen at Cairns Base Hospital within the appropriate timeframe.

Options to allow the FROGS service to visit centres closer to Cairns are currently being considered.

#### 1085. Bannikoff Report

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (8/9/00)—

With reference to the past two financial years (1998-99, 1999-2000) (8/9/00)—

- (1) What progress has he made towards achieving the Bannikoff report's recommendation (on page 20 of Part B) that "institutes should double their industry funded training receipts by end of 2000"?
- (2) Can it be reasonably assumed that Bannikoff was recommending a doubling of these receipts from the \$16.3m he indicated was the figure for 1997-98?

**Mr BRADY** (9/10/00): I have outlined in the House a number of times the desperate condition of the TAFE system when we came to Government and suffice to say that it could not have survived much longer.

The previous government had embarked on a range of policies, including a rapid increase in contestable funding financed from shifts from the TAFE budget, a range of cuts to maintenance, new capital expenditure and curriculum development, savings initiatives, industrial relations reforms which led to TAFE Queensland Institutes experiencing a decline in revenues, quality of delivery and maintenance and an increase in overheads.

This Government has provided significant support to TAFE in the last two years in an attempt to remedy the frenzied competitive agenda of the previous Government. These actions have started to pay dividends and the next financial year will reposition TAFE to a strong and financially viable organisation.

I should emphasise that the Government did not endorse the detail of each recommendation of the Bannikoff report, rather, it provided a framework to guide government decisions in relation to TAFE. As such, Institutes were not set targets in their performance agreements to double industry funded training receipts, rather they were encouraged to grow their activity in this area.

TAFE Queensland has performed well with Institutes achieving an increase of 20 per cent over 1997-98. Institutes are continuing targeting industry investment in training as outlined below.

This achievement is noteworthy as during the past financial year there has been a noticeable decline in businesses' preparedness to self fund training. This has been heightened by an increased focus from business on Y2K implementation and tax reform. This has been particularly noticeable in the small business sector.

Institutes anticipated revenue streams arising out of the implementation of the tax reform package. However, this failed to materialise due to significant Commonwealth Government and industry association funding of these education and implementation programs.

In the coming year, as Institutes gain more experience in the competitive market place, they are establishing better client management processes and developing long term relationships with their industry clients. In addition, some Institutes are engaging professional sales staff to assist them in marketing their products and services to industry.

As part of the State's training planning process, Industry Training Advisory Bodies have identified training courses that should be embargoed from public funding. These courses, published in the Department's Resource Priorities Document, will allow Institutes to leverage greater industry funded training opportunities.

TAFE Institutes are also leveraging industry investment in training by nominating Institutes with specialist facilities and knowledge as key account managers. This means that TAFE can provide a single point of contact for large organisations and therefore capitalise on its profile as a single entity.

Additionally, TAFE Institutes are entering into partnership arrangements with each other and with industry to maximise training delivery and access opportunities.

I am confident that this range of strategies will start to produce increased levels of confidence in the public provider and result in a substantial increase in the amount of industry funded training.

This measured approach stands in contrast to that of the opposition when in government when funds were transferred out of TAFE into the competitive market with TAFE revenue targets then set at unrealistic levels as a balancing item to give an appearance that appropriations for TAFE had not been reduced.

#### **1086. TAFE and Training Organisations, Audits**

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (8/9/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No 560 in which he clearly indicates that TAFE, which receives the bulk of 'user choice' funding, was subject to only two departmental compliance audits whilst private training providers, receiving the minor share of funding, were subject to 97 audits in the same period—

On what grounds does he maintain that, "the audit program in VET covers all providers", when his response clearly indicates (a) a significant imbalance in user-choice compliance audit activity exists and (b) from 1 July 2000 this imbalance will in effect be total and remain a routine requirement in private providers but not TAFE?

**Mr BRADY** (9/10/00):

(a) I can assure the Member for Clayfield that the intensity and complexity of the TAFE audits, due to the number of vocational training areas and students involved, rules out the suggestion there is an imbalance in audit activity.

(b) Under the TAFE Integrated Audit Program for the 2000-01 financial year, a total of 165 User Choice compliance audits have been scheduled, so TAFE is certainly not precluded from the contract compliance audits as suggested.

All TAFE Institutes are covered by an ongoing integrated audit program, which is much more comprehensive than the audit arrangements that cover private providers of training. The integrated audit program—reflecting the Resource Agreement—covers every aspect of the business of an Institute. The Institute Director is personally accountable for the provision of quality training and quality service to the community and the individuals the Institute serves.

In addition, from time to time aspects of the business of an Institute may be examined using the more traditional compliance audit method. This will occur when complaints are received or when a request is made by the Training Recognition Council.

TAFE Institutes unlike private providers of training are subject to external scrutiny by the Queensland Audit Office. Literally hundreds of audits take place in Institutes each year. This cannot be replicated with private providers.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****1087. Police Citizens Youth Club**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Premier (3/10/00)—

With reference to the Government's intention to upgrade Lang Park stadium, the home of the Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC)—

- (1) What compensation will be forthcoming to the PCYC to assist them with their relocation?
- (2) What consideration has been given to alternative premises?
- (3) Is it possible that suitable facilities for the PCYC will remain at the stadium after the upgrade is carried out?
- (4) How many people have accessed the PCYC facilities at Lang Park in the past?
- (5) Does he recognise the valuable role which the PCYC plays in providing healthy, safe recreation for our future generations?

**Mr BEATTIE** (2/11/00): (1-5) The Lang Park redevelopment project is progressing. Consultation with the local stakeholders is continuing. Further information regarding the details of this project is available from the Minister for Sport.

**1088. Rockhampton Enterprise Limited**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (3/10/00)—

With reference to the operation of the Rockhampton Enterprise Limited and in response to Question on Notice No 901—

- (1) Will he list the achievements of the Rockhampton Enterprise Limited that have been achieved over the past two years that would benefit the business community of Rockhampton?
- (2) Who are the directors of the Rockhampton Enterprise Limited?
- (3) Were the positions of directors for the Rockhampton Enterprise Limited ever advertised?
- (4) Who nominated the directors of the Rockhampton Enterprise Limited?
- (5) Who appointed the directors of the Rockhampton Enterprise Limited?
- (6) When are the current report and audited accounts of the Rockhampton Enterprise Limited to be tabled?
- (7) Will he list the other enterprise centres operating in this State and the amount of funding and grants by State Government to each of those centres over the past two years?

**Mr ELDER** (7/11/00):

- (1) Rockhampton Enterprise Limited in the last two years has—

Formed as a new regional development organisation, and this included appropriate corporate arrangements.

Received financial support from Local Authorities in the Central Queensland area.

Developed business opportunities as a result of defence forces' exercises at Shoalwater Bay.

Established a supply chain management project to assist business with access to major industries.

Assisted with encouraging new investment into the region.

Assisted with identifying and assessing new economic opportunities in the region.

- (2) Noel John Livingstone; Sandra Carmela Anastasi; Edward David Scott; Gary John Stevenson; Vernon Leo Bartlett; Barry Charles Large.

(3) Rockhampton Enterprise Ltd is a company that has a constitution that determines the appointment of its directors.

(4) Rockhampton Enterprise Ltd is a company that has a constitution that determines the appointment of its directors.

(5) Rockhampton Enterprise Ltd is a company that has a constitution that determines the appointment of its directors.

(6) The current report from Rockhampton Enterprise Ltd is a six monthly report due in October 2000. This report is to be presented to my Department of State Development. Rockhampton Enterprise Ltd is a public company limited by guarantee registered under the Corporations Law of Queensland and is required to produce audited accounts accordingly.

(7) The following receive funding of \$250 000 per annum—

Cairns Regional Economic Development Corporation

Townsville Enterprise Limited

Mackay Whitsunday Regional Economic Development Corporation.

The Gladstone Economic and Industry Development Board receives \$185,000 per annum and the Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Board receives \$65,000 per annum.

**1089. Public Hospitals, International Patients**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Health (3/10/00)—

- (1) Apart from identified charity cases from overseas countries, have any Queensland public hospitals entered into agreements with any overseas countries, overseas insurance companies, overseas institutions or overseas medical centres?
- (2) What overseas countries, companies institutions or medical centres are involved?
- (3) Are public hospitals subsidising international patients?
- (4) Are overseas patients only paying a flat hospital bed rate and not paying for pathology, radiology, pharmacy and other costs?

**Mrs EDMOND (2/11/00):**

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Some agreements exist for training exchanges for example, the Mudanjiang Cardiovascular Hospital in China, funded by Aus Aid. Liver transplant patients are occasionally accepted from overseas on a full fee-paying basis.
- (3) The Commonwealth Government has entered into reciprocal health care agreements with a number of overseas countries and require the various States and Territories to provide the services. There is no specific compensation to Queensland for these agreements.  
For countries without such agreements, and where fees are raised, the fees raised are equal to the average cost of providing the services.
- (4) The average costs include pathology, radiology, pharmacy and other costs.

#### **1090. Power Transmission Lines, Maintenance**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (3/10/00)—

With reference to recent bush fires in the Boonah Shire and increasing evidence that at least three of these fires have been caused by faulty/poorly maintained power transmission lines—

- (1) What is the current program of examination of these lines to detect faults?
- (2) With the marked ageing of many poles and cross members on these regional power lines, does he intend to increase this examination/maintenance program?
- (3) As dry rot of cross members and loosening of insulators have been blamed in many instances, why aren't these cross members replaced on a continuous time frame basis?
- (4) Because of the damage caused by these fires to farm and residential properties alike, will his department accept a portion of the cost of this fire damage?

**Mr McGRADY (20/10/00):**

- (1) ENERGEX has regular inspection programs on its distribution system. This includes inspecting and repairing as necessary all poles within a five year period, all overhead wires on a two year cycle, and all vegetation on a two year cycle. These programs are up to date and are continuing in the Boonah area.
- (2) There is wide variation in the ages of the poles and cross arms installed on ENERGEX's distribution network. Consequently, ENERGEX has developed its inspection and maintenance programs with this in mind. The age requirements of the various parts of the network that are within the Boonah Shire are adequately addressed by this approach.
- (3) The standards that ENERGEX follows for inspection and maintenance of timber cross arms on its distribution system are developed in accordance with international best practice. This practice is to

inspect the cross arms at regular periods and then to replace them as required.

(4) The Department of Mines and Energy will not accept any responsibility for the damages caused by fires. Any claims regarding fire damage in the Boonah Shire which are alleged to have been caused by ENERGEX equipment, should be directed to ENERGEX. ENERGEX has received several claims regarding fire damage in the Boonah Shire. These claims are being assessed by ENERGEX's insurers.

#### **1091. Townsville Hospital**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Health (3/10/00)—

With reference to the sterilisation scare at the Townsville General Hospital where 81 patients who underwent colon inspections were affected—

- (1) What support mechanisms are in place to help these people cope and deal with this horrendous mistake?
- (2) If in the future these people are faced with HIV or hepatitis infection, will the Government pay compensation?

**Mrs EDMOND (2/11/00):**

(1) All patients have been contacted, appropriate tests performed and results of tests have been forwarded to those concerned.

Patients have been seen by the Director of Gastroenterology or arrangements made for them to see their own local medical officer if they preferred to so do. At all the interviews the patients were counselled and offered further counselling through appropriate resources, eg psychologists, social workers.

Statistically the chances of a patient being affected in these circumstances are extremely slight. In fact, it would be the first reported occurrence in the world if it were to happen.

(2) In the extremely unlikely event that such an infection occurs due to the procedure performed, consideration will be given to appropriate compensation.

#### **1092. Government Research Grants, Biotechnology**

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Premier (3/10/00)—

What is the amount of State Government grants for research into biotechnology, actually paid (a) in 1998-99, (b) 1999-2000 and (c) 1 July to 30 September 2000, to each of the following universities (i) University of Queensland, (ii) Queensland University of Technology, (iii) Griffith University, (iv) Sunshine Coast University, (v) University of Southern Queensland, (vi) Central Queensland University and (vii) James Cook University?

**Mr BEATTIE (2/11/00):** The Queensland Government is committed to supporting and expanding biotechnology research in both the public and private sectors. To this end, the Government has made grants totalling approximately \$198,925 in

1998/99, \$7,481,260 in 1999/00 and \$4,806,200 up to 30/9/00.

(a) In 1998-99, the State Government made grants of \$12,000 to the University of Queensland, and \$172,000 to separate organisations associated with the University of Queensland for research into advanced waste water treatment.

(b) In the financial year 1999-2000, the following funds were paid by the State Government:

\$932,141 to the University of Queensland, representing the first two payments of a \$15m grant for building the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the St Lucia campus;

\$6m representing the first payment of a \$20m grant towards the completion of a Comprehensive Cancer Research Centre, which will host research teams from various Universities (Griffith, University of Queensland); \$3,000 was contributed towards expenses incurred by a leading scientist from James Cook University to speak at the Bio 2000 international conference in the United States;

\$15,000 to the North Queensland Cardiac Vascular Institute, which is affiliated to James Cook University, towards the completion of its business and strategic plan;

\$15,000 to prepare a report for the development of a North Queensland Biotechnology Industries cluster;

\$5,000 to sponsor a delegation of United States commercial experts to travel to Townsville and conduct workshops and individual meetings for James Cook University and regional Biotechnology companies; and

\$24,490 to the University of Queensland, \$175,000 to separate organisations associated with the University of Queensland and \$12,500 to Central Queensland University for research into advanced waste water treatment.

(c) From July 2000 to 30 September 2000, the following funds were paid by the State Government:

\$3.75m to the University of Queensland representing the first payment of a \$77.5m grant for funding operational costs of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience;

\$1m to Griffith University, representing the first payment of a \$8m grant for building a Centre for Biomolecular Science and Drug Discovery at the Gold Coast campus;

\$18,000 representing the first payment of a \$75,000 "Innovation Start Up Scheme" grant to assist a start up company from James Cook University with the commercialisation process;

\$2,000 to hold a workshop on research commercialisation in regional Queensland organised for the University of Southern Queensland, James Cook University and University of Central Queensland;

\$15,200 to secure the services of a biotechnology commercialisation expert from the US and for organising meetings between this expert and members of south-east

Queensland based and regional universities; and

\$21,000 contribution towards costs incurred by University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and James Cook University for attending the BioJapan2000 Conference in Japan.

In addition, the Queensland Government has provided the following financial assistance to the private sector:

1999-2000:

\$20,000 to Queensland University of Technology, representing a consortium for a new Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Diagnostics for the preparation of an application to the Commonwealth Government CRC program Round 2000.

\$20,000 to University of Queensland, representing a consortium for a new CRC for Emerging Infectious Diseases, for the preparation of an application to the Commonwealth Government CRC Program Round 2000.

\$20,000 to CRC Aquaculture, representing a consortium for a new CRC for Sustainable Aquaculture of Finfish, for the preparation of an application to the Commonwealth Government CRC Program Round 2000.

\$20,000 to Queensland Horticultural Institute, representing a consortium for a new CRC for Horticulture Export Innovation and Competitiveness, for the preparation of an application to the Commonwealth Government CRC Program Round 2000.

#### QUEENSLAND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

1998/99:

\$14,325 to Agen Biomedical Ltd for productivity improvement.

1999/2000:

\$40,908 to Agen Biomedical Ltd for Business Management Implementation (Stage 2)

\$18,605 to Agen Biomedical Ltd for Productivity Improvement

\$29,293 to Alchemia Pty Ltd for Export Market Development

\$7,500 to Genetic Solutions Pty Ltd for Product commercialisation, domestic and export market development

\$21,643 to Genetic Solutions Pty Ltd for Value Adding Meat Traceback System

\$27,445 to Mediherb Pty Ltd for Product Costing and Material Requirement Planning

\$23,735 to PanBio Pty Ltd for Product and Market Development.

OTHER:

\$50,000 to sponsor five Queensland companies—Xenome Pty Ltd; Promics Pty Ltd; Peplin Biotech Ltd; Fungi Gulp Pty Ltd; Alchemia Pty Ltd on an Australian/US

Biopartnering Roadshow to facilitate the development of strategic commercial partnerships and access to finance that is needed to develop a truly global Australian industry (payment May 2000).

### 1093. Food Classification

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (3/10/00)—

With reference to fruit and vegetables being considered medium risk in the Priority Classification System along with processed foods such as canned meat, pasteurised milk, ice cream, peanut butter and milk-based confectionery—

- (1) Does this mean fresh fruit and vegetables or processed fruit and vegetables?
- (2) Will he explain if it means processed fruit and vegetables, what is the classification of fresh fruit and vegetables or if it means fresh fruit and vegetables?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (2/11/00):

- (1) The examples of medium risk food businesses given in the Priority Classification System developed by the Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) relate to processed fruit and vegetables.
- (2) Normally, fresh whole fruit and vegetables are classified as low risk. The risk of contamination from food safety hazards varies with the type of produce, the production system, and more importantly how it is consumed.

### 1094. Brisbane River, Moggill

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (3/10/00)—

With reference to the Brisbane River approximately one kilometre upstream from Moggill ferry and near the junction of the Bremer River and due to the increase in speed boat and water skiing activities that are causing an impact on the river bank environment to such an extent that trees growing along the banks are falling into the Brisbane River that is causing further earth erosion into the Brisbane River and as erosion is evident for about two kilometres on each side of the river and to numerous complaints which have been received from farmers and residents in this vicinity who have become concerned regarding the environmental impact on the Brisbane River—

- (1) Has his department received any complaints regarding this matter?
- (2) Will he have his department investigate these complaints?

**Mr WELFORD** (8/11/00):

- (1) My Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received one complaint regarding this matter on 4 October 2000.
- (2) My EPA will not be investigating this complaint as it has no jurisdiction for speed limits and distances from beds and banks of rivers to be observed by speed boats and water skiers.

The question raised is a matter for the Department of Transport which is examining the impact of vessel wash (including pleasure craft) on erosion of beds and banks of rivers and is liaising with my EPA through the Brisbane River Management Group (BRMG). The BRMG facilitates coordinated waterways management in the Brisbane and Moreton Bay catchment.

### 1095. Education Department, Chinchilla

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Education (3/10/00)—

As I am aware of a reorganisation of services delivered by the District Offices at Roma, Chinchilla and Darling Downs and understand this is to better utilise some specialised personnel over this part of Queensland, will he assure the people of Chinchilla there won't be either a closure of the Chinchilla District Office or a shedding of staff from that office?

**Mr WELLS** (2/11/00): The department advises me that it is not intended that any of the district offices referred to above be closed, and it is intended that staffing resources across district offices generally will be maintained.

To support the many initiatives of the 2010 program, services will need to be responsive, innovative and flexible. This will from time to time require adjustments between district offices. Having said that, I am not advised of any adjustments pending for the offices about which the Honourable Member expresses interest.

### 1096. South Burnett Bus Services

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/10/00)—

With reference to the scheduled close down at the end of October 2000 of the only public transport service that allows residents of Barambah to travel to Toowoomba or Gympie and Hervey Bay for medical treatment or family reasons, leaving the South Burnett as isolated as any remote area can be—

- (1) Knowing that this Government subsidises at least two bus runs in Queensland, what is the criterion for a company who wishes to provide a service to a remote area before they can receive such subsidy?
- (2) What constitutes a 'remote' area?
- (3) Since Dunkley's closure will force South Burnett residents to take the bus to Brisbane, thus cutting out Toowoomba or Gympie, does he have any ideas for an alternative form of transport for these residents, since it was a Labor Government who closed down our train services?
- (4) Will he name ALL bus runs receiving subsidies in Queensland?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (2/11/00):

(1 & 2) In December 1997, the Coalition Government decided to provide interim funding to three long distance bus services in western Queensland. These were the Dirranbandi/Hebel to Toowoomba service,

the St George to Toowoomba service and the Charters Towers to Townsville service because these services were at threat of being withdrawn on commercial grounds.

The relevant Cabinet Decision contained no definition of a "remote area".

The Labor Government does not have a program for funding bus services in remote areas, however, it has honoured the previous Government's commitment.

(3) The withdrawal of passenger rail services to Kingaroy occurred under the National Party Government.

(4) The Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Section 52 Part 3, requires Queensland Transport to publish in the annual report a list of all subsidies paid.

I would refer the Member for Barambah to that report.

#### 1097. Police Resources

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (3/10/00)—

Has he or the Police Commissioner undertaken an allocation of the additional police members detailed in the budget on a region-by-region basis; if so, when and will he detail the additional numbers for each region?

**Mr BARTON** (2/11/00): The Beattie Labor Government has undertaken a massive police recruitment program which will see an average of 325 extra police delivered every year to 2005. This will increase police numbers in this State to 9100 and it is the largest increase in police numbers Queenslanders will witness since the days of the Goss Labor Government. Already the Beattie Government has delivered more than 700 extra police which is more than double the pitiful attempts of the Borbidge Coalition Government. As you would be aware, while the Government supplies the necessary funding for these increased police numbers, the Queensland Police Service decides where these resources are allocated. In this regard, the Police Commissioner and his senior management prioritise the placement of these extra police according to set criteria such as population growth and crime statistics. This allocation of resources is determined in the later stages of each Police Academy class term. Rather than having a fixed allocation over the next five years for each class of graduates, this process allows for flexibility for the QPS so it can meet particular demands in various regions as they arise. Therefore, in simple terms, there is no detailed list of allocations for each region over the next five years. However, as each Police Academy class graduates, I give a detailed Ministerial Statement in the House of where these extra police are going. I know Members on your side of the House take great pleasure in listening to these Ministerial Statements, especially those from the Gold Coast because the South Eastern Region normally gets the largest percentage of new police each graduation. I am surprised at your lack of knowledge of the police recruitment and allocation process as you were a former police

officer. If you like I could arrange a briefing from senior police on these matters and a visit to the Oxley Police Academy which is renowned for its world-class training techniques.

#### 1098. Fuel Taxes

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Treasurer (3/10/00)—

What level of income did Queensland receive in 1999-2000 from taxes or other charges on both petrol and diesel and what has Queensland received in the current year to date from the same sources?

**Mr HAMILL** (3/11/00): The Queensland Government does not tax petrol or diesel. The State did receive funds from the Commonwealth in 1999-2000 under the so called fuel safety net arrangements. Under these arrangements, Queensland has been receiving a share of the 8.35 cents per litre excise surcharge introduced by the Commonwealth to protect the fuel tax revenues of other States. However, the State paid all these funds (and more) to fuel wholesalers to preserve Queensland's no fuel tax status. In 1999-2000, Queensland's share of these payments amounted to \$503.4 million.

From 1 July 2000, the safety net arrangements ceased as part of national tax reform. Accordingly, Queensland no longer has any role in the taxation of fuel. However, in the first three months of the 2000-01 financial year Queensland received \$52.1 million in fuel safety net payments, representing the collection of outstanding tax liabilities from the 1999-2000 year.

#### 1099. Logan/Beaudesert District Health Service

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Health (3/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Logan-Beaudesert District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (2/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Logan/Beaudesert Health Service District was calculated on \$70.7 million.

**1100. Charleville District Health Service**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Health (3/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Charleville District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (2/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Charleville Health Service District was calculated on \$18.9 million.

**1101. Prince Charles Hospital and District Health Service**

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Health (3/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Prince Charles Hospital and District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (2/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan

funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for The Prince Charles Hospital Health Service District was calculated on \$157.6 million.

**1102. Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Service**

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Health (3/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (2/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Health Service District was calculated on \$54.1 million.

**1103. Central West District Health Service**

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Health (3/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Central West District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (2/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.



This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Central West Health Service District was calculated on \$17.1 million.

#### 1104. South Burnett District Health Service

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Health (3/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all South Burnett District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (2/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the South Burnett Health Service District was calculated on \$19.4 million.

#### 1105. Charters Towers District Health Service

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (3/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Charters Towers District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (2/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to

increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Charters Towers Health Service District was calculated on \$49.8 million.

#### 1106. TAFE, Early Childhood Education Training

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (3/10/00)—

Will he outline the circumstances and the Government's policy which have led to TAFE Queensland being given approval to continue delivering early childhood education training from the national curriculum whilst other registered training organisations have been instructed that they must only deliver courses from the relevant national training package?

**Mr BRADY** (2/11/00): TAFE Queensland has not been given approval to continue delivering early childhood training from the national curriculum. Only continuing students of TAFE and other Registered Training Organisations (i.e. those enrolled prior to the availability of the Training Package) can complete the old curriculum based courses.

All new TAFE enrolments for early childhood training (except for traineeships) are to be in Training Package qualifications. An approved training scheme in child care has been submitted to replace the existing traineeship. Consultations regarding industrial relations issues are continuing and until these are resolved, trainees continue in the current approved training scheme.

TAFE advises that all Institutes, apart from the Open Learning Institute, have enrolled all new students in Training Package qualifications. I am advised that the Open Learning Institute has four mistaken enrolments in the listed child care courses in 2000. TAFE Queensland is aware that this is not a legitimate practice and that new enrolments are to be in the new Training Package. The Open Learning Institute is seeking to ascertain how these four enrolments have slipped through their processes and whether there are any mitigating factors.

The four students who have been enrolled into the old courses will be transitioned into National Training Package qualifications according to their circumstances and after consultation with them.

#### 1107. Railway Services, Privatisation

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/10/00)—

With reference to the New South Wales Government's plans to privatise FreightCorp (the

New South Wales Government's railway freight service)—

Does the Queensland Government contemplate following this Australia-wide trend of the privatisation of railway services, in addition to specialised freight services which are already privately operated for coal and other basic commodities?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (2/11/00): No, the Queensland government has no intentions of privatising Queensland Rail.

#### 1108. Inner City Bypass

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/10/00)—

With reference to the transfer of State Government land to the Brisbane City Council to facilitate the construction of the Inner City Bypass—

Is he aware if any of the Crown land transferred to the Brisbane City Council has been subsequently sold; if so, what land is involved and how much was the land sold for?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (2/11/00): The transfer of excess Main Roads' land to the Brisbane City Council was part of the State's contribution to the Brisbane City Transport Plan.

Some of these properties were located in the path of the Inner City Bypass and are being utilised for road works construction.

Since these properties were transferred to Brisbane City Council all queries regarding subsequent dealings should be directed to the council.

#### 1109. South East Transit Project

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/10/00)—

With reference to the South East Transit Project and, in particular, to the transit lanes which were proposed between the Logan Motorway and the Gateway—

- (1) Were these transit lanes to have opened in mid-2001?
- (2) Has construction of these lanes been commenced, if not, why not?
- (3) When will construction of these transit lanes be completed?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (2/11/00):

(1) The South East Transit Project was originally programmed for completion in April—June 2001.

(2) Yes, early works at Springwood for the reconstruction of the Watland Street Bridge, service road, new off-ramp and service relocations have been completed. These works are an integral part of the transit lanes and were required to be completed before the start of construction of the transit lanes.

(3) Queensland Transport is currently determining the tendering of Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the South East Transit Project pending an assessment of the likely final cost of sections 1-4 of the project which includes the entire South East Busway and 6km of

transit lanes from Mt Gravatt to the Gateway Motorway.

#### 1110. Pacific Motorway, Logan-Oxenford

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/10/00)—

Will he think again about increasing the speed limit on the M1, now that the four lanes are open, in both directions from Logan to Oxenford, from 110 to 120 km/h with the left lane at 80 km/h, the second (passing lane) 90 to 100 km/h, the third lane 100 to 110 km/h and the fourth lane 120 km/h, and then strictly police the speed limit in each lane?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (2/11/00): The selection of 110 kilometres per hour speed limit over most of the M1, with 100 kilometres per hour speed limit at the northern and southern ends, has been jointly made by Queensland Transport and the Department of Main Roads, after careful consideration of the motorway's design, current standards and driver behaviour.

It is not Government policy to consider a further increase in the speed limit and/or introduce variable speed limits across the lanes, as Australians would not be used to driving under such conditions and any higher speed could compromise the safety features built into the motorway's current design.

In addition, the introduction of variable speeds across the lanes could lead to congestion in the right lanes and create underutilisation of the full eight-lane facility. Reference to enforcement. There is also the significant obstacle of determining an appropriate enforcement regime for differential speed limits.

#### 1111. Vegetation Management Legislation

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (4/10/00)—

With reference to the prolonged dry weather now creating drought conditions on grazing properties in the Western Downs and as many graziers will need to cut/push scrub as drought fodder and as the new Vegetation Management Act stipulates property owners must prepare a Vegetation Management Plan to lodge with an application for vegetation management and pay \$250 application fee and given that the preparation of a vegetation management plan cannot possibly be done quickly yet the need for scrub is immediate—

Will he make an immediate amendment to his Act to enable the normal practice of cutting scrub for drought fodder to begin immediately?

**Mr WELFORD** (8/11/00): In recognition of the current dry conditions, a policy providing for transitional provisions allowing for the rapid assessment and processing of permits for fodder purposes has been approved. Landholders are required to prepare a brief property vegetation management plan (PVMP) with their application, to ensure that the application meets the relevant assessment code or Broadscale tree clearing policy. In most cases the plan can be done in conjunction

with my Department of Natural Resources staff, over the counter. Approvals will be then issued immediately for up to nine months for an area of up to 500 ha.

#### 1112. **Cungulla, Drainage**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (4/10/00)—

With reference to drainage problems at the Cungulla community which was inherited from the Department of Natural Resources and Thuringowa City Council by the Townsville City Council in 1994—

- (1) Has a drainage plan been issued or drafted for Cungulla; if so, why can't I obtain this plan or plans?
- (2) Why is insufficient drainage at the Cungulla township continuing to cause residential flooding in the area?
- (3) What actions will he take to ensure the drainage works required at Cungulla are forthcoming?

**Mr WELFORD** (8/11/00):

(1) A preliminary drainage study was prepared by Maunsell McIntyre Pty Ltd, Consulting Engineers for the Townsville City Council. If Mr Knuth writes to the Townsville City Council, Council may provide him with a copy of this study.

(2) The Cungulla subdivision was carried out by the former Land Administration Commission under funding from the now defunct Urban Crown Land Development Fund. The development was never recognised as an economic urban subdivision but was instigated by the former Department of Lands and supported by Thuringowa City Council to regulate development in the area and satisfy public interest and demand for land at that time.

Local flooding was recognised as a problem, however the area was initially developed as a seasonal fishing village.

The land in this area is generally low lying sand dunes with high ground water levels. When the former Lands Department moved squatters off the sand dunes and designed lot boundaries in the area, the Department developed basic bitumen road access to lots incorporating only surface water drainage. No kerb and channel or any underground stormwater drains were provided to maintain the overall ambience of the area. Residential development has been ongoing on existing lots and it is recognised by the geographic location of Cungulla that flooding occurs in this area.

(3) Townsville City Council are aware of the drainage problems and have some remedial works on their 'Rolling Works Program' but to date have been unable to fund the works.

#### 1113. **Hospital Budgets**

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Health (4/10/00)—

With reference to Townsville General Hospital having a \$4.5m budget over-run and Kirwan Women's

Hospital having a budget over-run again this year and to a spokesman for her department stating most hospitals exceed their budget and deal with it and that Government does not consider it a major concern that most hospitals run over budget—

- (1) What other Queensland hospitals had a budget over-run in 1999-2000 and by how much?
- (2) What services and staff are hospital administrators being forced to cut back on to make up for their budget shortfall?
- (3) If the Government does not consider it a major concern that most hospitals run over budget then does she accept that most hospitals are under-funded?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/11/00):

(1) Budgets are allocated and managed at district level. While the overall Queensland Health budget was balanced, 10 of the 38 health service districts reported budget overruns of up to 2.8%, which is considered manageable.

(2) Queensland Health has received a record recurrent budget of \$3.81 billion for 2000/2001 and this has enabled all districts to receive increases in their recurrent budget allocation compared to the previous year. Activity levels, and increases in activity, are expected to be managed within these record budgets.

(3) No. See (2).

#### 1114. **Hervey Bay Police Station; Court House**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (4/10/00)—

With reference to the lack of room in the Hervey Bay Police Station and the possible expansion to the court house which will inevitably put additional strain on the situation—

- (1) Will he consider the purchase of the only adjoining land to the police station, which is in Torquay Road and has two old houses on it?
- (2) Does he realise that if this adjoining land is purchased by others, it will be almost impossible to expand?

**Mr BARTON** (3/11/00):

The Queensland Police Service previously acquired 2827 square metres of land at Queens Road, Hervey Bay. Approximately 1757 square metres of this land has been used for the construction of the present Hervey Bay Police Station Complex.

Thus, some 1070 square metres of the site remains vacant and this is considered to be more than adequate for future expansion. Accordingly, the Service has no plans to acquire additional land adjoining the Hervey Bay Police Complex.

#### 1115. **Stock Grazing Permits**

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (4/10/00)—

With reference to SGPs—

- (1) What are their purpose and their usefulness and their desired production?
- (2) What value are the grazier leases to the land, the timber and the environment?
- (3) What role does he see SGPs playing in the State's economy and general environment in 10 years time?
- (4) What is his preferred eventual land use for the current SGPs in general terms?

**Mr WELFORD** (8/11/00):

(1) Forestry reserves are community lands managed by my Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Primary Industries Forestry for timber production, to retain native forest and to protect environmental and biodiversity values associated with the land. The Forestry Act 1959 provides that, in managing public forests for these purposes, the management entity "shall have due regard to ... the benefits of permitting grazing in the area" and to other compatible purposes such as recreation.

(2) The value of grazing to the land, the timber and the environment must be individually assessed in relation to each SGP. In some circumstances, the primary benefit to forest management might accrue through the on ground management presence that the permit holder provides while in plantation areas, grazing may contribute to improved production.

(3) As a result of the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement, some areas of forestry land which are currently grazed under SGP arrangements will transfer to Protected Areas under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. A localised management planning exercise (which includes stakeholder consultation and negotiation) will precede any final tenure decision in relation to these areas. This Government does not intend to change current policies or procedures in relation to the granting or renewal of SGPs over forestry land and therefore I expect little change in the next 10 years in the role that SGPs play in the State's economy or general environment.

(4) Existing policies in relation to SGPs are expected to remain unchanged and current SGPs are to continue while the use is compatible with the primary management objectives for the land and contributes to ecologically sustainable outcomes.

#### **1116. Bushfires, South-east Queensland**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (4/10/00)—

With reference to the current bush fires in south-east Queensland rural areas—

- (1) Who initiates the call out of fire appliances to these fires?
- (2) If the fire is reported as a grass or scrub fire, why are urban brigades activated, often from many centres, to attend?
- (3) What is the average cost per hour of an activated urban auxiliary brigade?
- (4) At a bush fire, fire front, who is in charge of the fire fighting activity?

- (5) What action has his department taken to correct the often too common confrontations between urban and rural brigade officers at the fire fronts as to who is in charge?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (3/11/00):

(1) Response to fires in South East Queensland is initiated through the fire communications centres in Brisbane, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast. These centres maintain a computer aided dispatch system that identifies the Brigade responsible for each particular area and the closest resources normally available for assistance.

(2) The issue of what resources or brigade are responded to particular fires depends on several factors including the nature and location of the fire and the resources available. QFRA officers of permanent, auxiliary and rural brigades are bound by a Code of Practice (Powers of Officers at Fires and Emergency Incidents, 1001.0) to:

"ensure that sufficient resources are brought to bear on every emergency";

"disregard regional or district boundaries in identifying the appropriate resources required"; and

"ensure the nearest resources are utilised regardless of regional or district boundaries or whether the resources are permanent, auxiliary or volunteer."

The major concern of the QFRA therefore is that the nearest resources are mobilised in sufficient numbers to control any particular situation, not which division of the service they happen to belong to.

(3) Auxiliary brigades provide a cost-effective service to the community. The average cost per hour of an activated urban auxiliary brigade is estimated at being in excess of \$1,700. This costing is based on QFRA Activity Based Costing methodology and inclusive of all costs within the suboutput areas of Fire and Rescue Operational Response, and Fire and Rescue Operational Preparedness (e.g. training, maintenance of appliances, administration, etc).

(4) The QFRA Code of Conduct clearly identifies who is to be in charge in various situations depending on the circumstances of the incident.

Firstly, "Where a Rural Fire Brigade is operating with an Urban Fire Brigade at an incident other than a bushfire, the most senior fire officer of the Urban Fire Brigade present at the incident will assume command".

Secondly, for bush firefighting in a Rural Fire Brigade District, "Where an Urban Fire Brigade is operating with a Rural Fire Brigade at a bushfire, the most senior Rural Fire Brigade officer will assume command".

(5) So far this fire season urban and rural fire fighters have conducted hundreds of successful joint operations in both Urban and Rural Fire Districts across Queensland without incident. Senior Officers constantly monitor these operations to ensure they are conducted in compliance with established Codes of Practice. On those rare occasions where a dispute may have arisen, those involved are counselled and instructed as to their responsibilities. At the

conclusion of joint operations, urban and rural officers attend debriefings to review the conduct of the operation and to discuss any problems that may have occurred during the course of the incident.

These measures have proven themselves invaluable because they provide a sound model for achieving effective relationships between Urban and Rural Firefighters.

#### 1117. Ipswich Western Bypass

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/10/00)—

With reference to the Ipswich western bypass—

- (1) Is he considering any further public consultation now that Sinclair Knight Merz, the consultants, have completed their study?
- (2) Has Sinclair Knight Merz had separate meetings with the RAAF, Boeing, and Ipswich City Council and was a decision given without public input into another option at this meeting?
- (3) Now that he has the consultant's findings and submissions, when is he going to make their study public?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (2/11/00):

- (1) The Western Ipswich Bypass Study is being conducted over four stages.

The study is expected to be completed by mid 2001.

Public consultation with all stakeholders, including the community, has been ongoing throughout the study and will continue until the completion of the study in mid 2001.

(2) Members from the Sinclair Knight Merz and Main Roads project team met with representatives of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Defence Estate Organisation on 18 July 2000 at a forum for the development of the air force base at Amberley.

Ipswich City Council officers met with the Sinclair Knight Merz and Main Roads project study team members on 19 September 2000 to discuss the corridor options and selection criteria.

No new options were discussed at either meeting, only the three options identified in Stage 2 of the study which were advised to the public via Newsletter 3 of May 2000.

(3) After all comments made by the public have been assessed, a final decision will be made on the preferred corridor so that the impact assessment study can commence.

#### 1118. Queensland Fisheries Management Authority

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (4/10/00)—

When will the review ordered by him in May into the QFMA and to be conducted by Peter Neville be finalised and made public?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (2/11/00): The Review has been finalised and the Government considered the matter in March 2000 and decided to abolish the

Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and create a new Queensland Fisheries Service to provide a more efficient and streamlined approach to fisheries management in Queensland.

The Review was an internal report and has not been made public, however, the recommendations have been given effect through the Government's decisions on the report which are publicly known.

#### 1119. Spectacle Supply Scheme

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Health (4/10/00)—

With reference to the Spectacle Supply Scheme—

- (1) What is the expected saving to the Health Department following the recent review of the Spectacle Supply Scheme?
- (2) In what areas are these savings being made and what protocols have been changed?
- (3) In response to a recent letter from me with respect to concerns of a constituent previously supplied with bi-focal ground lenses under this scheme and now being advised he will only be supplied with stock lenses but given two pair of spectacles, what is the saving to the Health Department in this instance?
- (4) Bearing in mind that in the above situation this constituent uses his spectacles to drive safely in his motor vehicle, is this dollar saving on the ground lenses justifiable, given the compromised motoring safety of this constituent and his fellow road users?
- (5) Why has there been no provision made in the Spectacle Supply Scheme for eligible clients to pay the difference between the cost of supplying the standard (two sets of spectacles fitted with "stock" lenses) and bifocal lenses ("ground" lenses)?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/11/00): The Spectacle Supply Scheme assists Queensland residents by providing a comprehensive range of basic optometrical aids for financially disadvantaged Queenslanders who are deemed eligible under the Scheme.

- (1) A review in 1998 was to ensure an efficient service. There was no "expected saving".
- (2) & (5) Changes to the Spectacle Supply Scheme have ensured a more efficient and effective service for eligible clients.

Clients who are eligible under the Scheme but do not have a clinical necessity for half frames, bifocals, tinted lenses and metal frames etc., are now entitled to purchase them.

(3) & (4) My response dated 31 August 2000 to your letter in relation to your constituent was that optical aids are based on clinical need as stated in response to questions (2) and (5).

You stated in your letter that your constituent received advice from his optometrist that he would now only be supplied with two sets of spectacles fitted with "stock" lenses as opposed to a single set of spectacles fitted with ground "lenses". The staff at

the Redcliffe/Caboolture Health Service District have advised me that Mr Luker's optometrist is fully aware of the Spectacle Supply Scheme.

#### 1120. Ibis Dam

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (4/10/00)—

With reference to the Ibis Dam and my attempt to gain the concrete tests for this dam in the interests of public safety and as I have received information from GHD Management Engineering and Environment stating that because a client requires his department's written approval before they can release any documentation on the project and as they have informed me in a letter which I will make available at his request that they have written to the department and they will advise me of the approval or otherwise in due course—

Will the department give permission for these concrete tests to be provided to me?

**Mr McGRADY** (3/11/00): I have no objection to Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd providing copies of the results of concrete tests for the Ibis Dam to the Honourable Member.

I can advise that the Department of Mines and Energy has received a letter from Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd officially requesting permission to release the information. It is noted that the Honourable Member also wants copies of the construction surveys. Approval will be given that these can also be released.

#### 1121. Tarong Power Station, Release of Water

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (4/10/00)—

With reference to Tarong Power Station water releases—

- (1) Was water testing undertaken pre-Tarong pumping water into Meandu Creek and what were the test results, naming all sites tested and results?
- (2) Does Tarong Coal have a licence to pump water into Meandu Creek dam and at what volume?
- (3) Has testing been undertaken in the last six months and what were the results, naming all sites and results?
- (4) What level of salt tolerance does that licence allow?
- (5) What percentage of water entering Bjelke Petersen Dam comes from Tarong?
- (6) Will property owners on Meandu Creek be permitted to trade water allocations as this is not indicated?
- (7) If their current allocations are to be capped, why are they not eligible to trade water allocations?

**Mr WELFORD** (8/11/00):

(1) Before Tarong Power Station commenced discharging to Meandu Creek in 1984, the creek was an ephemeral stream with only short periods of flow during times of substantial rain. Although the government of the day had groundwater monitoring bores in the area of Meandu Creek, relevance of this monitoring data is of limited value in assessing impact on water quality now.

(2) Tarong Coal has a licence to discharge water to Meandu Creek. The Environmental Management Overview Strategy for the Meandu Mine does not specify the volume of water discharge to Meandu Creek. This is because of the approach to test "levels not loads".

(3) As a requirement of its licence under the Environmental Protection Act 1994, Tarong Power Station monitors water quality at three sites:

- (i) the point where water flows into the Meandu Creek Dam (the overflow of the stormwater dam, referred to as W1 in the attached Tables);
- (ii) in Meandu Creek at the Nanango Road Bridge (referred to as W2 in the attached Table); and
- (iii) the discharge outlet from Meandu Creek Dam (referred to as W3 in the attached Table).

Tarong Power Station is also required, under an Environmental Management Program, to investigate twice yearly the impact of cooling tower blowdown on the aquatic environment, to coincide with wet and dry seasons. This involves taking water samples from the creek, sediment samples from the bed of the creek and biological sampling of aquatic communities in the creek. Sampling is undertaken at various locations down the creek to a distance of over 15 km from the Tarong Power Station release point. Sampling is also undertaken in nearby Upper Barkers Creek to provide a means of comparison to a natural less impacted system. The current round of sampling commenced on 2 October 2000. The results of this and the previous sampling will be provided to the Environmental Protection Agency following analysis, interpretation of results and the production of a report.

(4) The licence issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to Tarong Power Station allows the discharge from the Tarong Power Station stormwater dam to the Meandu Creek Dam at point W1, to have a maximum level of total dissolved salts of 1,000 milligrams per litre.

(5) The Department of Natural Resources operates a Gauging Station on Barker Creek, downstream from its junction with Meandu Creek. This station is approximately 5 kilometres upstream of the full supply level of Bjelke Petersen Dam and is used to record flows from the entire catchment above the dam.

(6) Yes, subject to the wishes of the community itself. As part of the water resource planning within the Burnett catchment, a Resource Operations Plan will be developed with the community which specifies how water can be traded. This will cover how area (hectare) allocations will be converted to volumetric (megalitre) allocations. Also it will look at

(7) The tradability option for irrigators along Meandu/Barker Creeks will be part of the community consultation process which will be undertaken as part of the development of a Resource Operation Plan. The Resource Operation Plan will access hydrologic data such as reliability of supply, and yield of the system so that informed consultation can take place.

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

**1122. West Moreton District Health Services**

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Health (4/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all West Moreton District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the West Moreton Health Service District was calculated on \$190.5 million.

**1123. Mount Isa District Health Service**

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Health (4/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Mt Isa District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and

retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Mt Isa Health Service District was calculated on \$48.6 million.

**1124. Central Highlands District Health Service**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Health (4/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Central Highlands District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Central Highlands Health Service District was calculated on \$9.5 million.

**1125. Redcliffe-Caboolture District Health Service**

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Health (4/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Redcliffe-Caboolture District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Redcliffe-Caboolture Health Service District was calculated on \$107.4 million.

#### 1126. Cape York District Health Service

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Health (4/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Cape York District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Cape York Health Service District was calculated on \$22.4 million.

#### 1127. Taxis

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/10/00)—

With reference to the significant increases in the cost of registration and insurance for taxi vehicles—

As many regional and rural areas depend upon services provided by one car operators whose viability is challenged by these increased costs, will he consider a separate registration category with reduced fees for such vehicles?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (2/11/00): Annual registration charges consist of several fee components, the

motor vehicle fee, traffic improvement fee and compulsory third party insurance premium. The motor vehicle fee and traffic improvement fee are adjusted annually in accordance with movements in the Consumer Price Index. The most recent increase was on 1 July 2000 at a rate of 1.7%. This meant that for a six cylinder vehicle the motor vehicle fee increase totalled \$4.60 and the traffic improvement fee increase totalled 55 cents. The major component of a taxi registration is the compulsory third party insurance premium, which is collected by Queensland Transport on behalf of licensed insurers. Compulsory Third Party and other insurance premiums are determined by insurers and the Motor Accident Insurance Commission and not by Queensland Transport.

#### 1128. Motor Vehicle Offences

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (4/10/00)—

With reference to Queensland's choice not to confiscate vehicles being used by drivers to create undue noise by wilfully causing a loss of traction of tyres and to May 1998 Queensland legislation which provides an offence of placing substances on roads which increase the likelihood of loss of traction and creating an offence for wilfully spinning the wheels and as the maximum penalty for placing injurious matter on roads is 40 penalty units or 6 months imprisonment (\$3,000.00). An Infringement penalty—4 penalty units (\$240.00) applies to the offence and 2 demerit points being allocated to the offender's traffic history. Note: 34 Infringement Notices issued 1/1/99 to 30/11/99 for this offence, and as the maximum penalty for wilfully spinning the wheels is 20 penalty units (\$1,500.00). An Infringement penalty—4 penalty units (\$240.00) applies to the offence and 2 demerit points being allocated to the offender's traffic history. Note: 4320 Infringement Notices issued 1/1/99 to 30/11/99 for this offence and in addition, depending on circumstances, drivers may be charged with a more serious offence of "Careless driving of motor vehicles". The maximum penalty for this offence is 40 penalty units (\$3,000.00) or 6 months imprisonment and where dangerous operation of a vehicle is evident, a driver would be charged an offence under section 328A of the Criminal Code Act 1899. The maximum penalty for this offence is 200 penalty units (\$15,000.00) or 3 years imprisonment and New South Wales has legislation to provide for impounding or confiscation of vehicles for similar offences as well as fines and disqualification. NSW Police advise that most impoundings take place when the offence is detected but the vehicle may be impounded up to 10 days after an offence occurs. 422 vehicles were impounded in 1999 mostly in Sydney CBD. NSW Police believe that impounding has been effective in reducing incidence of racing on roads and particularly road rage as the same powers are used on both issues—

As Queensland Transport supports inclusion of similar provisions in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, has the Queensland Police Service considered this inclusion in the interests of reducing racing on roads and road rage?



**Mr BARTON** (3/11/00): While it is true that police enforce all aspects of the Traffic Act, the issue of confiscation of motor vehicles comes under the jurisdiction of my colleague the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. You would be better advised to direct this question to him.

#### 1129. Training, Government Departments and Agencies

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (4/10/00)—

- (1) What is the total value of the training to which the Government is now committed, in each financial year of operation of these enterprise bargaining agreements the Government has entered into, to date, in the public sector and the public service?
- (2) What is the value of training to be provided in each department/agency?
- (3) At the time the enterprise bargaining agreements were entered into, what arrangements were in place to fund the training commitment the Government was making?

**Mr BRADY** (3/11/00):

- (1) The precise cost of the training provided is not available at this stage. However, departments and agencies will fund the initiative from current budget allocations.
- (2) Refer to (1).
- (3) Refer to (1).

#### 1130. Bowen District Health Service

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Minister for Health (4/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Bowen District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Bowen Health Service District was calculated on \$23.4 million.

#### 1131. Noosa Hospital

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Health (4/10/00)—

With reference to the Noosa Hospital which on 1 September 2000 completed its first year of operation and to this hospital's operational efficiency results in this, its first year—

What has been the total (a) bed occupancy for the year and month by month, (b) bed occupancy of the 74 public beds for the year and month by month, (c) bed occupancy of the 35 private beds for the year and month by month and (d) occupancy of private and public beds by veteran affairs patients for the year and month by month?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/11/00): Due to changing clinical practices and shorter lengths of stay, bed occupancy rates are considered poor indicators of efficiency and patient throughput. Bed utilisation is a management issue and not an applicable efficiency indicator under Queensland Health contractual requirements.

The Noosa Hospital and Specialist Centre is a private facility providing public services under contract to Queensland Health as per the contract signed by the previous government. The management and operation of the Noosa Hospital is the responsibility of Health Care of Australia. The Member should address his inquiries to HCOA.

#### 1132. Noosa Hospital

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Health (4/10/00)—

With reference to Noosa Hospital which has now been operating for 12 months—

During this 12 month period, what have been the nurse to patient ratios in this hospital for this first year and month by month in the public wards during the day and during the night and private wards during the day and during the night?

**Mrs EDMOND** (3/11/00): The Noosa Hospital and Specialist Centre is a private facility providing public services under contract to Queensland Health, as per the contract signed under the previous Government.

The management and operation of the Noosa Hospital and Specialist Centre, including the provision of adequate staffing levels, is the responsibility of Health Care of Australia and the Member should address his inquiries to HCOA management.

#### 1133. Noosa Hospital

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Health (4/10/00)—

With reference to the Noosa Hospital which opened on 1 September 1999 and has now completed its first year of operation—

Will she provide the following details on performance efficiency of the total number of (a) patients treated in the accident and emergency room for this first year and month by month, (b) day procedures performed for the year and month by month and by discipline, (c) operations performed in the operating suite for the year and month by month and by discipline and (d) inpatients treated for the year and month by month and by discipline.

**Mrs EDMOND (3/11/00):** The Noosa Hospital and Specialist Centre is a private facility providing public services under contract to Queensland Health. Information provided to Queensland Health is as per the contract signed under the previous Government and is restricted to those services published by Queensland Health under the contract.

(a) Public patients treated at the Noosa Hospital and Specialist Centre Emergency Department are as follows:

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

(b) Public procedure statistics are as follows:

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

(c) Public surgery statistics are as follows:

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

(d) Public inpatient statistics are:

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

#### 1134. Mining Warden

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (4/10/00)—

With reference to the debate on the Land and Resources Tribunal Amendment Bill 2000 and to the continuing role of the Mining Warden which was raised—

- (1) What work will the warden be given?
- (2) Will this work ensure his continued full-time employment in this critical independent role?
- (3) Will the important independent role of the warden continue to ensure that future investigations of mining accidents will be conducted in an open and impartial manner?

**Mr McGRADY (3/11/00):**

(1) Following the commencement of the Land and Resources Tribunal Amendment Act 2000 in September 2000, there is no role for the Warden in mining tenures issues.

The Coal Mining Act 1925 and the Mines Regulation Act 1964 provide for the Warden to hold inquiries into serious and fatal accidents which occur at mines and quarries.

As at 6 October 2000 three fatal accidents which have occurred since 26 May 2000 await Warden's inquiries. The Warden has set dates for two of the

inquiries, which will be held in 3 November, 6 November and 4 December 2000.

(2) The Warden's work load is dependant upon the need to investigate accidents which occur prior to commencement of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 in March 2001.

(3) Mine fatal accidents which occur after the commencement of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, will be subject to a Coroner's inquiry under the Coroners Act 1958. Whilst the new legislation makes no provision for the Warden to hold inquiries, the Minister has the discretion to establish an independent Board of Inquiry into any fatal or serious accident which occurs at a mine.

#### 1135. Building Rural Leaders Course

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/10/00)—

With reference to the Department of Primary Industries "Building Rural Leaders Course", wherein people who nominated to undertake this course in 1999-2000 were advised they would be reimbursed to the level of 90 percent of their course outlays and as one constituent in Western Downs, after undertaking six modules of this course, has expended \$1,400 and has received only \$540 reimbursement—

Doesn't he, as Minister, have a moral obligation to honour the undertaking of 90 percent reimbursement or did his department advise people when they applied for the course that the level of reimbursement could be subject to review?

**Mr PALASZCZUK (2/11/00):** I believe the question may refer to funding available through the FarmBis program, a joint State/Commonwealth program that assists producers meet part of the cost of approved learning and training activities related to farm business management.

The Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) administers the program according to guidelines endorsed by the Governor in Council. As with all programs, guidelines are reviewed from time-to-time to ensure that program priorities and objectives are met within the program's budget. An industry-based State Planning Group is responsible for recommending program guideline changes.

The Building Rural Leaders (BRL) program delivered by the Department of Primary Industries is one of a large number of training activities eligible for FarmBis support where the participant meets program guidelines. I am advised that BRL program does not provide any undertakings on eligibility for, or level of, FarmBis subsidies. Prospective applicants are advised in writing to contact QRAA in relation to eligibility.

The question asked did not provide sufficient detail to enable a specific response. However I am pleased to provide details of FarmBis program changes which may be relevant to this case.

QRAA is responsible for the processing and approval of all funding subsidies. The assessment is made by

QRAA according to the guidelines and maximum level of subsidy applying at the time of application. Producers considering training should submit written FarmBis applications some time before commencing training so that they are aware of the level of subsidy to apply.

More than 16,000 producers were approved for training during the 1999/2000 financial year.

The industry-based SPG recommended that a differential subsidy rate system (between 50% and 75%) be introduced to provide higher level support for priority learning activities. Leadership training is viewed as a priority area and a 60% subsidy currently applies.

### 1136. Barambah Electorate, Drought

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/10/00)—

- (1) Is he aware of the severity of the drought in the Barambah electorate and the fact that livestock are dying and feed has become both scarce and extremely expensive?
- (2) Is he aware that farmers are being forced to pay GST on this drought fodder, which exacerbates the cruelty of the drought and that he has no option if he wants to retain his assets?
- (3) Does he understand that while IDPs are being lodged and the ridiculous time taken to process them, producers are being forced to sell breeding stock before they die?
- (4) Is he aware that a primary producer selling breeding stock is akin to a shop-owner selling shelves, office equipment, vehicles and all other items necessary for the running of his business?
- (5) Will he revoke the current IDPS arrangement and revert to a simple, efficient and quick system?
- (6) Will he come to the Barambah electorate and allow himself to be taken on a guided tour of the area?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (2/11/00):

(1) I am aware that dry conditions persist across much of southern and south-east Queensland. I am continually receiving updates on the impact of the event from Department of Primary Industries staff in these areas. I am also aware that some primary producers are being forced to purchase fodder for their livestock from interstate sources due the lack of availability from their normal suppliers.

(2) Under the Federal Government's new tax system, all Australians are required to pay GST on purchases I am of course aware that primary producers must pay this tax on fodder purchased to feed their livestock. This State Government will continue to inform our Commonwealth counterparts of the impacts of the tax on primary producers.

(3) To ensure that primary producers who access assistance are those genuinely affected by severe drought, a number of objective criteria must be met by applicants prior to being granted an IDPS declaration. The persistent dry conditions have

resulted in an influx of IDPS applications which Stock Inspectors and Local Drought Committees are assessing as a matter of priority. In these situations it is not unreasonable to assume that it may take some time for applications to be assessed. Successful IDPS applications are issued from the date of application. Primary producers who are granted IDPS declarations are also eligible to claim freight subsidy credits for animals sent to agistment or those sold due to drought in the two month period immediately prior to declaration.

(4) Graziers adjust stocking rates in response to seasonal conditions and sell or agist stock if conditions deteriorate. Cattle prices are the best they have been for a number of years.

(5) Recognising that Queensland has one of the most variable climates in the world, in which drought is a regular occurrence, the current declaration processes were agreed to by industry and Government in 1992. The current criteria reflect Government and industry commitment to assisting primary producers become self-reliant in managing for drought. Relaxation of the current drought declaration criteria, to provide assistance in any other than an extreme event, would only provide a short-term remedy to a long-term problem. It would also be diametrically opposed to the concept of self-reliance.

(6) I was in the Barambah electorate at the end of October. The visit gave me the opportunity to view seasonal conditions and their impact on primary production on a first hand basis. As you would be aware, following on a recommendation from the Local Drought Committee, the Shire of Kingaroy, along with numerous surrounding Shires, was drought declared on 28 October 2000.

### 1137. Minden State School, Airconditioning

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Education (5/10/00)—

With reference to the Minden State School and the complete disregard of the Minister for Public Works and Housing, Mr Schwarten, concerning the upgrading of this school's facilities and that this Minister's continued appearance on the Cool School television commercial gives the impression he is the appropriate Minister under the Cool Schools program—

Will he consider, as a matter of priority, the installation of air conditioning of four class rooms on the southern side of this school, these class rooms being required to be kept closed due to the terrible intrusive noise from trucks and traffic on the Warrego Highway?

**Mr WELLS** (7/11/00): Minden State School is located outside the current Cooler Schools zone and therefore ineligible for consideration under the Cooler Schools Program. The Beattie Labor Government in 1998 expanded the Cooler Schools zone as part of its election commitment. This expansion allowed schools previously ineligible under the former coalition government the opportunity to provide air conditioning to priority areas of the school. Further expansion of the Cooler Schools zone may be considered in the future. In the

mean time however, the school should seek information from facilities section of the department as to other capital solutions.

### 1138. State Forests, Recreational Use

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (5/10/00)—

- (1) What assurances can he give that will allay the concerns of the Environmental Access for Recreation Federation Inc that they will experience a net loss of State forest for recreation use after the implementation of the changes to the Nature Conservation Act?
- (2) Why was the South-East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement not signed by any person representative of the recreational users of State forest?
- (3) Has he identified a recreational access area for horse riding adjacent to the Brisbane Forest Park as outlined that he was doing in a letter to a constituent?
- (4) Will he provide details of that recreational access area, including mapping co-ordinates?
- (5) What are the reasons for the five year sunset clause on forest reserve given that there was no consideration as to the impact on equestrian activities?

**Mr WELFORD** (8/11/00):

(1) A thorough consultation process, including extensive participation by recreationalists, is being conducted by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service prior to any permanent tenure changes.

Generally, recreational groups have been supportive of, and highly involved in, the process established to ensure all relevant uses are achieved with their active participation.

(2) The South East Queensland Forest Agreement (SEQFA) was intended to resolve the issues related to the forest industry and conflicting conservation interests in line with the National Forests Policy of the Commonwealth Government. The decision to have the lands managed in the Parks system does not in itself significantly impact on recreation as the Nature Conservation Act tenures provide a wide spectrum of uses currently enjoyed by recreationalists. However, the detail of the implementation of the agreement is being developed now with recreational and other interests working collaboratively, and with Government.

(3) & (4) No areas for specific recreational activities have been identified as yet, for the same reasons that we have not committed to specific levels of conservation. It would be inappropriate to preempt outcomes without proper, community-based consultation on tenure allocation and future management.

Pending the consultation process, and the amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 which have just been passed by Parliament, no areas identified in the SEQRFA have been targeted for a particular tenure and consequent management

regime that may affect the activities allowed on that area.

(5) The Forest Reserve is an interim tenure for the purpose of resolving tenure allocation and future management issues in consultation with stakeholders. As an interim tenure, Forest Reserve provides for continuing, caretaker management by my Department of Natural Resources until Nature Conservation Act tenures are allocated, and management is assumed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Leaving all of the lands as Forest Reserve long term, as has been advocated by representatives of the Environmental Access for Recreation Federation, would neither implement the outcomes of the SEQRFA nor transparently review the values and uses of the lands. The latter is essential to protect the values of the lands on which various recreational activities depend, and to provide for sustainable recreation opportunities in the long term.

I have undertaken to review the tenures available under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 if, as a result of the present consultative process, the sustainable and nature-based recreation activities now practised cannot be reasonably accommodated within the existing range of tenures.

### 1139. Land Fill Site, Cooloola

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (5/10/00)—

With reference to the critical urgency of establishing a site for a central land fill for Cooloola Shire and given that the Kellys site has received the full support, not only of the council but also the residents of the area, support that is waning as the decision making process becomes more drawn out—

Will he prioritise this issue and enter urgent discussions with his colleague the Minister for Primary Industries, the council and the residents to ensure that a resolution is reached before support evaporates?

**Mr WELFORD** (8/11/00): The establishment of a major new landfill in the Cooloola Shire is recognised as a priority. That is why I have instructed my Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency to work closely with Cooloola Shire Council, the Department of Primary Industries and local residents to identify a site. This has been necessary because landfills can have significant environmental and social impacts. If, as has been suggested, the landfill is established within the Toolara State Forest, this could also have significant impacts on the timber industry, and management of this State Forest. It is essential that all feasible alternatives of waste disposal be fully investigated to determine if a landfill is required, and if so, where it should be located to minimise impacts on affected neighbours, the environment, and the local industries.

At a meeting held Monday, 23 October 2000 involving the Cooloola Shire Council, the Department of Primary Industries, the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment Protection Agency, progress was made on the evaluation of

alternatives. Further consultation with affected residents is also proposed to commence shortly to narrow down the potential sites. At this stage of the proposal development it is not possible or desirable to restrict consideration of options to a single site within Toolara State Forest.

#### 1140. Harness Racing Clubs, Deregistration

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (5/10/00)—

With reference to the now deregistered Ipswich Harness Racing Club which held its last race meeting on 10 June 1998—

- (1) Did the Queensland Harness Racing Board (QHRB) advise the TAB immediately of the deregistration?
- (2) Did the QHRB receive \$65,550 in perceived entitlements for the six months ending 31 December 1998 for the now defunct Ipswich club; if so, what happened to this illegal entitlement?
- (3) Did the QHRB immediately notify the Office of State Revenue of the closure of this club; if so, why was the Office of State Revenue seeking financial statements 18 months later?
- (4) Is it the intention of the QHRB to deregister any of the clubs at Rocklea, Toowoomba, Mackay, Rockhampton or Townsville?

**Mrs ROSE** (6/11/00):

- (1) Yes
- (2) The Queensland Harness Racing Board (QHRB) did not receive a payment amounting to \$65,550 from the TABQ related to the Ipswich Club.
- (3) I have been advised that a search of QHRB records has failed to locate correspondence to the Office of State Revenue notifying the closure of the Ipswich Club. The applicable section of the Racing and Betting Act 1980 whereby a control body was required to notify the Commissioner upon cessation of registration of a club was deleted in a recent amendment of the Act.
- (4) The QHRB regularly monitors the performances of all registered harness racing clubs.

#### 1141. Hervey Bay; Beach Protection Authority

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (5/10/00)—

With reference to the anti-disabled attitude of a member of his staff towards a major project for Hervey Bay and hard work by members of the Hervey Bay City Council to get this project up and running prior to Christmas to cater for disabled holiday makers so that these people also can share in the beautiful surroundings that Hervey Bay has to offer—

- (1) How many times has R Martin, Acting Secretary of the Beach Protection Authority Queensland (BPA) visited Hervey Bay in an official capacity

in the last two years; if at all, what were the projects in Hervey Bay being investigated; if not at all, how can R. Martin make such negative decisions on such important projects without first hand knowledge and consultation with the locals in the area?

- (2) Is it standard procedure for BPA officials to pass judgment without consultation?
- (3) As this project has been approved and funded by the State Government and Government departments except his department, will he intervene?
- (4) Does he support the Premier's comments made in the House on 4 October 2000 where the Premier stated they are about looking after people with disabilities; if so, why is this not being done in Hervey Bay?

**Mr WELFORD** (8/11/00):

- (1) The malicious claim of an antidisabled attitude of any member of my staff is ludicrous and utterly without foundation. It is typical of the irrational and extremist rantings of the Independent member for Hervey Bay. Ms Martin signs all correspondence of the Beach Protection Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Beach Protection Act 1968. Under that Act, the Secretary has no advice or approval responsibilities.

Applications for works pursuant to the provisions of the Beach Protection Act 1968 which are received by the Beach Protection Authority from Hervey Bay City Council are assessed by professional coastal engineers and experienced dune scientists employed by my Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- (2) EPA staff representing the Beach Protection Authority regularly meet with Council to discuss a project or resolve issues, often at the request of and before Council formally submits an application. Council can request an on-site meeting at any time to resolve issues.

In this case, the disabled access is a substantial structure on the edge of the beach and will over time be subjected to sea erosion during storms and sand build-up by wind action.

- (3) The assessment of the impact of the works on coastal processes and the granting of any approval is carried out irrespective of the funding considerations. Assessment of the proposed disabled accessway has been completed and an approval was granted on 12 October 2000.

- (4) I support the provision of facilities for disabled persons to enable them to access and enjoy the amenity of our coastal areas. However, such facilities should be designed and sensibly located where they will not be damaged by cyclones and storms and will not lead to detrimental impacts on the management and protection of our beaches.

#### 1142. Stock Grazing Permits

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (5/10/00)—

With reference to the Department of Natural Resources personnel involved in the inspection and negotiation of SGP leases and conditions currently progressing—

What are their (a) qualifications and years of practical experience with the timber and beef industries, (b) experience in applied land use studies and implementation and (c) experience in monitoring the continuing results of their recommendations?

**Mr WELFORD** (8/11/00): Department of Natural Resources staff involved in inspection and negotiation of Stock Grazing Permits over forestry land are individuals with various technical, professional and administrative qualifications. While it is not possible to be explicit, these qualifications vary from formal tertiary training in fields such as forestry and land planning to many years of experience in the practical management of forests and administration of the appropriate statutes. Many of the staff have previously been employed by the Department of Primary Industries.

#### 1143. **Cungulla, Drainage**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (5/10/00)—

With reference to drainage problems at the Cungulla community which was inherited from the Department of Natural Resources and Thuringowa City Council by the Townsville City Council in 1994—

- (1) Is he aware that the Townsville City Council has failed to address serious drainage issues at the Cungulla township over consecutive years, despite commissioning consultants to investigate the problem in 1998?
- (2) Is he aware that the Townsville City Council has not allowed for the \$21,000 required for urgent drainage works to Barracuda Court in its current budget, despite the pressing drainage problems faced by Cungulla residents?
- (3) What actions will he take to ensure the drainage works required at Cungulla are included in the Townsville City Council's next budget?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (1/11/00):

- (1) I was not aware of this claim prior to the Member asking the question.
- (2) No.
- (3) Local governments in Queensland exercise a high level of autonomy in the determination of the budgets and the activities to which they allocate funds. This allows a council to make decisions which are appropriate to local needs and balance the competing demands on its resources.

The Townsville City Council has received \$548,146 from the State Road and Drainage Grant for road and drainage works in 2000/01. The Council is able to spend this money on road and drainage projects it deems necessary and appropriate.

#### 1144. **Criminal Offence Statistics**

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (5/10/00)—

For each of the years of 1998, 1999 and 2000 to-date, how many people have been convicted of a third or subsequent offence, as listed below, following two previous such convictions (a) serious assault, (b) sexual assault, (c) drug dealing/trafficking, (d) armed robbery, (e) unarmed robbery, (f) unlawful entry/break enter—dwelling, (g) unlawful entry/break and enter—shop, (h) unlawful entry/break and enter—other, (i) arson, (j) drug trafficking, (k) production of dangerous drugs, (l) supply dangerous drugs and (m) motor vehicle theft.

**Mr FOLEY** (6/11/00): The information sought in the question is not available within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

#### 1145. **Valuers Registration Board; ANZ Bank**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (5/10/00)—

- (1) Has the Valuers Registration Board of Queensland instigated investigations into registered valuers undertaking "kerb-side price estimates" for the ANZ Bank?
- (2) Who has been appointed to conduct the investigation?
- (3) What are the terms of reference for the investigation?
- (4) Is any member of the Valuers Registration Board of Queensland or the Valuers Registration Committee a director of, or otherwise associated with, valuation firm(s) conducting "kerb-side price estimates" for the ANZ Bank?

**Mr WELFORD** (8/11/00):

- (1) On 12 October 2000, subsequent to this question being put on notice, the Ombudsman referred a complaint, on behalf of one of your constituents, to the Valuers Registration Board about restrictive assessments. I understand that this is the only complaint that the Board has received on this matter. The Board will now promptly consider the matter and may appoint an investigator or respond directly to the complaint.
- (2) No one has been appointed.
- (3) There is no investigation.
- (4) Members of the Board are drawn from the valuation profession with due regard being given to their professional standing and leadership. I understand that Board member Mr Kerry Herron is also Executive Chairman of a valuation practice that undertakes work for the ANZ Bank as one of its many clients.

#### 1146. **Industrial Relations Commission**

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (5/10/00)—

With reference to the recent appointment of two additional commissioners to the Industrial Relations Commission—

- (1) In the last year, what percentage of the existing commissioners' work has been related to unfair dismissals?
- (2) What is the occupancy rate of the court rooms at the commission?
- (3) On average, how many hours are these court rooms used each week and for what purpose?
- (4) What is the total annual cost (including salary package of commissioner and salary package of their associate) involved in appointing an additional commissioner?
- (2) What were the major findings of the investigation?
- (3) Did the investigation cover allegations of missing drugs from the centre?
- (4) What were the major recommendations of the investigation?
- (5) Has any officer been charged with, or disciplined over, any offences involved in the incident; if so, what offences were identified and what action has been taken?

**Mr BRADY** (6/11/00):

- (1) No record is kept of the time spent by Commissioners on unfair dismissals.
- (2) There are no records kept of actual occupancy of the Court rooms.
- (3) Refer to (2). Court rooms are used for Commission hearings and conferences.
- (4) \$207,000.00 (Commissioner's salary package) + \$57,000.00 (Associate's salary package) + \$71,000.00 (administration on-costs) = \$335,000.00

#### 1147. International Softball Facility

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (5/10/00)—

With reference to the allocation of \$2m through the 1999-2001 National Standard Sport Facilities Program to Queensland Softball Inc. for the establishment of an international softball facility—

- (1) Where is this facility being established?
- (2) What is the total cost of the facility?
- (3) What stage of planning or construction has the project reached?
- (4) What is the expected completion date of the project?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (1/11/00):

- (1) The new State Softball Centre is proposed to be constructed at Shaw Park, Kalinga.
- (2) The final estimated total project cost for the facility is currently being assessed.
- (3) The project is currently in the design development stage. Construction has not yet commenced.
- (4) The expected completion date for the project is June 2001.

#### 1148. Mackay, Ambulance Service Investigation

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (5/10/00)—

With reference to part one of Question on Notice No. 804 dealing with an investigation into the incident involving an ambulance officer found unconscious in the QAS Communications Centre in Mackay—

- (1) Who conducted the investigation?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (7/11/00):

- (1) The investigation was conducted by the QAS Area Manager, Mr Peter Warrener. Confirmation interviews were conducted by the QAS Regional Executive Director, Mr Rodney Walz.
- (2) The Officer had used out of date Penthrane for pain relief, which he admitted he had illegally obtained.
- (3) No. Missing drugs was a separate matter investigated by the Qld Police Service in accordance with standard procedures.
- (4) The Officer-in-Charge, Mackay, has instituted a secure system for access to bulk drugs and disposal of drugs. The Officer-in-Charge also carries out additional random checks on a weekly basis. Additionally, a review of drug storage procedures was carried out by the Area Manager at all stations in the Mackay area.
- (5) The officer was charged with theft and misuse of a drug. He admitted his guilt and he was subsequently dismissed by the Commissioner QAS.

#### 1149. Boonah, Fire Officers and Rural Fire Volunteers

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (5/10/00)—

With reference to reports that threats of physical violence were involved in a nasty incident involving urban fire officers and rural fire volunteers during a fire at Boonah recently—

- (1) What caused the incident?
- (2) Has he ordered an investigation into this incident; if so, what was the result of that investigation?
- (3) What action has been taken as a result of the incident?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (6/11/00):

- (1) The Fire Ground Controller for the Rural Fire Service has dismissed claims that urban and rural fire fighters threatened each other with physical violence during the recent spate of fires in the Boonah District.
- (2) No. There are no grounds to warrant the commissioning of an investigation of this alleged incident.
- (3) My department will not be taking any further action in relation to this matter unless there is sufficient evidence to warrant action being taken.

**1150. Carruchan, Timber Plantation**

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/10/00)—

With reference to the forest plantations in the Ingham/Cardwell area which were planted for a source of timber products and jobs for North Queensland—

- (1) Have there been indications given to any tenderer for the sale of the 11 lots of plantation timber at Carruchan that they were to be awarded the tender prior to the closure on 4 October at 11.00am, as subcontracting arrangements have been muted within the industry?
- (2) As the closure date of 4 October has now been extended to 11 October 2000, why has this occurred only hours before the time allotted?
- (3) What is to be the designated use of the plantation product in the 11 lots at Carruchan?
- (4) What percentage of defective trees in a sale area would make the sale only suited to wood chipping?
- (5) Can the unsuitable trees for timber milling be categorised, for example percentage being caused by cyclonic conditions?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (2/11/00):

(1) I understand that it was indicated in the sale documentation that all proposals are held securely and not examined before the closing date. After opening, the proposals are treated as "Commercial-in-Confidence". The answer to the question is therefore no.

(2) I understand the extension was granted at the request of a number of proponents who were having difficulty finalising their proposals, due mainly to problems in obtaining firm rates for log transport. Rather than face the prospect of receiving a number of proposals that would require subsequent negotiation to finalise the proponents offers, a short extension to the closing time was preferred because it would allow final proposals to be lodged. This approach is expected to expedite allocation of the resource.

(3) The plantations are managed primarily to produce logs suitable for high value products such as sawlog and veneer. Obviously the final use of the material will depend on the proposals received.

(4) DPI Forestry does not regard any of the blocks offered for sale at Cardwell as being suited only to chipping. Within the State-owned plantation resource, only a very small percentage of blocks are suited only to low-value uses such as wood chipping. These are generally restricted to experimental plots of uncommon species, unimproved seed sources and stands damaged by natural phenomena such as fire, wind, cyclones or insects.

(5) No. Trees are classed as being suitable for sawlog or ply log, for roundtimber or pulpwood. Trees damaged by natural disasters such as cyclones are normally salvage harvested as soon as possible after the event to minimise the loss of quality timber.

**1151. East Timor, Establishment of Businesses**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (5/10/00)—

With reference to assertions in Parliament that early business entrants to East Timor were unfairly trying to capitalise on the territory's distress and that he had received advice from the Commonwealth authorities that such businesses should not be encouraged to enter until advised to do so—

- (1) Will he detail the substance of the formal advice he received to this effect?
- (2) Will he table the relevant correspondence for the information of the House?

**Mr ELDER** (7/11/00):

(1) At the Habitat Pacific (United Nations) East Timor Reconstruction Workshop in Brisbane in July 2000, senior representatives from East Timor commented that some Australian business people who sought early commercial opportunities in East Timor behaved in a manner which had surprised and disappointed the East Timorese leadership.

At subsequent meetings I had with these senior East Timorese representatives, they reinforced these views.

Furthermore, this reflected verbal comments made by some of the Commonwealth Government trade representatives covering East Timor, but at no time was there an inference that these comments applied to Queensland companies.

My Department has taken a strategic approach to commercial opportunities in East Timor. This involves establishing long-term relationships with the East Timorese leadership, senior UN officials, international aid agencies and Commonwealth agencies involved, with the objective of early identification of opportunities as the reconstruction activity begins in earnest, and of promoting Queensland capabilities in the relevant fields. In parallel, my Department is making information available to Queensland companies on valid commercial opportunities in East Timor, stressing the risks involved in doing business there and the necessity of a long term commitment.

(2) The advice was not supplied in writing.

**1152. Families, Youth and Community Care Department**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (5/10/00)—

With reference to the use of available facilities for the benefit of children and young people—

How many approved places, and at what locations, has her department funded each month in the year ending 30 September 2000 at placement facilities such as Boys Town, Beaudesert and how many children have been in residence in each facility during each month of the same period?

**Ms BLIGH** (7/11/00): There are a broad range of facilities funded by Families, Youth and



Community Care Queensland for children and young people. Accommodation placements are funded under a variety of programs. Apart from BoysTown, it is not possible to provide the Honourable Member with a detailed breakdown unless a more specific request is forthcoming.

The Steering Committee overseeing the BoysTown Review resolved that the maximum number of approved places during the review and the year 2000 would be 35.

Actual number of children/young people placed at BoysTown per month is as follows:

Number of children under orders placed with service as at end of each month—

Oct 1999—26; Nov 1999—23; Dec 2000—18; Jan 2000—17; Feb 2000—18; Mar 2000—25; April 2000—21; May 2000—26; June 2000—26; July 2000—24; Aug 2000—24; Sept 2000—23.

#### 1153. Toowoomba Police Station

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (5/10/00)—

With reference to the allocation of \$100,000 to the new Toowoomba Police Station and Watchhouse in the Capital Works section of the 2000-01 Budget—

Will he provide the estimated timetable for commencement and completion of construction of the Toowoomba Police Station?

**Mr BARTON** (6/11/00): The \$100,000 allocated on the 2000-2001 Queensland Police Service Capital Works Program against the Toowoomba Police Station project is required for preparation of contract documentation for the 2 level police station and watchhouse (stage 1 of the project). This documentation will be used to invite tenders for construction.

The date for the commencement of construction of stage 1 is dependent on other Police Service priorities and is subject to the future availability of Capital Works funding. Accordingly, the timeframe for the project is yet to be determined.

#### 1154. McMaster Pty Ltd

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (5/10/00)—

With reference to the pre-qualification status of the building company McMaster Pty Ltd—

When did the company (a) first gain pre-qualification and at what level, (b) receive extensions of pre-qualification and for how long and (c) have their financial capacity checked and the result (each occasion)?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (6/11/00): McMaster Pty Ltd went into voluntary liquidation on 13 September 2000 and in a statement issued on 14 September 2000 McMaster Director, Mr Geoff Iles, stated that he believed that the company's fortunes had been severely impacted by the introduction of the GST and its subsequent effect on the building industry.

With reference to the prequalification status of the building company McMaster Pty Ltd:

(a) A prequalification certificate was first issued on 3 February 1999, to McMaster Queensland Pty Ltd at level 3. An amended certificate was issued on 3 March 2000 to McMaster Pty Ltd as a result of a company name change.

(b) McMaster Pty Ltd have received no extensions.

(c) McMaster Pty Ltd's financial capacity was checked prior to the awarding of any government contract, and the result for each occasion is as follows:

Date checked	Result
4/2/99	Satisfactory
15/2/99	Satisfactory
19/3/99	Satisfactory
28/4/99	Satisfactory
28/4/99	Satisfactory
25/5/99	Satisfactory
11/6/99	Satisfactory
3/9/99	Satisfactory
18/1/00	Satisfactory
18/4/00	Satisfactory
8/5/00	Satisfactory
26/5/00	Satisfactory

I note with interest the new policy which would apply under any future Coalition Government, i.e: full underwriting by taxpayers of all subcontractors charges, even if it means paying twice for the same building. I also note the fact that no such commitment was forthcoming in relation to contract failures which occurred under the previous Coalition Government.

#### 1155. Mosman Hall, Charters Towers; McMaster Pty Ltd

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (5/10/00)—

With reference to the Mosman Hall project in Charters Towers—

- (1) What was the total contract price of the project undertaken by McMaster Pty Ltd?
- (2) What was the amount and date of each progress payment paid to McMasters?
- (3) Were progress payment certificates or statutory declarations from all subcontractors requested from and supplied by McMasters to the project managers prior to each progress payment; if not, why not?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (6/11/00): With reference to the Mosman Hall project in Charters Towers—

(1) The total contract price of the project undertaken by McMaster Pty Ltd was \$3,089,000.

(2) The amount and date of each progress payment paid to McMaster Pty Ltd is as follows:

Payment No: Amount—Date Paid

Payment No. 1: Amount—\$94,545 (no GST applicable)

Date paid—26/7/00

Payment No. 2: Amount—\$449,094 (including GST)

Date paid—25/8/00

(3) The contract provides that the Contractor must obtain and be in possession of record of payment forms from all subcontractors prior to the making of all progress payments. The contractor must provide the forms to the Superintendent if requested. The contractor is further obliged, prior to making a payment claim, to advise the Superintendent if any subcontractor has refused to provide a record of payment form. The contractor did not advise, at the time of making payment claim No. 2 of any subcontractor who refused to sign a record of payment form. It is usual practice for the Department of Public Works to first request the record of payment forms at progress payments 2 or 3.

For this project, record of payment forms were requested and provided by McMaster with their claim for progress payment 3 lodged on 31 August 2000.

Statutory Declarations to the effect that all subcontractors and workers were paid all that was due and owing to them were provided by McMaster on 4/7/00, 1/8/00 and 1/9/00.

However, Progress Payment No 3 of \$315,229 (including GST) was withheld on 14 September 2000 and paid into court to help satisfy subcontractors' charges.

#### 1156. McMaster Pty Ltd

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (5/10/00)—

With reference to the record of Government projects undertaken by the building company McMaster Pty Ltd—

- (1) What was the description, location, start date, contract price and current status of all projects undertaken since the company became pre-qualified?
- (2) Precisely when was any section of the Department of Public Works advised of a possible problem with the company?
- (3) What action was taken, by whom and when?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (6/11/00): With reference to the record of Government projects undertaken by the building company McMaster Pty Ltd—

- (1) In respect of projects for which the Department of Public Works was responsible:

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

- (2) & (3) On 28/1/00 departmental officers advised the PQC Registrar that they were aware of some subcontractors charges lodged in respect of McMaster projects and requested a "seek advice flag" be placed on the company's prequalification status.

On 28/1/00 the PQC Registrar placed a "seek advice flag" on the company's prequalification status and requested the Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA) undertake a contractor financial capacity analysis.

The placement of a "seek advice flag" on a registrant's record, does not necessarily prevent the registrant from collecting tender documents, and

does not prevent the registrant from being included on select tender lists (if they would otherwise have been so included) or from being awarded a contract, but requires that the relevant agency, project manager and/or tender body seek advice from the PQC Registrar before doing any or all of these things. The PQC Registrar will refer the inquirer to the relevant Department of Public Works senior officer for that advice.

On 18/4/00 QBSA Contractor Analysis Report in response to the PQC Registrar's request stated the company was assessed as satisfactory.

On 19/4/00 the PQC Registrar removed the "seek advice" flag on the company's prequalification status.

On 30/6/00 departmental officers advised the PQC Registrar that they were aware of a subcontractor charge lodged on McMaster's Cooloola TAFE project and that the Managing Director of McMaster was resigning his position. A "seek advice flag" was requested to be placed on the company's prequalification status.

On 30/6/00 the PQC Registrar placed a "seek advice flag" on the company's prequalification status.

On 7/7/00 departmental officers in Townsville advised the PQC Registrar that they had been contacted by the proposed plumbing trade subcontractor for the Mosman Hall project, Smedley Plumbing, who advised that it had undertaken a credit check on McMasters and was not happy with the results.

On 8/7/00 the PQC Registrar noted on McMaster's file "some signs of managerial strains".

On 12/7/00 the Managing Director of McMaster provided an explanation as to why he was resigning his position.

On 10/8/00 departmental officers advised the PQC Registrar that the subcontractor charges on Cooloola TAFE appeared to be a Head Contractor/Subcontractor dispute which McMaster intended to defend in court.

On 10/8/00 the PQC Registrar removed the "seek advice flag" on the company's prequalification status in the light of explanations given by the company in respect of the Managing Director's resignation and the charge.

On 23/8/00, departmental officers in Townsville advised the PQC Registrar that the project was awaiting roof sheeting which may indicate a financial issue. The PQC Registrar's inquiries of the company provided a satisfactory explanation.

On 12/9/00 departmental officers requested the PQC Registrar place a "seek advice flag" on McMaster's prequalification status as a result of industry rumours of financial stress.

On 12/9/00 the PQC Registrar placed a "seek advice flag" on the company's prequalification status.

On 13/9/00 provisional liquidators were appointed and in a statement on 14/9/00 McMaster Director, Mr Geoff Iles, stated that he believed that the company's fortunes had been severely impacted by the introduction of the GST and its subsequent effect on the building industry.

On 14/9/00 the PQC Registrar suspended the company's prequalification registration.

**1157. Queensland Rail, Townsville; McMaster Pty Ltd**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/10/00)—

- (1) Was a contract for the refurbishment of the Townsville train control room let to McMaster Pty Ltd; if so, when was the contract let?
- (2) Has a provisional liquidator been appointed to McMaster Pty Ltd?
- (3) Are there any outstanding payments owing to sub contractors associated with this contract?
- (4) Did Queensland Rail undertake the necessary financial viability checks before awarding the contract?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (6/11/00):

- (1) A contract for the refurbishment of the Townsville Train Control Room was let to McMaster Pty Ltd on 7 July 2000.
- (2) The Supreme Court of Queensland appointed Paul Desmond Sweeney and Terry Grant van der Velde provisional liquidators of McMaster Pty Ltd on 13 September 2000.
- (3) It is understood that at the time McMaster Pty Ltd went into provisional liquidation there were outstanding payments to subcontractors by McMaster Pty Ltd associated with this contract.
- (4) QR did undertake financial viability checks immediately prior to awarding the contract to McMaster Pty Ltd. At that time, QR was satisfied that McMaster Pty Ltd had no liquidity problems and were considered financially acceptable.

**1158. South East Transit Busway, Use by Gold Coast Buses**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/10/00)—

Will buses servicing the airport from the Gold Coast be able to utilise the South East Transit Busway to access the Transit Centre and Brisbane Airport?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (6/11/00): Yes, scheduled intercity buses servicing the airport from the Gold Coast will be able to utilise the South East Busway to access the Transit Centre and Brisbane Airport.

**1159. Queensland Harness Racing Board**

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (5/10/00)—

What rule, regulation or statute allows the Queensland Harness Racing Board to deduct or withhold prize money to licensees as a result of any outstanding debts owing, even though the debts may be by way of an imposed fine still subject to appeal?

**Mrs ROSE** (6/11/00): The Racing and Betting Act 1980 empowers the Harness Racing Board with the authority to control and supervise harness racing

in Queensland. I am advised Board policy is that fines subject to appeal are not normally deducted from prize money. All other fines are deducted from prize money prior to payment. I am informed that this mirrors centralised prize money payment systems established by the other racing code control bodies in Queensland and the other States since the introduction of GST on 1 July 2000.

**1160. Queensland Harness Racing Board; Greyhound Racing Authority**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (5/10/00)—

- (1) What mechanisms are available to either individuals or organisations who have a grievance with decisions made by the Queensland Harness Racing Board or with the Greyhound Racing Authority on matters directly relating to harness racing or greyhound racing?
- (2) Do these mechanisms include intervention, consultation and mediation?

**Mrs ROSE** (6/11/00):

- (1) This would depend on the nature and substance of the grievance. One example is that individuals or organisations may appeal to the Racing Appeals Authority against a decision of the Queensland Harness Racing Board (QHRB) or the Greyhound Racing Authority (GRA). Alternatively, an individual or organisation may request the QHRB or the GRA to review its decision and provide a Statement of Reasons related to the decision-making process. The person or organisation aggrieved by a decision also has the right of Judicial Review.
- (2) A range of mechanisms including intervention, consultation and mediation are available depending on the circumstances and the course of action initiated by the person or organisation aggrieved by a decision.

**1161. Queensland Harness Racing Board; Rocklea Showgrounds**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (5/10/00)—

- (1) What was the total contribution of the Queensland Harness Racing Board to the costs of building the restaurant at the Rocklea Showgrounds?
- (2) Did these contributions include loans; if so, what were the terms of the loans and to what organisation were the loans afforded?

**Mrs ROSE** (6/11/00):

- (1) I have been informed that the total contribution of the Queensland Harness Racing Board to the costs of building the restaurant at the Rocklea Showgrounds amounted to \$324,714.
- (2) \$199,714 was a loan at 8% interest. On 24 March 2000, \$59,420.16 of this loan was reclassified as a no-interest indeterminable non-current loan. The Metropolitan Harness Racing Club (MHRC) was the recipient of this loan from the Board. The Board also provided \$125,000 to the MHRC as a grant towards

the cost of this project. Loans and grants are disclosed in the Board's annual financial statements, which are audited by the Queensland Audit Office and published in the Board's Annual Report.

#### 1162. Queensland Harness Racing Board

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (5/10/00)—

- (1) Has the Queensland Harness Racing Board any intention of closing and/or reregistering any of the following clubs in the next twelve months (a) Rocklea, (b) Toowoomba, (c) Mackay, (d) Rockhampton and (e) Townsville?
- (2) Does the Queensland Harness Racing Board intend to provide the Darling Downs Harness Racing Club at Toowoomba with any race dates in the immediate future?

**Mrs ROSE** (6/11/00):

(1) The Queensland Harness Racing Board regularly monitors the performances of all registered harness racing clubs. Whether a club continues to operate depends on a number of factors including its financial viability and if it is an efficient mechanism to distribute prize money to industry owners and trainers.

(2) The issue of race dates for Darling Downs Harness Racing Club will be determined by the Queensland Harness Racing Board.

#### 1163. Mosman Hall, Charters Towers; McMaster Pty Ltd

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (5/10/00)—

With reference to the Mosman Hall Redevelopment and the appointment of a provisional liquidator to the contractor McMaster Pty Ltd and the outstanding account to many subcontractors—

- (1) Will he advise how many progress payments have been paid to McMaster Pty Ltd on the Mosman Hall contract?
- (2) Will he advise the amount of each payment?
- (3) How much money will be paid into the court to be made available for payment to subcontractors?
- (4) How much finance remains of the \$3.8m to complete the project?
- (5) Will he give a guarantee that, once subcontractors have submitted contractors' charges, under the Act they will be paid in full for their outstanding accounts?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (6/11/00): With reference to the Mosman Hall Redevelopment and the appointment of a provisional liquidator to the contractor McMaster Pty Ltd and the outstanding account to many subcontractors—

- (1) Two (2) progress payments have been made to McMaster Pty Ltd on the Mosman Hall contract.
- (2) Payment No. 1 was made on 26 July 2000, in the amount of \$94,545 (no GST applicable).

Payment No. 2 was made on 25 August 2000, in the amount of \$449,094 (inclusive of GST).

(3) \$315,229.20 will be paid into the court to be made available for payment to subcontractors (inclusive of GST).

(4) The contract price of the project is \$3,089,000 not \$3.8M. An amount of \$2,299,615 (exclusive of GST) (includes \$87,710 retention held) remains to complete the project. Note that this contract is subject to GST transitional arrangements. The contract price is exclusive of GST, but is adjusted by any amounts for which the contractor is liable to pay GST and for which a GST tax invoice is provided.

(5) I can give no such guarantee but I can ensure that the maximum amount of moneys possible will be made available to satisfy charges.

However, I note with interest the new policy to which you commit any future Coalition Government, i.e., full underwriting by taxpayers of all subcontractors charges, even if it means paying twice for the same building. I also note the fact that no such commitment was forthcoming in relation to contract failures which occurred under the previous Coalition Government.

#### 1164. McMaster Pty Ltd; Queensland Building Services Authority

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (5/10/00)—

On what date did the Queensland Building Services Authority first become aware of possible financial capacity problems with pre-qualified builders McMaster Pty Ltd and what action was taken on what dates as a result of this knowledge?

**Ms SPENCE** (6/11/00): On 28 January 2000, the Department of Public Works requested the Queensland Building Services Authority ("the Authority") to undertake a non project specific financial appraisal of McMaster Pty Ltd ("McMaster") because of the lodging of several subcontractor charges.

On 31 January 2000, the Authority in turn requested that its financial consultant allocated the task of appraising McMaster for Government tendering purposes provide a report.

That report was provided on 24 February 2000 and confirmed that based on management accounts at 31 December 1999 the company met the specific financial criteria for Government tendering, namely net tangible assets of \$1,055,414 and a liquidity ratio of 1.13:1.

During the course of this appraisal, the Authority's financial consultant sought an explanation from the company on the subcontractor charges issue. The company advised that it had been served with three subcontractor charges, two of which had subsequently been dropped. A third charge had been accepted, certified and incorporated within the management accounts of 31 December 1999.

The financial consultant also took an additional step of examining the aged creditors ledger of the company as at 22 February 2000 and this review did not identify any material deterioration since the accounts were prepared on 31 December 1999.

Subsequent to the receipt of the consultant's report, information from a supplier-based credit bureau gave some concern as to whether the management accounts of 31 December 1999, and the aged creditors ledger of 22 February 2000, as presented by the company, correctly represented the true position of the company.

On 25 February 2000, the Authority again asked its financial consultant to make further inquiries of the company and provided the consultant with a copy of the information received from the credit bureau.

In a follow-up report to the Authority dated 17 April 2000, the consultant noted some discrepancies more evident between the credit bureau information and the information provided by the company. However, the consultant concluded that these discrepancies could be attributed to many factors including the size of the reporting sample of the credit bureau report (approximately 30% of the total debts of the company). In conclusion, the consultant reaffirmed its previously stated position that the company met the relevant financial criteria for Government tendering.

On 18 April 2000, the Authority advised the Department of Public Works that based on the financial information provided by McMcMaster, the company was considered suitable for future Government projects.

Between April and when the company went into liquidation on 13 September 2000, the Authority was requested by the Department of Public Works to appraise the company's financial capacity to undertake two specific projects. In both instances, the Authority's consultant advised the Authority that based on management accounts at 31 March 2000, the company met the Government tendering financial criteria and was therefore considered suitable for both projects.

On 13 September 2000, the Authority became aware that a provisional liquidator had been appointed to the company.

In terms of the financial requirements for licensing, the company was due to provide the Authority with its audited accounts to 30 June 2000 by 30 September 2000.

#### **1165. McMaster Pty Ltd; Queensland Building Services Authority**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (5/10/00)—

On what date did the Queensland Building Services Authority last renew the building licence/s of McMaster Pty Ltd and in what classes?

**Ms SPENCE** (6/11/00): The renewal of the licence held by McMaster Pty Ltd was approved on 4 May 2000. Licence classes were General Building and House Building.

The company satisfied all relevant licensing renewal requirements, including providing an audit report as to its financial position as at 30 June 1999. This audit report, signed by a partner of one of the large accounting firms, identified that the company met the relevant financial criteria.

As a condition of its licence renewal, the company was required to provide the Authority with a further audited report of its financial position as at 30 June 2000 by 30 September 2000. The provisional liquidator was appointed on 13 September 2000.

#### **1166. Cairns District Health Service**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (5/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Cairns District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (6/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Cairns Health Service District was calculated on \$141.7 million.

#### **1167. Blood Donations**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Health (5/10/00)—

With reference to the fact that in August 1999, more than 12 months ago, both the United States and Canadian Governments banned the donation of blood by those who were resident of the United Kingdom for 6 months or more between 1980 and 1996—

Why did she wait more than 12 months to implement this ban?

**Mrs EDMOND** (6/11/00): Donor deferral is a national issue requiring a national approach. The Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council considered a report from the Donor Deferral Working Group in July 2000 and agreed to await the outcome of a report on epidemiological modelling expected in November 2000 before making a decision on donor deferral. However, recent overseas developments,

including a Lancet article, with respect to blood transmission of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), and the apparent increase in incidence of vCJD in the United Kingdom (UK) prompted the decision to implement donor deferral strategies earlier.

It should be noted that vCJD is extremely rare and there has never been a reported case in Australia, nor is there any evidence of vCJD having been transmitted via blood transfusion. Experts believe that the risk of contracting vCJD via a blood transfusion is minimal.

It should be noted that Australia has one of the safest blood services in the world and every effort is being made to maintain its safety.

#### 1168. Volunteer Firefighters

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (5/10/00)—

Are Queensland volunteer firefighters indemnified against personal liability for injury or property damage they may cause in emergency fire situations?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (6/11/00): The Fire and Rescue Authority Act 1990 provides volunteers with protection from civil liability where they have acted in accordance with the Act in good faith and without negligence. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) has public liability insurance which protects volunteers should they be subject to civil legal proceedings. If insurance cover is not available, volunteers may apply to my Department for assistance to defend any civil claim.

Very few volunteers are sued personally and my Department cannot identify an occasion where a volunteer who has been sued has not been supported either by insurance or by the Department itself. The Department is unaware of any instance where a volunteer personally has had to pay civil damages arising out of a volunteer activity.

#### 1169. Police Resources

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (5/10/00)—

With reference to the Albany Creek community in Brisbane which has just been given a considerable police presence—

- (1) Will he acknowledge that a police station is desperately needed in the Arundel, Parkwood, Silver Bridle and Ashmore area, as the lack of police presence is allowing crime in the area to escalate to the extent that locals are now frightened to leave their homes at night?
- (2) When can this community expect this desperate situation to be remedied?

**Mr BARTON** (6/11/00): The Queensland Police Service has not identified any need to establish a permanent police presence in the Arundel, Parkwood, Silver Bridle and Ashmore area. The Assistant Commissioner in charge of the South Eastern Police Region advises that the area in question, which falls within Southport Police

Division, is receiving effective policing services under current arrangements. At least one two-officer patrol vehicle operates within Southport Division at all times. Additional patrol units are deployed in identified peak periods such as Friday and Saturday nights. Further support for policing in the Division is provided by various Gold Coast District units including the Northern Investigative Group, District Operations Support Group and Gold Coast Traffic Branch. An additional seven police positions have been allocated to Southport Division since June 1998, bringing the allocated police strength of the Division to 83. Further increases will occur, as new officers funded by this Government progressively become available for deployment throughout the State. Policing services in the Division have also been enhanced by the recent allocation of an extra marked patrol vehicle. This has enabled more proactive patrols to be conducted to deter criminal activities, thus increasing police visibility throughout the Division. The Assistant Commissioner further advises that a significant number of special police operations targeting the Division have been carried out in the last 12 months. These operations have resulted in a reduction in reported crime for the Division.

#### 1170. Domestic Violence Orders

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (5/10/00)—

With reference to the Domestic Violence (Family Protection) Act which can sometimes be used as a weapon of revenge and spite against male partners in the event of a family breakdown—

- (1) Why do the mandatory conditions placed upon the respondent spouse as listed in the Application Forms not also apply to the aggrieved?
- (2) Does she agree that the current situation allows the respondent spouse very few rights whereas the aggrieved may contact the respondent at their leisure?

**Ms BLIGH** (7/11/00):

- (1) The purpose of a domestic violence order is to stop abusive behaviour and to prevent future abusive behaviour. It would be nonsensical to make an order against an aggrieved spouse who has not perpetrated abuse. However, if a respondent spouse can satisfy the Court that the aggrieved spouse has perpetrated abuse and will do so in the future, the Court can make an order against the aggrieved spouse.
- (2) No.

#### 1171. TAB, Harness Racing

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (5/10/00)—

Will she provide details of which provincial newspapers in Queensland are provided with and publish race fields for TABQ covered Harness Racing meetings?

**Mrs ROSE** (6/11/00): I am aware that the Queensland Harness Racing Board forwards the race fields to AAP who send them onto the media, which in turn make a commercial decision whether to publish them. Both the Gold Coast Bulletin and the Courier Mail consistently publish race fields.

#### 1172. Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (5/10/00)—

With reference to the discussion paper 'Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements in the Local Government Act 1993' which includes the Government's proposal to have councillors resign from council before nominating for either the Legislative Assembly or the Commonwealth Parliament—

At 23 October (a) how many councils have objected to the Government's proposal, (b) which councils objected, (c) how many councils agreed with the Government's proposal, (d) which councils agreed, (e) how many other organisations or individuals did his department receive objections from and will he provide the names of those organisations or individuals and (f) did his department receive submissions agreeing with the Government's proposal and will he provide the names of those organisations or individuals?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (1/11/00):

(a) 49 councils have objected to the proposal.

(b) Councils which have objected are: Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Logan, Mackay, Maryborough, Redcliffe, Toowoomba City Councils, Goondiwindi Town Council, Atherton, Balonne, Beaudesert, Blackall, Boonah, Broadsound, Bulloo, Burnett, Caboolture, Calliope, Cambooya, Cardwell, Clifton, Cooloola, Emerald, Gatton, Gayndah, Herberton, Hinchinbrook, Inglewood, Kingaroy, Kolan, Mareeba, Maroochy, Mirani, Mundubbera, Noosa, Redland, Richmond, Rosalie, Stanthorpe, Tambo, Taroom, Wambo, Warwick and Winton.

(c) No councils have formally submitted their support for the proposal.

(d) N/A

(e) A total of 11 submissions from organisations and individuals opposing the proposal were received as follows: Urban Local Government Association of Queensland Inc.; Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council; Institute of Municipal Management; Local Government Association of Queensland Inc.; West Logan ALP Branch; Liberal Party of Australia; National Party of Australia (Queensland); Clayfield ALP Branch.

The names of private individuals are not provided, as it would breach their privacy and to publish their names in Hansard would not advance the public interest.

(f) A total of 13 submissions from organisations and individuals supporting the proposal were received as

follows: Redlands Senior Action Group; Citizens Advocating Sustainable Solutions.

The names of private individuals are not provided, as it would breach their privacy and to publish their names in Hansard would not advance the public interest.

#### 1173. TAFE, Audits

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (5/10/00)—

With reference to his response to a Question on Notice where he stated that TAFE no longer needed to be subjected to "user choice" compliance audits because TAFE was subject to "hundreds" of internal audits each year, will he detail, for the past financial year—

- (1) the number of staff comprising his department's audit section?
- (2) the actual number of TAFE audits completed by those audit staff during the year?
- (3) the formal, recognised audit qualifications of all audit section staff?

**Mr BRADY** (6/11/00): The suggestion that TAFE Institutes are no longer needed to be subjected to "user choice" compliance audits is a ludicrous one. As stated in an earlier Question on Notice, all TAFE Institutes are covered by an ongoing integrated audit program, which is much more comprehensive than the audit arrangements that cover private providers of training. As indicated in the earlier Question on Notice, this integrated audit program includes user choice compliance audits.

It surprises me that a previous Minister of this department is not aware of the extensive probity and accountability obligations imposed on TAFE Institutes by Parliament. TAFE Institutes have duties of accountability and responsibility for taxpayers' moneys under the Public Service Act 1996 and the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1997. In addition, the Institutes have the following compliance requirements under the User Choice contract, Australian Recognition Framework, Quality Assurance, AVETMISS and Workplace Health and Safety requirements.

The question asked for the number of staff comprising my department's audit section. My department does not have just one audit section. There are audit staff in many areas of my department, for example, the Internal Audit Unit, the Division of Training and Regional Offices. In addition to this, the Institutes have their own audit staff so the question is ambiguous.

As to the actual number of TAFE audits completed for 1999/2000, I can advise that 1,232 audits, in the areas previously mentioned, were undertaken by officers with an appropriate range of experience and qualifications, such as:

Bachelor Degrees (or higher) in Business, Commerce, Arts or similar qualifications from overseas for staff within Internal Audit Unit;

Quality Assurance qualifications, allowing staff to audit international quality systems, or at a minimum, Internal Quality Auditing qualifications for Quality Assurance audits;

Staff with Internal Quality Auditing qualifications and educational qualifications for integrated audits and course reviews; and,

Staff with qualifications to Diploma level in Workplace Health and Safety or Workplace Health and Safety Officer Level 1 and 2 for the Workplace Health and Safety audits.

#### 1174. Rural Families Support Program

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/10/00)—

With reference to some rural families in the severely drought-stricken south-east corner of the State who are so obviously financially depleted they find it hard to provide the basic everyday needs of their family households and in the drought of the early 1990s her department provided funding for the Rural Families Support Program to meet a similar crisis—

Will she, as a matter of urgency, re-fund this program so local Family Support Centres can give household support to families in crisis?

**Ms BLIGH** (16/11/00): Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland funds a number of child, family and community support services in the South-East area of Queensland and also provides emergency relief funding to a number of organisations to assist families in crisis.

The 14 services previously funded through the Rural Family Support Program have not been defunded. The services are now funded as part of the Child Protection and Family Support Program. Services in the Honourable Member's electorate funded under this program are Murilla Community Centre, Miles; and Roma and District Community Support Association, Roma. Both of these services also receive emergency relief funding.

#### 1175. Urban and Community Renewal Program, Ipswich

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (17/10/00)—

With reference to the urban renewal and community renewal program—

What has been the total expenditure for each of the Ipswich suburbs of Dinmore and Riverview in the last 12 months?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (16/11/00): The Department of Housing is responsible for administering the Urban Renewal and the Community Renewal Program. All questions regarding the Program should be directed to the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing.

#### 1176. Vegetation Resource Management

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/10/00)—

With reference to the general confusion that reigns amongst the farming and pastoralist community concerning the interpretation of the vegetation legislation and the need for each property to have a vegetation map—

- (1) Is he satisfied that he has sufficient field experienced resource management staff to assist the implementation of this legislation?
- (2) Does he intend to employ further experienced resource management staff; if so, how many and where will they be based—in the field where they are needed or centralised in Brisbane, in line with current policy?

**Mr WELFORD** (15/11/00):

(1) The only obvious confusion is that reigning in the befuddled mind of the Member for Maryborough whose desperate politicking on this issue is an embarrassment to his constituency. The Government has provided over 50 positions to implement the Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VMA). These positions include officers with extension, assessment, planning and GIS skills. Over 92% of the funding provided for the implementation of the Act has been allocated to regions.

In addition to staff working directly on the implementation of the Act, other staff, both within and outside of my Department of Natural Resources with experience in resource management are available to assist the Vegetation Management Officers. For example, this includes specialist support in areas such as vegetation typing, the identification of salinity risk, soil conservation, weed and pest management and forest health.

A training program has also been implemented to ensure that all the Vegetation Management Officers are suitably skilled to competently implement the VMA.

(2) My Environmental Protection Agency has received funding directly from Treasury for a number of positions to assist with the mapping of regional ecosystems, and to provide input into the regional planning process. The majority of these positions will be located in regions.

#### 1177. Bowen State High School

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Education (17/10/00)—

With reference to Bowen State High School which has had 32 changes of staff in 12 months and still with staff shortages—

What does Education Queensland intend to do to alleviate these major problems which continue to stunt the educational prospects of the students?

**Mr WELLS** (16/11/00): The Honourable Member asked a similar question on 31 May 2000 about staffing at the Bowen State High School.

The department informs me that permanent replacement staff have been employed from the beginning of Semester 2, 2000 and this is expected to maintain a level of stability at the school. Since the beginning of semester 2 2000, only one temporary placement has been required at Bowen State High



School. Currently, there are no permanent vacancies at Bowen State High School and all known vacancies for the 2001 school year have been filled.

I am also informed that a review of the transfer rating for the Bowen area is being considered at this time and an outcome is expected by the end of the school year.

The Honourable Member would do better if he promoted the lifestyle advantages of living in Bowen, which may assist in attracting teachers, rather than continuing to use negative statements about the provision of education in his schools.

### 1178. Dairy Industry

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the devastating impact that deregulation is having on the dairy industry in Queensland with a now reported 20 per cent of farmers exiting the industry—

- (1) What plans does his department have to check this current exodus from this industry?
- (2) As the Minister for Rural Communities, has his department estimated the negative impact that this exodus will have on these communities and what are these estimates?
- (3) What research is currently being carried out by his department to improve the productivity of dairy farms in tropical and subtropical Queensland?
- (4) Are there plans to increase the dairy research activity at the Kairi Research Station, Atherton Tableland and the dairy research station at Mutdapilly?
- (5) What are the current numbers of staff engaged in this research at these stations?
- (6) What is the current budget for research at each of these stations?
- (7) As rumours have it that the research activity at these stations and the numbers of staff could be reduced, is this correct?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

- (1) The Government has committed to working closely with industry within available programs and resources to achieve the best outcomes possible.

An industry/Government Dairy Deregulation Support Advisory Group has been convened to develop recommendations to monitor and mitigate the impacts of deregulation. It will also provide submissions to a Commonwealth/State Working Group which is to monitor the national dairy deregulation process.

The Government has also taken a range of other measures to assist producers address the impacts of deregulation. These include stamp duty relief for advance payments from a commercial loan facility for the Commonwealth Dairy Structural Adjustment payments, 'Quick Reference Guide' to all dairy farmer regarding assistance available through State Programs, Briefing of the major banks by the

Minister, DPI/Processor dairy extension group and Financial Counsellor assistance.

(2) At current prices farmers incomes may fall by around \$50M annually. Accurate impact assessment is not currently possible due to price volatility depending where market milk prices settle. With deregulation there are a wide range of interrelated factors which will impact on different communities in different ways.

Staff from DPI have conducted extensive briefings with key stakeholders in all dairying regions across the State. These briefings have been to stimulate high levels of cooperation and coordination in the use of available State, Commonwealth and local resources in the delivery of services to communities experiencing adverse impacts.

Many dairying communities are strengthening their community and economic development capacity and developing local strategies to mitigate impacts. DPI has worked closely with the Commonwealth's Area Consultative Committees and dairying communities.

- (3) There are 27 extension and research projects currently being conducted.

Much of the research is concerned with improvement to the dairy feed base and the development of sustainable and profitable feeding systems suitable for a deregulated environment. Efficient feeding systems are essential for sustainable production systems as feed costs average 55% of total variable costs. During 2000/2001 DPI will have a significant involvement in 14 research projects in the feed base area.

- (4) At Mutdapilly and Kairi Research Station there will be increased emphasis on developing production systems which are economically and environmentally sustainable in a deregulated environment.

There will \$1.9M allocated over 3 years by DPI, DNR and Dairy Research and Development Corporation (DRDC) to a major study at Mutdapilly which will compare and provide a learning environment regarding a range of different production systems to achieve environmental and economic goals.

- (5) There are currently 8.5 research scientists and 6 technical officers engaged at Kairi and Mutdapilly Research Stations.

- (6) The total funding for Mutdapilly and Kairi Research stations for 2000/2001 is \$2.1M.

(7) There are no plans to scale down the research activity at either Mutdapilly or Kairi. DPI has also formed collaborative alliances with other groups to increase resources which can be utilised in addressing industry problems. For example DPI is a core partner in the Australian Tropical Dairy Institute and a member of the National Dairy Alliance. Both of these alliances provide increased opportunities for DPI to access professional personnel and resources.

### 1179. Taxi Industry

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/10/00)—

With reference to the taxi industry in the Brisbane metropolitan area—

- (1) What is the number of current endorsed or licensed taxi drivers for this area?
- (2) What is the current number of licensed taxis registered for this area?
- (3) In relation to specifically designated parking spaces, what is the number of vehicles these areas can hold?
- (4) What is the average turnover in drivers per month in this industry for this area?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/11/00):

(1) There are currently 12,516 people authorised to drive taxis in Queensland. Once authorised by Queensland Transport, a taxi driver can drive anywhere in the state of Queensland. Movement of drivers between areas is frequent, particularly in the South East corner of the State and does not require any endorsement by the Department. Therefore, Queensland Transport does not maintain figures on the number of drivers actually driving vehicles in the Brisbane area at any one time.

(2) There are currently 1588 taxis in operation in the Brisbane metropolitan area and, with the recent release of an additional 31 wheelchair accessible taxi service licences, this number will rise to 1619 over the next three months as the new vehicles become operational.

(3) The location and volume of taxi ranks in the Brisbane metropolitan area falls under the auspices of the Brisbane City Council or, in the case of the Airport, the BACL. I suggest that you contact these organisation for information.

(4) Taxi drivers are required to renew their Driver Authorisation on a five yearly basis, although many choose to only take out Driver Authorisation for a period of one year at a time. Therefore, the number of drivers entering or leaving the industry is difficult to determine. There were 12,214 authorised taxi drivers in Queensland in September 2000 and there are 12,516 currently. It is estimated 20-30 new applications for driver authorisation are received each month.

#### **1180. Dalbeg Primary School, Review**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Education (17/10/00)—

With reference to the 'mothballed' primary school at Dalbeg for which he promised a review would be carried out before the end of the school year to determine whether it would be reopened next year and with the end of school less than nine weeks away, parents need to know where they are going to send their children and to date not one parent from Dalbeg has been contacted for input into this review—

Has this review been completed; if so, what were the results?

**Mr WELLS** (16/11/00): I am informed by the department that the Townsville-Burdekin District Office has carried out this review.

The District Director has consulted the local community by letter dated 10 October published in the school newsletter of 18 October. Submissions

were invited and many parents have contacted the district office, including Dalbeg families, with their views.

Also, the principal has been consulted at neighbouring Millaroo State School where the four students from Dalbeg are now attending.

There does not appear to be any additional information that would indicate a growth in student numbers in the local area. No new information suggesting future viability has emerged.

However, further information may or may not become available at the start of the new school year, and I have asked the department to advise me of those matters at that time.

#### **1181. Distance Education Schools**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Education (17/10/00)—

With reference to the current position of Education Queensland in relation to new approvals for schools of distance education—

- (1) When was the current moratorium on new approvals for schools of distance education put in place and when is the moratorium to cease?
- (2) Has the moratorium on new approvals for schools of distance education become departmental policy?
- (3) How many applications for schools of distance education have been received over the past two years?
- (4) How many of these applications have been approved?
- (5) Is Queensland only to issue a certain number of approvals for schools of distance education?
- (6) Why has the application from the Australian Christian Academy for approval as a school of distance education been denied?
- (7) Considering that the Kingaroy Christian College School of Distance Education has closed, why is the application of the Australian Christian Academy not being considered in lieu of the closure of the school in Kingaroy?

**Mr WELLS** (16/11/00): The current moratorium was established in 1993 and continued under the previous coalition government. I have merely continued that policy.

#### **1182. Staff Media Training**

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Premier (17/10/00)—

How much money was spent by each department on media training for staff in 1999-2000?

**Mr BEATTIE** (16/11/00): Department of the Premier and Cabinet—Nil; Department of State Development—Nil; Department of Communication and Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport—Nil; Treasury Department—Nil; Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—\$4,500; Department of Justice and Attorney-General—Nil; Department of Health—\$26,650; Department of Police—Nil; Department of Corrective

Services—Nil; Department of Mines and Energy—Nil; Department of Transport—\$14,630; Department of Main Roads—\$16,404.10; Department of Education—\$64,500; Department of Public Works—\$2,900; Department of Housing—Nil; Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland—Nil; Disability Services Queensland—Nil; Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development—Nil; Department of Equity and Fair Trading—Nil; Environmental Protection Agency—approximately \$19,000; Department of Natural Resources—\$6,280; Department of Primary Industries—Nil; Department of Tourism and Racing—Nil; and Department of Emergency Services—\$17,343.

### 1183. Drought Relief Assistance Scheme

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the worsening drought conditions in much of Queensland and to the State Government's Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) (17/10/00)—

- (1) How much assistance has been paid out for drought relief in 2000-01 in total and on a region by region basis?
- (2) How much has been paid out for each of the available assistance measures on offer under DRAS?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

(1) During the 2000-01 financial year to 16 October 2000, a total of \$56,935 has been claimed and, paid out in freight subsidies under DRAS. The subsidies were paid to the following eight shires in the five Queensland regions:

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

These figures represent 0.03% of the State's properties.

(2) The following amounts have been paid for each of the assistance measures for the period 1 July 2000 to 16 October 2000:

Cattle returning home from agistment—\$23,276  
Restocking—\$23,984  
Fodder—\$9,675.

### 1184. Primary Industries Department, Corporate Plan

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

How much did the Department of Primary Industries' Corporate Plan 2000-2005 cost in total and for each of design, publication, printing, circulation and any other costs?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00): The Department of Primary Industries has an inhouse publication unit, which designed and produced the document. In line with Queensland Government procurement policy, 3 competitive quotes were obtained for printing 2,000

copies, resulting in a cost to the Department of \$11,406. This included \$105 for scanning of photos.

The Corporate Plan was circulated to key stakeholders, staff and other interested parties at the Primary Industries budget launch and other departmental meetings, which resulted in another 2,000 copies of the Corporate Plan being printed at a cost of \$10,610.

Circulation costs have been kept to a minimum as departmental staff take additional copies with them when they travel. Copies of the Corporate Plan forwarded through the postal service were not categorised separately, so circulation costs for the Plans were not captured in the Department's systems.

The other additional cost for the publishing of the Corporate Plan included the commissioning of a range of photographs to be used for the Corporate Plan and other departmental publications. These now form part of the corporate photo library. Total costs for these photographs was \$5,960.

We have a document which:

- Provides a positive outlook for DPI staff and rural communities; and,
- Focuses the effort of DPI staff in their work with rural communities.

### 1185. Fishing Industry

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the Government's proposed East Coast Trawl Management Plan which smaller, family-owned fishing businesses fear will force them out of the industry—

- (1) What measures is he introducing to ensure this does not happen, other than staging yet another round of meetings?
- (2) Will the plan be changed to protect the interest of small, family-owned fishing businesses; if so, what changes will be made?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

(1) The Queensland Fisheries Service has established an Independent Review Committee (IRC). The IRC's Terms of Reference include providing advice to the QFS on the following matters:

any 'special circumstances' which the committee considers should be taken into account when allocating Effort Units in the Trawl Fishery; and

in particular, within 'special circumstances' to consider impacts on small vessel operators as a particular category of 'special circumstances'.

The IRC has conducted 9 meetings along the Queensland coast during the period from 11-21 October 2000 to seek direct input from industry members on the above matters.

(2) The QFS will consider advice from the IRC, in particular regarding small vessel operators, prior to recommending final amendments to the Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999.

**1186. Drought Declaration Applications**

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the worsening drought conditions in much of Queensland—

- (1) How many applications has the Department of Primary Industries received from shires seeking a drought declaration and from which ones?
- (2) How many of those shires have been drought declared?
- (3) How many applications have been made for Individual Droughted Property (IDPS) declarations?
- (4) How many of those applications have been granted IDPS status?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

- (1) Under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS), Local Drought Committees (LDCs) are responsible for the assessment of Individually Droughted Property (IDPS) applications and making recommendations to the Department of Primary Industries, which in turn advises me on shire declarations and revocations. I ultimately approve shire drought declarations and revocations but do so only on the recommendations of the respective LDC.
- (2) At 14 November, there were currently 16 shires, and 1 part shire that have been recommended by the various LDCs to be drought declared. These have subsequently been approved by me.
- (3) The bulk of the IDPs issued were contained in these declared shires.
- (4) There are currently 292 IDPs in a further 25 shires as at 14 November 2000.

**1187. Tick Clearance Service**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to his decision that the Department of Primary Industries cease providing the tick clearance service and that it instead be provided by third party providers on a full cost recovery basis—

- (1) Has the Northern Territory Government agreed to his decision; if so, will he provide evidence to support his claim?
- (2) Has AgForce and the Queensland beef industry agreed to his decision; if so, will he provide evidence to support his claim?
- (3) Has the Queensland Livestock Exporters' Association agreed to his decision; if so, will he provide evidence to support his claim?
- (4) How many Shire Councils has he consulted and what has been their response?
- (5) Have Queensland's overseas live export trading partners been advised of his decision?
- (6) Where does he intend directing the \$3m allocation currently used to fund the tick clearance service?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00): Firstly the Honourable Member should understand that no

decision on this issue has been made at this stage. It is a proposal that is currently under consideration. Relevant details of the proposal are:

The proposal is to trial a third party provider system for cattle tick inspections at the nine North Western clearing dips between Charters Towers and Mt Isa.

DPI would train and accredit third party providers of the tick inspection service.

The initial proposal is that this service will be offered to Councils. However, other service providers would also be considered for accreditation.

The service provider would be responsible for determining a fee structure and collecting fees.

Where Councils take on service provision in centres where DPI currently owns the clearing dip, then the dip would also be handed over to the Council. The Council would manage the dip and retain any income.

DPI would audit the service providers to ensure standards were being met.

Stock inspectors would continue to carry out any regulatory enforcement duties.

The proposal would increase the cost to industry of tick clearance at clearing dips but also offers potential cost savings through more flexible service delivery; for example, seven day per week and on-property clearances would be possible.

It could also generate at least an additional 20-30 jobs in regional centres if extended across the state.

Regarding the specific questions raised I can supply the following information.

(1) The Northern Territory Government has indicated that their primary concern is that cattle arriving from Queensland are not tick infested and that implementation of a trial third party provider system is a matter for Queensland to determine. DPI has a letter from the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to this effect. I am confident that a system can be implemented that will meet this outcome. At no stage has the NT Government stated that cattle would not be able to move the NT from Queensland under the proposed system, as has been widely misreported in the media.

(2) Agforce, representing the Queensland beef industry has clearly stated its opposition to the proposal. Queensland Animal Health Council (QAHC) which is a skills based group providing me with strategic advice on animal health issues has supported the proposal. QAHC considers that the proposal will assist implementation of other strategic changes to the animal health service that have been recommended by the Council. QAHC has at least three members with broad knowledge and experience within the beef industry. Many beef producers have also privately indicated support for the proposal.

(3) The Queensland Livestock Exporters' Association has not supported the proposal.

(4) Each of the Shire Councils that would be initially affected by the trial (Mt Isa, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Richmond, Flinders and Dalrymple) were consulted by Departmental officers and indicated either no concerns or were supportive. However this changed as it became evident that the beef industry was opposed to the proposal. All shire councils in Queensland have now been circulated by the Local Government Association of Queensland with information supplied by DPI. The Association has advised that it does not support the proposal

(5) Queensland's overseas live export trading partners have not been consulted on this issue as I am advised it is of no relevance to live cattle export protocols. Clearance of cattle destined for live export via Darwin, is a requirement of the NT Government for movement into the NT. It is not a requirement of the importing country export protocols and cattle exported through Queensland ports are not subjected to the tick clearance process. As stated, I do not expect that there will be any disruption of cattle movements to the NT.

(6) Regulation of the tick line, investigation of outbreaks in Free or Protected areas and any regulatory enforcement matters will remain the responsibility of DPI. Therefore a proportion of the current cattle tick budget will continue to be expended in this area. However it is not essential that the task of inspecting stock for ticks remain a DPI function.

The remaining DPI stock inspectors' time would be reallocated to the higher priority activities which include animal welfare services, diagnosis and control of diseases and chemical residues of public significance, collection and analysis of animal health surveillance data, and livestock identification and traceback systems. These services need to be enhanced to convince customers and consumers that our livestock and products are safe and wholesome.

#### **1188. Queensland Abattoir Corporation, Churchill**

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to his answer to my question on notice number 982, asked on 5 September, regarding the sale of the Queensland Abattoir Corporations' Government-owned abattoirs at Cannon Hill and Churchill as going concerns—

- (1) What were the "environmental issues" identified in the audit report conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency on the Churchill plant?
- (2) In light of the Government's offer of financial assistance to Churchill Abattoir Pty Ltd to carry out the necessary environmental upgrades, what will be the cost to the taxpayer?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

(1) The environmental issues identified at the Ipswich Abattoir related to waste water treatment and disposal, odour control and solid waste management. These matters are currently being addressed by the

installation of a secondary effluent treatment system (instillation of two anaerobic ponds and one aerobic pond), upgrades to the biofilter (odour control), Dissolved Air Flotation system and taking solid wastes to an approved disposal facility offsite.

(2) Queensland Abattoir Corporation funded the environmental audit as part of an extensive due diligence process for sale and continued use of the site for meat processing. It is understood that Churchill Abattoir Pty Ltd made a commercial decision to purchase the site after consideration of the environmental issues identified in the report. The Government's offer of financial assistance to Churchill Abattoir Pty Ltd includes up to \$1M to carry out the necessary environmental upgrades. Churchill Abattoir Pty Ltd has accepted this level of assistance.

#### **1189. Forestry Industry**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the Department of Primary Industries Forestry's program to establish plantations under the Government's South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement—

- (1) Will he provide a numeric breakdown of management and field workers engaged in the planting operation?
- (2) When does he intend creating the 200 additional jobs in the plantation and conservation sectors that the Premier promised in his media release of 16 September 1999?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

(1) DPI Forestry management and field workers engaged in public sector hardwood plantation operations and administration, estimated as full time equivalents, is as follows:

DPI Forestry—FTE

Field Management and Administration Support—3.8  
Field supervision—3.9

Total—7.7

External Contractors

Plant Hire—3  
Nursery\*—10  
Silviculture—33

Total—46

Total all types of employment—53.7

\*Nursery based on 1 x FTE per 50,000 plants ordered

It is anticipated that the program will increase its management and staffing by 1.3 FTEs after December 2000.

In addition, there are 15.2 FTEs engaged within the QFRI "Hardwoods Queensland" research and development program which underpins the plantation hardwood development program and an estimated 7-10 FTEs engaged in complementary private sector hardwood sawlog plantation programs of around 650 hectares.

(2) As shown in the reply to part (1) of this question, the Hardwood Plantation Program has to date generated employment for 53.7 FTEs.

It is also anticipated that the number of FTE contractor jobs will increase with the increase in planting area from 1000 to 2000 hectares and an increase in maintenance from 700 to 1700 hectares in 2001. The FTEs will be sustained until June 2003.

In regard to additional jobs in the conservation sector, this falls within the portfolio responsibility of my colleague, the Honourable R J Welford, Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources and should be referred to him for response.

#### 1190. Fishing Industry

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the 1993 Burns Inquiry into recreational fishing and to the identification of areas in the State that could become recreational only fishing areas—

- (1) What is the current status of each of these areas?
- (2) For any areas that have been closed to commercial fishing, what was the cost of any commercial fishing licence buyback schemes that were conducted?
- (3) Does the Government intend closing any of the remaining areas identified as possible recreational-only fishing areas to commercial fishing; if so, why, when and how much, if anything, will it cost?

Mr PALASZCZUK (16/11/00):

(1) The 1993 State Government Inquiry into Recreational Fishing (Burns Inquiry) recommended that an additional eight netting closures be introduced and declared as Recreational Fishing Areas (RFAs). The areas and their status follows:

Part of the Southport Broadwater—no arrangement agreed;

Part of the foreshores of the Redcliffe peninsula—no arrangement but a study of the area was undertaken and RFA rejected;

Pumicestone Passage—declared an RFA;

Part of Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait—no arrangement agreed;

Part of Hinchinbrook Channel—in reality an RFA as the area was closed to commercial netting and declared a Dugong Protection Area;

Johnstone River—no arrangement agreed;

Trinity Inlet—declared an RFA; and

Barron River—declared a limited entry area with no transfer of licence.

(2) The cost of the declared RFAs were:

Pumicestone Passage—\$1M

Trinity Inlet and Barron River—\$0.5M

Hinchinbrook Channel—\$3M was spent on the Dugong Protection Area buyback scheme

across Queensland, precise amount related to Hinchinbrook Channel cannot be determined.

(3) Further declarations of RFAs is a policy matter to be considered by the Fishing Industry Development Council.

#### 1191. Sugar Industry

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the Government's "Sugar Assist" program, for which \$10m was apparently allocated to provide low interest loans for crop replanting.

- (1) How many applications have been received for these loans?
- (2) How many of these have been granted?
- (3) How much of the \$10m allocation has been taken up so far?

Mr PALASZCZUK (16/11/00):

- (1) Three applications have been received to date.
- (2) One application has been declined, and the other two applications are currently being assessed, and require additional information from the applicants.
- (3) None to date. However, funds are available at concessional interest rates to assist growers in genuine need with crop replanting until the end of the 2001 seasons.

#### 1192. Fishing Industry

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the Queensland commercial fishing industry—

Will he provide a breakdown of the number of commercial fishermen and their location on a port by port basis?

Mr PALASZCZUK (16/11/00): The number of Licensed Commercial Fishers by Port/Location according to the records of the Queensland Fisheries Service is as follows:

Location—Number

Interstate—104

Brisbane area—333

Gold Coast—89

SW Queensland—9

Sunshine Coast—349

Central Western Qld—3

Tin Can Bay—58

Maryborough/Hervey Bay—136

Burrum Heads—21

Bundaberg—211

Agnes Water/1770—32

Gladstone—128

Rockhampton—116

Sarina/Mackay/Proserpine—135

Airlie Beach—14

Bowen—72

Home Hill/Ayr/Townsville—208

Burketown/Mt Isa—3

Cardwell/Lucinda/Ingham/Tully/Innisfail—155

Cairns—255

Port Douglas/Cooktown—113  
 Weipa—13  
 Thursday Island—14  
 Normanton/Karumba—60  
 Total—2631.

### 1193. Primary Industries Department; Fruit Growers

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to Kumbia International fruit growers who are being curtailed in their export effort due to the budgetary constraints imposed on Department of Primary Industries (DPI) staff assisting the group with initiatives to market their produce—

- (1) Have DPI staff in Nambour been denied the use of a vehicle until the end of October which has hindered their ability to work with those growers and advise them on their marketing?
- (2) Have DPI staff been refused funding to further exploit export markets established for the Kumbia International group and other horticultural producers?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

- (1) No
- (2) No.

### 1194. FarmBis, Funding

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the Federal Government's offer of \$127m in second round funding for the continuation of the successful FarmBis program over the next three financial years and as Queensland's share of this funding is dependent on the scale of the State Government's dollar for dollar commitment—

How much funding, if any, is the Government providing to fund FarmBis for the next three years?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00): In May 2000, the Commonwealth announced that \$167.5m would be available for a new expanded FarmBis program, with \$120m now available to the States over three years from 1 July 2001 on a matching dollar-for-dollar basis.

Funding for the existing FarmBis and Property Management Program (Futureprofit in Queensland) will cease on 30 June 2001 and Property Management Planning learning activities will be integrated into the new program.

While supportive of the continuation of the FarmBis program, consideration of the level of State support has not been able to proceed as the Commonwealth has not finalised a number of key elements of the new program. Commonwealth consultation with relevant stakeholders in Queensland commenced in August 2000 and a revised broad framework for the new program is currently being considered through the national Standing Committee for Agriculture and Resource Management process.

It is hoped that the key elements of the new program will be endorsed at a national level in time to enable

Queensland's financial support to be secured through the State's upcoming budget mid year review. I am supportive of the FarmBis program and officers of the Department of Primary Industries are developing an appropriate submission in consultation with other stakeholder departments.

A number of industry organisations and individual primary producers have written to me recently expressing strong support for the continuation of the program and I welcome their support and examples of how FarmBis-supported learning has generated real business outcomes.

The Commonwealth has identified a number of program matters that require negotiation on a state by state basis and an announcement on the level of funding for the new program will be made when those negotiations are finalised, possibly by March 2001. An early finalisation of negotiations would greatly assist a smooth transition to the new program on 1 July 2001.

### 1195. Live Cattle Export Trade

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to Queensland's live cattle export trade—

- (1) What programs and how much funding has been allocated in 2000-01 by the Government to support the live cattle export trade?
- (2) What is the comparison of that funding to the previous three years?
- (3) Why has the Government discontinued the former Coalition Government's three year program to promote the development of the live cattle export industry?
- (4) What level of consultation has he undertaken with the live export industry to identify opportunities for the State Government to assist the industry?
- (5) Does he support the live cattle export trade?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

(1) \$967,929 has been allocated to specific live cattle export projects in 2000-01. These projects relate to industry development activities such as trade missions through the "Building Bridges" program, research projects on issues of importance to the industry such as fodders and reproductive methodologies, and extension/technology-transfer projects. At the policy level, support is provided to the Northern Livestock Export Working Group. In addition to specific support to the live export trade, the industry also benefits from broader projects that benefit the whole of the beef industry. The value of this support cannot be separated from general beef industry projects.

(2) The average funding to specific live cattle export projects in the three previous years was \$1,213,913. Increased specific support was allocated to the live export industry in the early stages to capitalise on this new market opportunity.

(3) The Government has not discontinued the three-year program to promote the development of the live

cattle export industry. The three-year program ended in the 1999-00 financial year. Specific funding for live cattle export projects has been extended beyond the planned completion date of the original three-year program.

(4) I have chaired the Northern Livestock Export Working Group on the two occasions that this group has met in Queensland. At the Departmental level, the North Queensland Beef Research Council provides advice and senior DPI officers are in regular contact with LiveCorp, Meat and Livestock Australia, and other groups associated with the live export industry.

(5) I support the live cattle export trade as part of overall marketing of Queensland cattle and beef.

**1196. Timber Industry; Boral, Nandroya and Cooroy**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the Government's decision to buy out Boral's hardwood sawmilling operations for \$14m and close down its operations at Nandroya and Cooroy—

- (1) How many workers lost their jobs as a result of this decision?
- (2) What opportunities has the Government implemented for those workers?
- (3) How many have found new jobs so far?
- (4) Does the Government still intend to honour its promise that "any timber worker that wants a job in the timber industry"; if so, when will he find those workers that are now unemployed a new job?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

(1) Twenty-seven employees at Boral Timber's Nandroya Sawmill and three employees from the Cooroy Board Plant were made redundant by Boral Timber on 30 September 2000 as a result of Boral Ltd's decision to exit from their hardwood processing operations in Queensland in agreement with the Queensland Government. In addition Boral Timber brought forward the redundancy of one worker at their Townsville warehouse to 31 August 2000.

(2) The provision of job opportunities for Boral Timber workers is a commitment of the Queensland Government as part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement.

The Queensland Government Boral Timber Worker Support Package is being implemented through the Cooroy Implementation Centre to support these workers' transition from their employment with Boral Timber to new jobs. The Package provides ongoing case management services for all workers and offers specific employment services including training assistance, an employer wage subsidy, job placement support, relocation assistance and income supplementation.

Since December 1999, officers from the Department of State Development working in cooperation with officers from the Department of Employment,

Training and Industrial Relations have undertaken regular individual interviews with Boral Timber workers. This work has resulted in the compilation and maintenance of comprehensive individual employee profiles and has allowed direct assistance to be provided to workers to establish and implement their training needs and target future job opportunities.

To date a total of twenty workers have undertaken training programs ranging from an Introduction to Computers to Plant Operator training. In total these workers have obtained some twenty-two tickets.

A total of twenty State and Local Government traineeship opportunities have been identified for the Boral Timber workers. Twelve-month traineeships have been earmarked for fifteen workers with the Queensland Government Department of Natural Resources/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. These traineeships will assist with the upgrading of conservation estate infrastructure and will articulate into permanent employment opportunities where the trainees complete their training to the satisfaction of their trainers.

It has been identified that significant job opportunities may also be available through major planned Department of Main Roads road and bridge construction works starting at Yandina and progressing through to Cooroy and Eumundi in the new year.

Private sector employment opportunities have been identified with companies that include:

- Hyne & Son Pty Limited—operations throughout South East Queensland;
- Cedar Hill Flowers & Foliage at Palmwoods;
- North Coast Stock Feeds at Yandina;
- Olsen & Company at Landsborough;
- Finlayson's Timber and Hardware Pty Ltd at Yarraman/Linville;
- Dale & Meyers Pty Ltd at Tiaro
- Nolan Meats at Gympie; and
- Plantation Pine at Imbil

The Cooroy Implementation Centre is continuing to vigorously pursue training and employment opportunities and to provide ongoing advisory services for the Boral Timber workers.

(3) A total of nineteen of the thirty-one displaced workers have found employment to date. Of the remaining twelve individuals six have chosen to take recreation breaks of between six and twelve weeks, one is in the process of relocating to Tasmania and five are actively seeking work with case management support provided by the Queensland Government's Cooroy Implementation Centre.

(4) The Queensland Government has a commitment to returning all former Boral Timber employees in the workforce and will continue to facilitate access to appropriate employment opportunities for all the workers from Nandroya and Cooroy.

A range of potential State Government, Local Authority and private sector training and employment opportunities have been identified which broadly



accord with the employment aspirations of workers. Most former Boral Timber workers have advised of career goals outside of the timber industry and efforts are being made to place them accordingly.

### 1197. Dairy Industry

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the Beattie Government's deregulation of the dairy industry on 1 July 2000—

- (1) How many dairy farmers have left the Queensland industry since deregulation?
- (2) Will he list the support and initiatives that have been provided to dairy farmers by the State Government over and above existing programs?
- (3) How much funding has been expended for each of these?
- (4) Given his admission to the Estimates Committee that no additional budget allocation had been made, from where has this funding been provided?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

(1) I am advised that over 100 producers have left the industry since 1 July 2000. The number of course continues to change. Deregulation was forced on the Queensland Government and the Queensland industry by a combination of the determination of the Victorian industry to deregulate regardless of the consequences for any other State on the one hand, and the Commonwealth Government's threat to withhold payments under the national \$1.63 billion Dairy Adjustment Support package on the other hand. I would remind the Honourable Member that the adjustment package is worth over \$220 million to the Queensland dairy industry.

(2) I am pleased that the Honourable Member recognises that support is being provided to dairy farmers from existing programs. I would like to comment on these programs first before I proceed to other Government initiatives.

Over the last 12 months the Department of Primary Industries has provided extensive assistance to hundreds of dairy farmers through the joint Government and Industry initiatives "Dairying Beyond 2000" and the more recent "Dairy Assist".

"Dairying Beyond 2000" was part of a program aimed at assisting farmers identify and understand the effects and impacts of deregulation as well as managing their farming enterprise in a changing environment.

"DairyAssist" is a program aimed at ensuring high quality and consistent information is provided to farming enterprises regarding current industry developments including the national Dairy Structural Adjustment Package.

DairyAssist supports training services for a range of farmer support networks such as dairy extension, advisory and consulting services and consists of a series of regional information forums.

Following on from this work, Department of Primary Industries Dairy Extension staff are providing a wide range of services and assistance to help dairy farmers assess their position and determine their best options for the future. This work is also being substantially supported by departmental Farm Financial Counsellors in dairying areas.

In pursuing future options a wide range of services are also available from other DPI programs including FutureProfit, Farmbis, Rural Leadership, Rural Market Development and the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme administered by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority.

In addition to the targeting of these programs and services to dairy farmers, DPI Rural Industry Business Services staff have been working closely with dairy communities, the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Work Place Relations and Small Business and their Area Consultative Committees in each dairy region, the Departments of State Development and Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, Local Government and key regional services providers.

As a result of this cooperative effort Queensland dairy communities have been successful in gaining \$778,427 for eight projects in the first funding round of the Dairy Regional Assistance Program, recently announced by the Commonwealth. This represents a third of the projects and a third of the dollars funded nationally in this first round.

The Honourable Member will recall that this \$45 million, three year, program was provided by the Commonwealth as a direct result of my extensive lobbying of my Federal counterpart earlier in the year. This is in addition to the Dairy Structural Adjustment Program which will deliver over \$200 million to Queensland dairy farmers over the next eight years.

Turning now to additional initiatives beyond existing programs, there are two particular matters of note. I have instructed the Queensland Dairy Authority to waive the annual processing levy on dairy producers for this financial year. This levy is normally used to meet the costs of monitoring on-farm quality standards. For this financial year, these costs will have to be absorbed within the Authority from its reserves.

The Honourable the Premier and the Honourable the Treasurer have agreed that there should be a waiver of stamp duty that would otherwise apply in respect of producers wishing to take advantage of commercial financial facilities to convert their entitlements under the Commonwealth Dairy Structural Adjustment program into an advance lump sum payment.

Finally, while it is not a matter that arises under my portfolio, I should mention that a grant of \$900 000 from the Queensland Government's Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative, administered by my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Natural Resources, was made to the Queensland dairy industry in July 2000 for water efficiency measures.

(3) & (4) "Dairying Beyond 2000" was part of the industry initiated national Dairy Research and

Development Corporation's (DRDC) "Dairy Business Focus" program.

The DRDC contributed approximately \$130 000 towards this program and the Queensland Dairy Authority approximately \$50,000. The Queensland Government has contributed approximately \$130,000 towards this initiative through the FarmBis program. Substantial additional input has also been provided through 'in-kind' support through departmental FutureProfit and extension officers.

After this program concluded, \$37,000 in remaining funds was transferred to DairyAssist.

There was also substantial 'in-kind' support from DPI to the development and the delivery of the DairyAssist program which is impossible to accurately quantify.

The waiver of the annual processing levy on dairy producers for this financial year will cost approximately \$750,000. This will be met from within the reserves of the Queensland Dairy Authority.

The waiver of stamp duty in regard to the conversion of entitlements under the Commonwealth Dairy Structural Adjustment program into advance lump sum payments represents income forgone to the State of at least \$1 million. This will be absorbed within Treasury.

The grant of \$900,000 from the Queensland Government's Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative is the first instalment of what should eventually total \$2 million to the dairy industry for water efficiency measures over the next three years. The Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative is funded from the budget of the Department of Natural Resources.

#### 1198. Fishing Industry

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (17/10/00)—

With reference to the Government's proposed East Coast Trawl Management plan and the Premier's commitment to provide \$10m to buying back commercial fishing licences—

- (1) Why wasn't a budget allocation made to fund the plan?
- (2) When was he told that the Department of Primary Industries would have to fund it?
- (3) How will the department fund the plan?
- (4) What programs will be cut in order to raise the \$10m?
- (5) Will he detail the terms that allocation of funds to affected trawl fisherpersons will be based on and detail the amounts?
- (6) How many persons will be paid out?
- (7) From where do they currently operate?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

- (1) Funding of the Plan will be through the existing budget allocation to the Department of Primary Industries.
- (2) This decision was reached at the Cabinet Budget Review Committee meeting in May 2000.

(3) The Department will fund the Plan through the provision of accelerated output payments by Treasury which the Department will have to repay over a five year period.

(4) No programs will be cut but savings will be made in a range of areas of the Department progressively over the five year repayment period.

(5) The terms of payments to fishers will be based on confidential tenders submitted by individuals and this offer is open until 10 November 2000. Hence no details are available on the outcome of this process.

(6) No details are available until the tender process is completed.

(7) No details are available until the tender process is completed but individuals from any port on the East Coast of Queensland can submit a tender.

#### 1199. Overseas Students, Accommodation

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Education (17/10/00)—

With reference to concerns which have been raised with my office about the Australian Tax Office allowing single parents to supplement their income by housing short term overseas students in private accommodation, this housing of these students is reported as being classed as a 'hobby' and therefore is non-taxable—

- (1) What institutes act as the 'go-between' between the student and accommodation provider?
- (2) What incentives does this Government offer to overseas students to attend Queensland, Higher and/or Further Education Centres etc.?
- (3) How many students on average attend these centres in Queensland?
- (4) What is the average stay of these students?
- (5) What is the average monetary accommodation costs of these students?

**Mr WELLS** (16/11/00):

(1) A majority of educational institutions universities, and State and non-State schools, English Language and Business Colleges, find accommodation for students as part of the range of services provided to international students. This accommodation ranges from homestays with Australian families, to rental houses and flats, and on-campus residential facilities.

Some private companies also exist who provide accommodation services specifically for overseas students, and their services are used by the TAFE sector, and by private schools and language and business colleges. These companies rent properties that they own themselves, some of which are tailor built for students, and they also keep listings of families interested in taking overseas students.

These companies, as well as institutions themselves, have a vested interest in ensuring that the accommodation services they provide are acceptable in every way to the overseas students concerned. As a consequence, the requirements for being a homestay family are stringent, and the standard of accommodation offered is high.

(2) The Government does not offer any 'incentives' to overseas students to attend education programs in this State.

(3) The Commonwealth Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs' 1999 Overseas Students Statistics stated that there were 10,709 overseas students studying at Queensland universities, 2,473 at vocational education institutions, 2,232 at schools, and 4,480 at English language institutions. This gives a total of 19,894 overseas living in Queensland in 1999. This figure does not include distance education students, nor does it distinguish short-term study from full year study.

(4) No data exists to answer this question accurately. However, students at university and schools are usually enrolled for at least six months, usually a full year, or in the case of universities, up to three years. Students studying at English language colleges and in the vocational sector tend to study for shorter periods of time. Study tours are also likely to be a significant percentage and they rarely exceed two weeks.

(5) If a student is in homestay the average monthly cost will be between \$560-680 depending on the location of the institution, or \$145-170 per week. This covers the students accommodation, all meals, electricity, laundry and cleaning. It also often includes pick up and drop off at the institution. The rate of remuneration for families taking 'homestay' students is considered to be only sufficient to cover the actual cost of having the student.

#### 1200. Police Resources, Noosa District

Mr **DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (17/10/00)—

- (1) At 1 October 2000, how many police officers were assigned to (a) Noosa Heads, (b) Coolum, (c) Eumundi and (d) Cooroy?
- (2) How many civilian staff were assigned to the above police stations at 1 October 2000 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 October 2000?
- (4) How many police officers were rostered on duty at each of the above police stations for the weeks ending 29 September 2000, 6 October 2000 and 13 October 2000?
- (5) How many positions are currently (as of this date) vacant at the following police stations (a) Noosa Heads, (b) Coolum, (c) Cooroy and (d) Eumundi?

Mr **BARTON** (17/11/00):

(1) As at 1 October 2000, Noosa Heads' authorised strength was 29 police officers and the actual strength was 26. Coolum's authorised strength was 8 and the actual strength was 6. Eumundi's authorised strength was 2 and the actual strength was 2. Cooroy's authorised strength was 5 and the actual strength was 3.

(2) As at 1 October 2000, Noosa Heads had 4 full-time administrative officers, Coolum had 1 full-time

administrative officer, Eumundi had no administrative officers and Cooroy had 1 part-time administrative officer.

(3) As at 1 October 2000, Noosa Heads had 2 marked sedans and 1 four-wheel drive. Coolum, Cooroy and Eumundi each had 1 marked police vehicle.

(4) For the week ending 29 September 2000, 20 police officers were rostered on duty at Noosa Heads (inclusive of Noosa Police Beat); 7 officers were rostered at Coolum; 2 officers were rostered at Eumundi and 4 officers were rostered at Cooroy.

For the week ending 6 October 2000, 22 police officers were rostered on duty at Noosa Heads (inclusive of Noosa Police Beat); 7 officers were rostered at Coolum; 2 officers were rostered at Eumundi and 4 officers were rostered at Cooroy

For the week ending 13 October 2000, 17 police officers were rostered on duty at Noosa Heads (inclusive of Noosa Police Beat); 6 officers were rostered at Coolum; 2 officers were rostered at Eumundi and 4 officers were rostered at Cooroy.

(5) As at 26 October 2000, Noosa Heads had 1 vacancy; Coolum had 2 vacancies; Cooroy had 1 vacancy and Eumundi had no vacancies.

#### 1201. Appropriation Statement; State Development and Trade Department

Mr **SLACK** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (17/10/00)—

With reference to the Treasurer's Appropriation Statement 1999-2000, tabled on 13 October 2000, which shows that of the total of \$29,274,000 received by Treasury from the Department of State Development and Trade in 1999-2000, 97.4 per cent (\$28,496,000) was paid over in the quarter ended 30 June 2000—

- (1) Will he give details of what is unique in the circumstances and/or administration of this department that caused it to demonstrate a payment schedule so completely different from the program of staged payments for total collections representing administered revenue and equity return revenue effected by other departments?
- (2) Will he provide for the information of the House, a detailed breakdown of the components of the full amount paid to Treasury in 1999-2000?

Mr **ELDER** (17/11/00):

(1) The principal reason for the unique payment schedule of the Department in the last quarter of the 1999-2000 year is the \$28,000,000 contribution made to the Consolidated Fund by the Estates Construction Fund. This payment was budgeted for and made in the last quarter of the 1999-2000 financial year. The remaining \$496,000 relates principally to the Departments Quarterly Equity Return payment of \$100,000 and the remittance of \$357,000 received from the Queensland Centre for Advance Technology (QCAT). Again both amounts were budgeted for and remitted in the last quarter.

(2) The payment of \$29,274,000 represents the mechanism whereby the Department remits funds collected on behalf of Government to the Consolidated Fund. The principal amounts in the 1999-2000 financial year are as follows:

- \$28,000,000 transfer from the Estates Construction Fund
- \$878,000 Equity Return Revenue
- \$357,000 payment from the Queensland Centre for Advanced Technology (QCAT)
- \$39,000 other minor collections on behalf of the State Government.

#### 1202. State Emergency Service, Review

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/10/00)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 860 dealing with a funding review conducted by the Department of Emergency Services—

- (1) Given that the report supposedly resulted in major funding initiatives in this financial year's budget, why was the report presented to Cabinet more than two months after the State Budget was presented to Parliament?
- (2) Why did he mislead the Parliament by pretending or inferring during the Estimates Debate that the document may be made public?
- (3) Given the lengthy process required for a document to be finally presented to Cabinet, will he provide details of dates on which the document followed the prescribed Cabinet process?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (23/11/00):

- (1) The report was presented for consideration at least 2 months prior to the State Budget being presented to Parliament.
- (2) The report is a Cabinet document and is subject to the normal requirements of Cabinet confidentiality and is not a public document at this point in time.
- (3) Refer (1).

#### 1203. Sudaw Developments

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (17/10/00)—

With reference to his comments during Parliamentary Estimates Committee "E" in which he stated that the Government was deciding whether to again extend the mandate for Sudaw Developments on the Surat Basin rail and port infrastructure project—

- (1) Has the Government renewed or extended the Memorandum of Understanding with Sudaw Developments; if so, for what length of time does this arrangement extend and have clear objectives been set for the progression of this project during that time and what are these objectives?
- (2) If a Memorandum of Understanding has not been renewed, has any other formal or informal

arrangement been entered into with this company and what are the terms of this agreement?

**Mr ELDER** (17/11/00):

(1) At this time the Government has made no decision on SUDAW Development's proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding.

(2) In regard to the Surat Basin rail and port infrastructure project, no other formal or informal agreement has been entered into by the Government with SUDAW Developments Ltd.

#### 1204. Yeppoon, Hospital

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Health (17/10/00)—

- (1) When will plans be drawn up to build a new up to date hospital at Yeppoon?
- (2) Is the building of a new hospital at Yeppoon on the 10 year forward plan; if not, why not, in view of the fact that the Capricorn Coast is now the 8th fastest growing area in Australia and 3rd fastest in Queensland?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/11/00):

(1) See (2).

(2) No. Because commitments given by the previous Coalition Government did not include Yeppoon, but committed the Queensland Health Capital Works Program until 2005.

There is no record of any representation from the local Member raising this issue with the previous Coalition Government. His current representations would appear therefore to be politically motivated.

#### 1205. Criminal Offence Statistics

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (17/10/00)—

Will he detail the following crime statistics (a) offences against the person 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and (b) clear up rates for offences against the person 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

**Mr BARTON** (16/11/00): The information you have requested is contained in the 1999/00 Police Annual Report and Statistical Review.

#### 1206. Ayr, Train Derailment

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/10/00)—

With reference to the derailment of 37 rail wagons south of Ayr earlier this month—

- (1) Was the condition of the track a factor in this incident?
- (2) Is this section of track to be used by the high speed tilt train?
- (3) What additional safety facilities will be in place in this area when the tilt train commences services?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/11/00):

(1) The cause of this derailment was a combination of factors. The track had recently been re-laid on the Burdekin River Bridge as part of the Upgrade Project to improve conditions on the North Coast Line.

With the advent of the warmer weather in October, the rail on the bridge expanded and created a buckle, which caused the derailment.

The procedures for anchoring rail to better manage this expansion and prevent a recurrence are under review with maintenance staff.

(2) Yes.

(3) Prior to operation of the tilt train, the 41 kg rail in this area will have been replaced with new 60 kg rail as part of the present Rockhampton to Townsville Track Renewal Project.

**1207. National Standard Sport Facilities Program; Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (17/10/00)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No 1 to the Estimates Committee dealing with the allocation of funds through the 2000-2002 National Standard Sport Facilities Program and the 2001 Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program and given that both funding programs closed on 9 June 2000—

- (1) Will he table the list of projects funded under each of these programs?
- (2) Why was the instruction given that any release of this information on these funding programs could only be made through a direct request to the Minister's Office?
- (3) Why were details of some projects selectively released while others were apparently not available to the public?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (16/11/00):

(1) The attached table lists the projects approved under the National Standard Sport Facilities Program 2000-02 and the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program 2001.

(2) The Parliamentary Library was advised that if the Member required this information, he should request it of me. This is in line with established protocols that Member's requests for information should be made to the relevant Minister—not through the Parliamentary Library to officers of the Department.

Furthermore, I do not believe it is appropriate for Members to use the Parliamentary Library staff for such purposes, when there are established avenues—such as through questions on notice and by direct request to my office—to obtain such information.

(3) The list of approved projects has always been available to the public on request.

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

**1208. Innisfail District Health Service**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (17/10/00)—

What was the valuation of the assets base of all Innisfail District Health Service's facilities and equipment for the purposes of calculating equity return payments for 1999-2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/11/00): As the Honourable Member would be aware, the concept of the equity return was introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget. Under the scheme, the State Budget provides Departments with an amount equivalent to 6% of their net assets. Departments are then entitled to retain or return this money, depending on the management of their assets.

Because Departments are provided with the money to fund the equity return, they have the opportunity to improve their asset management practices and retain the saving in equity return for application to increased service delivery. Should a Department take no action whatsoever in relation to its asset base, then the result is no change in their base budget.

This contrasts sharply with the capital tax introduced by the Coalition government which required Queensland Health to meet interest charges on loan funds for the capital works program from internal savings which could otherwise have been applied to increased service delivery.

The equity return for 1999-2000 for the Innisfail Health Service District was calculated on \$16.3 million.

**1209. Parents Place, Loganholme Hyperdome**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/10/00)—

With reference to the facility known as Parents Place that was conducted at the Loganholme Hyperdome—

- (1) What number of staff were employed there when it was fully operational?
- (2) How many clients came to the facility in the 12 month periods ended 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2000?
- (3) What revenue was generated by sales from Parents Place in the same periods?
- (4) What are the details of the cost of providing the facility and its services during each of those two financial years?
- (5) What period of the lease did the department forgo by closing the facility?
- (6) What were the details of total costs associated with the closure of Parents Place?

**Ms BLIGH** (16/11/00):

(1) Three full time equivalents.

(2) In the 12 month period ending 30 June 1999, there were 22,916 visitors with, on average, 48% being provided a specific service which equates to 10,999 customers. In the 12 month period ending 30

June 2000, there were 22,846 visitors with, on average, 44% being provided with a specific service which equates to 10,052 customers.

(3) In the 12 month period ending 30 June 1999, there were 1,530 sales providing revenue of \$22,239. In the 12 month period ending 30 June 2000, there were 1,923 sales providing revenue of \$15,242.

(4) \$286,355 in 1998-99 financial year and \$318,033 in 1999-2000 financial year.

(5) 18 months.

(6) \$115,959.20. This comprises the surrender payment for the cost of the lease and associated legal fees necessitated by the refusal of Centre Management and Co-owners of the Logan Hyperdome to consider alternative services utilising the shopfront.

#### 1210. Teacher Resources

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (17/10/00)—

What were the estimated FTE staffing levels for all teachers by education output (eg. pre-school, primary, secondary, special, distance, others) and district, at 31 August 2000 (please include TRS numbers, teachers being paid from both State and Commonwealth funding sources and long service leave numbers)?

**Mr WELLS** (16/11/00): The department informs me that the following notes have been provided in relation to understanding the information provided on teacher full-time equivalents (FTEs)

(1) The estimated FTE staffing levels provided below are point-in-time counts of teachers paid via the department's Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) for the payment fortnight ending Sunday 27 August 2000.

(2) The estimated FTE staffing levels provided as at 31 July 2000 were point-in-time counts of teachers paid via the department's HRMIS for the payment fortnight ending Sunday 30 July 2000.

(3) Comparisons of point-in-time data on the number of teachers paid must recognise the impact of a range of factors. These factors include variations in the levels of temporary and casual employment and payment, variations in the number of teachers on paid leave, and the impact of school vacation periods on both employment trends and payment processing.

(4) The estimated count as at 27 August 2000 reflects an increase in the estimated count as at 30 July 2000 to the extent of 1,037 FTEs. The point-in-time count of permanent and temporary teachers in fact decreased by 168 FTEs, while the count of TRS casual teachers increased by 1,205 FTEs and the central office count decreased by 6 FTEs. This is due to the timing of the count, in that the count was taken during the middle of Term 3 where TRS casual teachers claims for payment were increasing.

(5) The teacher numbers provided include a count of casual TRS teachers, teachers being paid from both State and Commonwealth funding sources and long service leave numbers.

(6) The teacher numbers for Special Needs include teachers of students with disabilities and schools of distance education.

(7) The teacher numbers for Central Office represent teachers performing statewide services.

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

#### 1211. Appropriation Statement; State Development and Trade Department

**Mr GOSS** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (17/10/00)—

With reference to the Treasurer's Appropriation Statement 1999-2000, tabled on 13 October 2000 and noting that appropriation payments are made to departments in fortnightly instalments based on a department's vote and that where a department did not require its total vote in 1999-2000, it was necessary to adjust appropriation payments in the final quarter—

(1) What precise circumstances created the Treasury requirement for a \$13,915,000 final quarter negative adjustment for the department in 1999-2000?

(2) What elements of departmental outputs required a negative adjustment, within the total figure specified above, of \$5,848,000?

(3) What elements of the department's requirement to make an equity return resulted in a requirement for a negative adjustment of \$2,197,000 in the final quarter of 1999-2000?

(4) What elements of the department's administered items required a negative adjustment of \$5,870,000 in the final quarter of 1999-2000?

**Mr ELDER** (17/11/00):

(1) The adjustment of \$13,915,000 in the final quarter of the 1999-2000 financial year represents the management of the Department's cash in line with the end of year closure requirements of Queensland Treasury. The return of cash represents the difference between that already forwarded to the Department by Queensland Treasury and that actually required by the Department. The cash is provided in three parts: cash for the Departmental Outputs, cash for Equity Adjustments and cash for projects Administered by the Department on behalf of Government. Surplus cash is therefore returned in three discrete parts.

(2) The adjustment of \$5,848,000 represents the management of the Department's cash and the repayment to Queensland Treasury of cash received by the Department for activities committed but where the actual expenditure will not occur until future periods. This repayment is in line with the end of year cash management process adopted by Queensland Treasury in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

(3) The adjustment of \$2,197,000 represents the management of cash associated with the Department's equity withdrawal/injection. The

\$2,197,000 is comprised of two components, these are:

Within the Department's cash appropriation is funding for Depreciation to allow for the replacement of general Departmental assets. In the 1999-2000 financial year the funding for Depreciation exceeded the allocated capital budget by \$1,197,000. Therefore, the Department is required to return cash of \$1,197,000 in accordance with the Managing for Outcomes framework.

The second component of the \$2,197,000 was project specific funding of \$1,000,000. This committed project was rescheduled to commence in the 2000-2001 financial year hence the cash remitted by Queensland Treasury was returned.

This is also in line with end of year cash management processes adopted by Queensland Treasury in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

(4) The adjustment of \$5,870,000 again represents the management of the Department's cash associated with projects Administered by the Department on behalf of Government. The committed project to which this relates had cash appropriated of \$8,000,000 for the first three quarters of the 1999-2000 financial year. Delays on the project required that only \$2,130,000 was needed in the 1999-2000 financial year hence the return of \$5,870,000 to Queensland Treasury.

#### **1212. Training Provider Registration; Central Queensland TAFE Institute**

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/10/00)—

- (1) Will he indicate for the current year to date, how many TAFE institutes have had their registration as training providers either (a) threatened with withdrawal subsequent to detrimental audit finds or (b) withdrawn, as a consequence of detrimental audit findings (in each instance will he indicate the training area deregistered or threatened with deregistration (e.g. automotive, business studies, engineering) and the nature of the adverse audit finding (e.g. inadequate physical resources, insufficiently qualified staff, contractual non-compliance)?
- (2) How many of the affected institutes are or have been reliant on administrative processes being conducted through Central Queensland Institute of TAFE?
- (3) Will he advise how those administrative processes operate?

**Mr BRADY** (16/11/00):

- (1) No TAFE Queensland Institute has had to respond to show cause action which could lead to the cancellation of their registration.

As a result of the identification of non-compliance in the areas of User Choice requirements and the Australian Recognition Framework, Mount Isa Institute of TAFE currently does not deliver Engineering under the User Choice program.

An integrated audit in the Vocational Training Areas of Engineering and Business at the Bremer Institute of TAFE identified areas of non-compliance in the delivery of the User Choice Program and the Australian Recognition Framework. As a result of these findings sanctions were placed on the Institute, in that it is not allowed to sign up new trainees in either Engineering or Business until there is rectification of the areas of non-compliance. A rectification process is currently occurring to address these areas of non-compliance.

(2) Neither Mt Isa Institute of TAFE nor Bremer Institute of TAFE are reliant on Central Queensland Institute of TAFE's administrative processes.

(3) Apprentices and trainees undertaking training through Central Queensland Institute of TAFE are administered through this organisation's User Choice systems and procedures. However some staff from both the Mt Isa Institute of TAFE and the Bremer Institute of TAFE assist in this process. The training is delivered at both the Mt Isa Institute and the Bremer Institute campuses.

#### **1213. Public Hospital Waiting Lists**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Health (18/10/00)—

With reference to the lengthening waiting list for surgery at regional hospitals—

- (1) What, if any, communication systems exist between the regional hospitals and major city hospitals regarding their respective waiting lists?
- (2) If no communications exist between the hospitals, is her department investigating ways to establish such communications so that waiting lists at some regional hospitals can be reduced?
- (3) Why has a patient with severe osteoarthritis of the knee been told he won't receive replacement knee surgery for at least 18 months to two years at the Toowoomba General Hospital but on approaching a major hospital in Brisbane, will now be operated on in less than two months?
- (4) Are the longer waiting lists at regional hospitals due to a lack of funding at these hospitals compared with the major city hospitals?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/11/00):

- (1) An extensive consultation strategy has been implemented to promote and support the success of my Government's Waiting List Reduction Strategy.

Firstly, Elective Surgery Coordinator and Liaison Officer positions have been established within 35 Queensland public hospitals to provide a dedicated operational arm to the Strategy. A very comprehensive communication network has been developed across these 35 sites through these positions. Elective Surgery Coordinators from 13 Queensland hospitals meet with the Surgical Access Team on a monthly basis to support and develop preferred practice in waiting list management and to develop and implement strategies to enhance

elective surgery services at hospital and statewide level. Elective Surgery Coordinators maintain contact with Liaison Officers and meet as a combined group once a year.

Secondly, the Medical Superintendents Advisory Committee meets on a monthly basis to provide operational support and feedback on the Waiting List Reduction Strategy. Representation on this committee is from regional and metropolitan hospitals.

Finally, the Guidelines for the Management of Waiting Lists have been formulated and distributed to be a working document for clinicians and other staff involved with the day to day management of waiting lists. This provides a consistent approach to the management of waiting lists across the State.

(2) See (1).

(3) Waiting lists are managed so that patients are treated according to clinical need. Certainly some hospitals report longer waiting times in some specialties than others. One element of the Waiting List Reduction Strategy is to promote the transfer of patients to even out waiting lists between facilities. Under Labor, waiting list information is published quarterly and is available on the Queensland Health Internet site. This information is also distributed to Medical Practitioners. General Practitioners and Specialists within Public Hospitals can now review current waiting times within specialties and, where appropriate, instigate processes to transfer patients to another hospital for assessment and appropriate care.

There are 7 orthopaedic surgeons working at the Toowoomba Hospital with 8 allocated theatre sessions per week. Patients are allocated a clinical urgency category based on clinical need.

(4) As a general rule, the waiting lists at regional hospitals are not longer than the major city hospitals. Where some hospitals report longer waiting times in some specialties than others, this mainly relates to availability of specialists. Under Labor, all Health Service Districts have received consecutive record budgets. This is more a case of the availability of specialists rather than a lack of funding.

It should be noted that the larger hospitals including major metropolitan hospitals are the major referral centres for complex medical and surgical conditions across Queensland. A funding strategy that I have instituted as part of the Waiting List Reduction Strategy is that dedicated funds will be available to assist with the demand for complex procedures.

#### 1214. Whale Watching; Sunlover Holidays

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (18/10/00)—

With reference to the written reply from her dated 4 April 2000 answering a letter dated 20 March 2000 from George Falconer, President of the Whale Watch Industry Association of Hervey Bay, relating to concerns about the manner in which tourism in Queensland is developing—

(1) As Sunlover Holidays, the sale and marketing arm of Tourism Queensland, actively promotes

products on behalf of 760 operators throughout the State, the reply stating that this was approximately 75 per cent of the operators in the State, although precise numbers are unknown, the industry estimates it to be in excess of 4,000 operators, will she provide details of the actual amount of operators (accommodation, attractions, fun parks, cruises, car hire, coach transfers, day tours etc) in Queensland?

(2) As Sunlover has refused products into their program because they already carry a number of similar products and Queensland Government Travel Centres now only carry Sunlover products and refuse to accept and distribute brochures outside that product range, will she explain whose decision it is to be included in the Sunlover product range and why such a large number of operators should be excluded from any exposure through the Queensland Government Travel Centres, which also promote themselves as the Queensland holiday experts?

(3) As Sunlover cannot earn sufficient net commission to cover the cost of generating a \$400 booking, yet commission paid for a whale watch booking is a minimum of 25 per cent or \$100 for a \$400 booking, is she aware that by demanding such a high commission, the retail price has to be increased by 33-1/3 per cent and that these artificially inflated prices are severely damaging the affordability of whale watching, as well as all other tourism products?

**Mrs ROSE (17/11/00):**

(1) As I outlined in my original response, precise numbers of operators throughout the State are not known.

(2) The Queensland Travel Centres do not only carry Sunlover products.

(3) Sunlover is one of a number of wholesalers. It does not determine industry-norm commissions but must be in a position to match its competition in negotiating "preferred" agreements with important retail chain partners. I am advised Sunlover's commissions are no greater—and in several instances less—than other major wholesalers. Of the 25% commission received, commissions paid to retail travel agents range from 10-12% plus overrides and marketing contributions, as applicable. The balance meets the costs of reservations staff, telecommunications, the Atlas reservations system charges, brochure production etc.

#### 1215. Fuel Subsidy

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Premier (18/10/00)—

(1) Does he realise that with the sudden introduction of the welcome fuel subsidy, the following consequences are occurring (a) farmers, civil engineers, and certain contractors, such as those involved in earth moving and mining, with trucks or registered tractors which spend time on-road and off-road, who wish to abide by the rules will be forced to have two



bulk fuel tanks, or to keep detailed log books; the use of log books will be very difficult as for some farmers and contractors one short trip can involve travel on and off road, (b) fuel depots will have to run two accounts for each such customer who has off-road and on-road tractors and vehicles, (c) fuel distributors now have to wait until their primary producing, and contracting customers, pay for their on road fuel before they can claim; this additional delay will increase the distributors' need for working capital substantially and (d) the limiting of purchasing to 2,000 litres within any 24 hours is inconvenient to large pleasure craft and certain long distance water taxis, as their on board tanks usually hold well over 2,000 litres?

- (2) Does he have constructive suggestions and actions concerning how to overcome these problems and thus facilitate the correct use of his Government's well intentioned subsidy?

**Mr BEATTIE** (17/11/00):

(1) The new fuel subsidy scheme was developed in close consultation with the Fuel Taskforce, which included representatives of key fuel users groups such as primary producers, truck and bus operators, and marine users. The changes to the scheme are necessary to ensure the continued viability of Queensland's unique fuel subsidy arrangements.

The new arrangements mean that fuel sellers will sell all fuel to bulk end users at the unsubsidised price and bulk end users will then claim the subsidy directly from the Office of State Revenue. As a result, there are no adverse cash flow effects for distributors, with any decision they make to defer the collection of amounts owing from customers being a commercial one.

Licencees such as bulk end users have always been required to keep records to demonstrate their entitlement to the fuel subsidy and these obligations will continue to ensure that eligibility under the new scheme can be properly determined. For many bulk end users who also claim the Commonwealth diesel fuel rebate, they would already be keeping records which distinguish their on-road and off-road diesel use. Similarly, bulk end users would be keeping records if they are claiming under the Commonwealth's on-road diesel scheme.

There are no Queensland fuel subsidies payable for off-road diesel use following the Commonwealth's assumption of full responsibility for off-road diesel users on 1 July 2000. The Commonwealth assumed responsibility for diesel fuel subsidies for commercial boat operators, including water taxis. A Queensland fuel subsidy is payable for marine diesel only in limited cases, when diesel is purchased by recreational boat owners from a marina in quantities of up to 2,000 litres. Once again, limits had to be imposed to minimise the potential for abuse, but this is the same amount that all on-road vehicle operators may claim and ensures that private boat owners benefit regardless of where they buy their fuel.

(2) A public information and education campaign is being undertaken by the Office of State Revenue to assist industry to implement the new arrangements.

#### **1216. Coominya Waste Facility**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/10/00)—

With reference to a garbage disposal dump at Coominya in the Esk Shire—

- (1) Is this rubbish dump being considered as a Hazchem dumping facility; if so, what environmental impact study has been carried out on the area impacted upon by this garbage dump?
- (2) Is there any proposal to have hazardous material conveyed from Willawong to this facility at Coominya?

**Mr WELFORD** (15/11/00):

(1) The Esk Shire Council holds an Environmental Protection Act 1994 licence (SR960) that includes provisions for regulated (not Hazchem) waste storage at Wills Road, Coominya. Esk Shire Council advise that the proposed storage facility is currently not operational. It and the adjacent former landfill are not approved for any landfill disposal or "dumping" of contaminants to land.

(2) My Environmental Protection Agency is not aware of any proposal to convey regulated (or hazardous) material from Willawong to the Coominya facility at Wills Road.

#### **1217. Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (18/10/00)—

With reference to the Government's \$57.7m raid on the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority's (QRAA) reserves in the last budget, leaving it only \$2.3m to operate on—

- (1) Has the QRAA sought any additional funding from Treasury; if so, has the funding been provided?
- (2) What amount was provided to the end of September?
- (3) Will he provide a comparison of loans and support offered so far this financial year to the previous five years?
- (4) Is there any intention by the QRAA to increase interest rates on loans offered?
- (5) What changes have been made to restructure the QRAA with the transition to the Primary Industries portfolio?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

(1) The claim is false.

QRAA is now funded from consolidated revenue and budgets are in place for the 2000/01 financial year, with loans totalling \$35 million and grants of \$18 million, which is more than comparable with previous years.

(2) To the end of September 2000, QRAA has received \$9,652,000 in funding for the current financial year.

(3) Loans and grants provided in the period 1 July 2000 to 30 September 2000 are more than comparable with those of past years. However, it has to be understood that the Federal Government's Rural Adjustment Scheme has closed and assistance provided during the past 4 years has impacted considerably on the comparison of grants provided (see table below).

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

(4) QRAA has an interest rate policy, and rates are reviewed annually. Decisions on interest rates are made by the QRAA Board, without reference to me.

All loans administered by QRAA are subject to annual review.

(5) Since QRAA has come under my portfolio responsibility, I have asked the Authority and its Board to investigate ways of establishing a greater regional presence. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that QRAA is to establish 3 regional offices to better service the needs of rural business.

These regional offices, which are QRAA's first, will be established at Innisfail, Mackay and Kingaroy.

It is my intention, as Minister, to build a strong regional network for QRAA and to establish further offices outside Brisbane.

## 1218. Drought Declarations

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (18/10/00)—

With reference to drought declarations and the requirements that an individual property be declared drought stricken and thus eligible for certain benefits and that the local drought committee must meet regularly in times of low rainfall such as at present and instruct the local Queensland Department of Primary Industries stock inspector to investigate, however, the procedure for whole shires to be declared "droughted" needs clarification and streamlining and as the drought committees for shires in the Burnett and South Burnett regions have met twice recently and subsequently moved to have their shires declared "drought stricken" but were then told that not enough individual farmers had applied for IDPs—

- (1) Are the local drought committees carefully chosen for their local knowledge?
- (2) Are the local stock inspectors able to read the signals being sent by nature, ie, intensive and extensive leaf drop from drought resistant trees such as Eucalyptus?
- (3) Why must the affected farmers go without the benefits whilst certain rigid bureaucratic requirements are fulfilled?
- (4) Why aren't the genuine concerns of experienced locals and environmentally sensitive stock inspectors being heeded?
- (5) Does he have any substantive plans to streamline this process?
- (6) Will he share those plans and thus requirements with the farming and grazing communities?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

(1) Local Drought Committees (LDCs) were established to assist Stock Inspectors with Individual Droughted Property (IDPS) assessments and make recommendations to me on shire declarations and revocations. LDCs are comprised of representatives from the various industry organisations together with relevant Department of Primary Industries (DPI) personnel. Industry members are nominated by their respective Industry associations. The LDC process is an integral component of the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) and industry associations strongly support the partnership between DPI and the other representatives on the committee.

(2) Stock Inspectors are professionals with wide experience and I have full confidence in their ability to assess seasonal conditions. LDCs consist of DPI staff and local industry representatives and also bring together relevant local expertise representing the different agricultural activities performed in the area.

(3) Primary producers who consider they are experiencing drought conditions are encouraged to apply for an IDPS. Declarations depend on the producer demonstrating that their property meets a number of criteria including:

The current rainfall deficiency is equivalent to a one in ten to fifteen year event. The assessment compares actual recorded rainfall during the previous twelve months to historical data and considers the effectiveness of rainfall;

Amount of and condition of remnant pasture;

Number of livestock sold or sent to agistment above normal turn-off;

Availability of surface and underground water supplies;

Level of drought feeding being undertaken; and

Condition of livestock

I believe that primary producers who receive direct financial assistance from the public purse should be required to demonstrate a need for that assistance. In the past there have been some cases of fraudulent claims made by some primary producers. DPI officers charged with the implementation of the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) have a responsibility to ensure, where possible, that fraudulent claims are identified.

(4) I ultimately approve shire drought declarations and revocations and do so on the recommendations of the respective LDC. These recommendations have been considered by the Department. LDCs consider local advice where it is relevant. However, recommendations are made by the members of the LDC.

(5) The 1997 Review of LDCs made a number of recommendations with respect to the function and responsibilities of LDCs. These recommendations have industry support and have been implemented. The process to apply for an IDPS is already streamlined. Producers who consider their properties are drought stricken answer eight questions on a two page form.

(6) A Primary Producers Information Booklet on DRAS setting out the objectives of the scheme, property declarations and revocations and general information on freight subsidies, stock returning from agistment, restocking and transport of water is available from all DPI offices. Information regarding drought assistance is also freely available from specialist officers within the DPI by telephoning the DPI call centre.

#### 1219. Forde Inquiry; Victims of Child Abuse

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (18/10/00)—

With reference to the recommendations of the Forde Inquiry into Child Abuse in Queensland—

- (1) Is she aware that at least four victims of institutional child abuse in Queensland who provided evidence to the Forde Inquiry have, since the first anniversary of the release of that report on the inquiry, either attempted or committed suicide?
- (2) Does she agree that this state of affairs is directly related to the delay in implementing the Forde Inquiry recommendations to their full extent and in a prompt and effective manner bearing in mind the psychological condition of those awaiting the implementation?
- (3) What action does she propose to take to ensure that this level of attempted suicide by child abuse victims mentioned in the inquiry is greatly reduced if not completely eliminated?

**Ms BLIGH** (17/11/00):

(1) I am aware that the Forde Inquiry showed that the experience of mistreatment and neglect for former child residents of Queensland institutions has resulted in many cases of irreparable damage. An awful reality is that a large number of former residents have battled with suicidal thoughts from a very young age. Former residents have told me of their peers committing suicide prior to the Inquiry because they were not able to discuss their experiences of abuse as they felt they would not be believed. The Inquiry has enabled a great number of people to access help.

(2) No, satisfactory progress has been made in the implementation of the Recommendations to date.

(3) The Government has demonstrated a firm commitment to supporting former child residents through the process of the Forde Inquiry and subsequent implementation of recommendations. Throughout the duration of the Inquiry skilled counsellors were available to support witnesses with the experience of reliving childhood trauma. Following the Inquiry, the Government funded Aftercare Resource Centre to provide specialised counselling and support services for former child residents. In addition to this, the Government funds the Esther Trust, a support and advocacy service for people who have experienced institutional abuse.

The Department is committed to working with former residents and service providers to seek solutions to issues, including suicide and self-harm, that impact

on the group. Currently the delivery of services for former residents is being reviewed. The input of former child residents has been and will continue to be sought in the review and ongoing development of an integrated service network.

#### 1220. Drivers Licences

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/10/00)—

- (1) How many Queensland residents currently hold drivers licences for the following categories (a) national heavy vehicle licences, (b) taxi, (c) limousine, (d) bus and (e) tow trucks?
- (2) What is the total number of current licences of all categories including car and motor cycles?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/11/00):

(1a) As at 30 September 2000 there were 332,386 national heavy vehicle licences,

(1b) As at 7 October 2000 there were 12,516 Driver Authorisations for Taxi class,

(1c) As at 7 October 2000 there were 7,221 Driver Authorisations for Limousine class,

(1d) As at 7 October 2000 there was a total of 68,723 Driver Authorisations for bus classes. Bus driver authorisations are issued in two categories, Schedule Bus 35,458 and General Bus 33,265,

(1e) As at 24 October 2000 there were 814 Tow Truck Driver Certificates and 74 Tow Truck Assistants Certificates.

(2) As at 30 September 2000 there were a total of 2,276,395 current driver licences issued.

Please note that a licensee can hold more than one class of licence, therefore the number of licences issued will not equal the number of licence classes issued.

#### 1221. Burdekin River Irrigation Area, Water Charges

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/10/00)—

With reference to the decision of Burdekin River Irrigation Area (BRIA) irrigators to withhold part of their water payments to Sunwater in protest over his department's newly gazetted water charges—

(1) Given water charges for these farmers remain well above and beyond the cost of recovery, does he still believe National Competition Policy is beneficial to farmers?

(2) Is he prepared to reduce the water fees for BRIA irrigators who are sick and tired of their hard earned gains in on-farm efficiencies being undermined by such Government endorsed cash grabs?

**Mr WELFORD** (15/11/00):

(1) The National and Liberal Parties actually believe National Competition Policy is good for the farmers, but water pricing is not driven by National Competition Policy. The water pricing reform agenda

is beneficial to farmers for several reasons. The water pricing reforms provide a significant opportunity to redress past imbalances in how assistance is provided to particular communities and achieve more equitable outcomes. Irrigation schemes will be provided with a more financially sustainable future avoiding the need for taxpayer assistance for infrastructure upkeep. This will enable the Government to pursue other forms of regional assistance while ensuring the sustainability of irrigation infrastructure. Pricing in the Burdekin River Irrigation Area is still well below commercially realistic price levels, and was reduced from \$39 to \$36 per megalitre this year.

(2) Irrigators in the Burdekin scheme have been involved in consultation with my Department of Natural Resources since March 1999 in the development of five-year price paths for rural irrigation water in the scheme. As a result of consultation, all justifiable concerns of the irrigators have been accounted for in the development of the price paths. Substantial opportunities exist for further on farm efficiencies to reduce the aggregate water bill to Burdekin River Irrigation Area irrigators.

Efficiency cost savings of almost \$12.5 million have been identified and passed on to irrigators through their price paths. The forecast sale of new water allocations in the area, in addition to the cost savings means that Burdekin channel irrigators who use all of their allocation can expect to receive an overall real total price decrease of \$4.70 per megalitre by approximately 2004/05 and river irrigators who use all of their allocation will receive a real decrease of 70 cents per megalitre over the same period.

The taxpayer is continuing to subsidise the difference between revenues received and costs incurred Statewide, as a Community Service Obligation. If water prices were to be reduced even more, this would increase the level of subsidy and thus reduce potential to pursue other regional development programs.

#### 1222. Diesel Fuel Rebate

**Mr NELSON** asked the Treasurer (18/10/00)—

With reference to the diesel fuel rebate in the current crisis of petrol in Queensland—

- (1) Is he aware of the current confusion and frustration caused by the rebate being applied in what some consider an ad hoc manner?
- (2) Why is it that small business operators are being disadvantaged in some instances because they do road repair with heavy machinery like backhoes and road rollers yet they are considered as off-road vehicles?
- (3) What is his Government doing to help rural and regional people through the current crisis of high fuel prices in Queensland?

**Mr HAMILL** (17/11/00):

(1) The Queensland subsidy is not being applied in an ad hoc manner and is available to all on-road users. Any confusion relates to the Commonwealth schemes.

The Commonwealth assumed responsibility for off-road users of diesel from 1 July 2000. To fund its new off-road diesel scheme, the Commonwealth reduced fuel subsidy payments to Queensland by \$175 million. Queensland's off-road diesel scheme ceased at that time as a result.

For reasons which only the Commonwealth can explain, the Commonwealth's scheme does not extend to certain industry groups, in particular construction, which were previously entitled to State off-road diesel subsidies.

In addition, the Commonwealth operates an on-road scheme which is only available for vehicles over a certain size, and depends on whether the journey is in a metropolitan or non metropolitan area.

(2) Diesel is classified as being used on-road if it is being used to propel a diesel engine road vehicle on a public road. The Queensland scheme extends only to on-road diesel as the Commonwealth is now solely responsible for off-road diesel rebates. The Commonwealth should address the difficulties being faced by the construction industry by reviewing its exclusion from the Commonwealth's off-road diesel rebate scheme.

(3) The Queensland Government's unique 8.354 cent per litre on-road fuel subsidy is not available or replicated in any other State or Territory.

#### 1223. Director (Policy) Department of the Premier and Cabinet

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Premier (18/10/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Government Gazette No. 15 of Friday, 15 September 2000—

(1) Why was the following directive issued  
"DIRECTIVE: Section 5.2 of Directive No. 29/99-Senior Executives and Senior Officers-Employment Conditions does not apply to the senior executive service role of Director (Policy) Department of the Premier and Cabinet."?

(2) (a) Is this position of Director (Policy) a contract position, (b) when was the contract due to expire, (c) why is this contract being varied (according to Schedule 1 on the same page of the Gazette) by being increased for a term of two years and (d) is this increase in remuneration in addition to any performance bonus paid to the incumbent?

**Mr BEATTIE** (17/11/00):

(1) The Directive was issued by the Acting Public Service Commissioner to exempt the Director (Policy) position from section 5.2 of Directive No. 29/99 "Senior Executives and Senior Officers-Employment Conditions". Section 5.2 states that the classification and work range of the position will be assessed according to the work value of the role by using a job evaluation methodology approved by the Public Service Commissioner.

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) (c) and (d) This is a new role. Therefore, no contract is being varied, and there is no increase in remuneration.

**1224. Capricorn Coast, Counselling Services**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (18/10/00)—

What is the latest progress in providing adequate counselling services to the Capricorn Coast in view of the chronic shortage of such people for this fast growing area, eighth fastest in Australia and third fastest in Queensland?

**Ms BLIGH** (17/11/00): I recently met with the Mayor and Councillor Rial of Livingstone Shire Council regarding the issue of counselling on the Capricorn Coast. The Regional Director, Central Queensland also met with the Mayor, Councillor Rial and supporting staff of the Livingstone Shire Council. An outcome of that meeting is that Livingstone Shire Council will take a lead role in formulating an action plan to involve relevant government and non-government agencies to address this matter.

Currently, there is a full time counsellor, funded by Queensland Health, operating from the Community Health Centre at Yeppoon. There are also outreach services funded by Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland that are based in Rockhampton, such as Lifeline and Anglicare, which provide counselling services on the Capricorn Coast.

I have written to the Honourable Wendy Edmond MP, Minister for Health, notifying her of the issues surrounding counselling on the Capricorn Coast, as Queensland Health has responsibility for funding general counselling services through its hospitals and community health programs. I have requested that Minister Edmond consider the issues raised by the Honourable Member and respond directly to him.

Officers from this Department continue to meet with a variety of interagencies, established community committees, including the Community Counselling Committee for addressing counselling needs on the Capricorn Coast, and members of funded organisations to provide support and resources in relation to meeting the counselling need of residents of Central Queensland.

The Department will also continue to work collaboratively with other Departments to look at the possibility of applying a cross-government approach to this area of need.

**1225. Disadvantaged Communities**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (18/10/00)—

With reference to the location criterion, "Percentage of Community Grants allocated to the lowest 20% of socio-economically disadvantaged areas" appearing in the Output Statement on p. 1-17 of this financial year's Ministerial Portfolio Statements—

- (1) Will she provide details of the areas of Queensland she has designated as "the lowest 20% of socio-economically disadvantaged areas" and the amount of funding allocated to

each of these areas compared to other parts of the State?

- (2) On what basis were these areas chosen as being socio-economically disadvantaged"?

**Ms BLIGH** (17/11/00): I have not designated areas of Queensland as socioeconomically disadvantaged. This information is from the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage which is compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The Index from the Australian Bureau of Statistics is attached. Details of funding are published each year in the Annual Report and performance against the target will be reported in the Ministerial Portfolio Statement. I refer the Honourable Member to this information. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

**1226. Milk Sales**

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (18/10/00)—

With reference to the sale of milk within Queensland—

- (1) Will he provide a total figure and a breakdown on a processor by processor basis of market milk sales within Queensland for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000?
- (2) Will he provide a total figure and a breakdown on a processor by processor basis of total milk sales within Queensland for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000?
- (3) How much milk was imported to Queensland from other States for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 and will he provide a breakdown on a processor by processor basis?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00):

- (1) The figures for market milk sales as supplied by the Queensland Dairy Authority are:

	1998-1999	1999-2000
Dairy Farmers Group	131,263,504	140,956,379
Dairyfields	45,173,027	39,375,618
Norco	1,224,378	1,086,268
Pauls	203,614,250	191,774,665
Others	484,331	9,687,080

Note: "others" include Cooloola Milk, Moura Milk and National Foods (1999-2000 only)

- (2) The figures for total milk sales as supplied by the Queensland Dairy Authority are:

	1998-1999	1999-2000
Dairy Farmers Group	489,061,224	486,369,091
Dairyfields	103,819,062	111,627,996
Moura Milk	563,301	552,468
Norco	9,798,898	9,279,281
Pauls	223,317,896	231,293,087
Others	619,165	9,817,926

Note: "others" include Cooloola Milk, Moura Milk and National Foods (1999-2000 only)

- (3) This information is not available, as the matter of milk imports is one that is within the commercial purview of the processing companies. The

Queensland Dairy Authority, which supplied the information on market milk sales and total milk sales that formed the basis of the answer to parts (1) and (2) of the Honourable Member's question, does not collect information on milk imports, and nor is there any requirement on processors to supply such figures to the Authority.

Can I suggest that the Honourable Member approach the individual processors to see if they are prepared to supply him with the information he requires.

#### **1227. Media Training for Schools and District Offices**

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Education (18/10/00)—

How much money was spent by schools and district offices on media training in 1999-2000?

**Mr WELLS** (20/11/00): I am informed by the department that under school-based management, schools are entitled to seek training from a range of service providers to suit their own specific and local needs. As a result, it is not possible to determine the total amount spent by schools and district offices on media training as no corporate record is maintained.

I am informed by the department that the Managing Media Inquiry and the Marketing Your School programs are conducted by Public Relations and Marketing Branch officers at a range of Brisbane and provincial locations, and costs incurred by the Branch in implementing/maintaining the programs amounted to \$64,560 in 1999/2000. During this period, there was a total of 358 participants—mostly Education Queensland personnel—who undertook the Managing Media Inquiry/Marketing Your School programs (includes figures from the Promoting Through The Media program), paying between \$80 and \$160 each depending upon which workshop was undertaken, providing partial cost recovery to an amount of \$46,160.

NB—all figures quoted exclude GST.

#### **1228. Teacher Resources**

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (18/10/00)—

What were the estimated FTE staffing levels for all teachers by education output (eg. pre-school, primary, secondary, special, distance, others) and district, at 30 September 2000 (please include TRS numbers, teachers being paid from both State and Commonwealth funding sources and long service leave numbers)?

**Mr WELLS** (20/11/00): The department informs me that the following notes have been provided in relation to understanding the information provided on teacher full-time equivalents (FTEs)

(1) The estimated FTE staffing levels provided below are point-in-time counts of teachers paid via the department's Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) for the payment fortnight ending Sunday 24 September 2000.

(2) The estimated FTE staffing levels provided as at 31 August 2000 were point-in-time counts of

teachers paid via the department's HRMIS for the payment fortnight ending Sunday 27 August 2000.

(3) Comparisons of point-in-time data on the number of teachers paid must recognise the impact of a range of factors. These factors include variations in the levels of temporary and casual employment and payment, variations in the number of teachers on paid leave, and the impact of school vacation periods on both employment trends and payment processing.

(4) The estimated count as at 24 September 2000 reflects an increase in the estimated count as at 27 August 2000 to the extent of 370 FTEs. The point-in-time count of permanent and temporary teachers in fact increased by 210 FTEs, while the count of TRS casual teachers increased by 159 FTEs and the central office count increased by 9 FTEs. This is due to the timing of the count, in that the count was taken immediately prior to the spring school vacation period. TRS casual teachers claims for payment had increased due to leave absences.

(5) The teacher numbers provided include a count of casual TRS teachers, teachers being paid from both State and Commonwealth funding sources and long service leave numbers.

(6) The teacher numbers for Special Needs include teachers of students with disabilities and schools of distance education.

The teacher numbers for Central Office represent teachers performing statewide services.

(7) The teacher numbers for Central Office represent teachers performing statewide services.

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

#### **1229. Sunshine Coast Health District, Drug and Alcohol Programs**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (18/10/00)—

(1) What State Government funding was allocated for Drug and Alcohol in the Sunshine Coast Health District in 1999-2000 for the (a) Government sector and (b) non-Government sector?

(2) What performance indicators are there for these programs?

(3) How are these programs performing against those performance indicators?

**Mrs EDMOND** (17/11/00):

(1)(a) Funding provided to the Sunshine Coast Health Service District for drug and alcohol services for 1999/2000 includes a base budget and Treasury New Initiatives funding. (The Commonwealth provided additional funding drug and alcohol strategies.

(b) For the 1999/2000 financial year, funding was allocated to:

Sunshine Coast University to establish a Drink Smart project;

Community Solutions to run a "Chill Out" area and health and safety strategy for Schoolies Week 1999; and

consortium of Community Solutions and Raw Diversity to implement the Rave Safe peer helper program targeting "at risk" events in the south-east corner of Queensland, including the Sunshine Coast.

(2) The Sunshine Coast Health Service District's Service Agreement for 1999/2000 included six indicators for evaluating the performance of activities in the field of drug and alcohol. These were:

1. clients participating in the methadone syrup program;
2. client retention rate at one year after registration on the methadone program;
3. provision of a needle availability support program;
4. specialist workers undertaking accredited training programs;
5. strategies supported for coordinating project activities such as Drink Smart, management of alcohol intoxication and injury activities, Dance Party and 100% In Control; and
6. compliance with Queensland Methadone Program—Policy & Procedures Treatment Manual.

The Sunshine Coast Health Service District's specialist drug and alcohol services operate as Special Health Services. This service has maintained clinical practice according to indicators under quality assurance processes, formalised as part of Nambour General Hospital's accreditation by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards. Further, Special Health Services has reviewed its clinical practice against the draft Queensland Health Policies & Guidelines for Alcohol, Tobacco & other Drugs Services (November 1999). Special Health Services' operations are consistent with the major procedures and guidelines in this document.

(3) All Performance targets from within the District Service Agreement were met or exceeded.

### **1230. Sport and Recreation Development Program**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (18/10/00)—

With reference to the release of the 2001 State Sport and Recreation Development Program, applications for which closed on 13 October 2000—

- (1) When is the assessment process scheduled to be completed and when will he publicly announce the recipients of funding under this program?
- (2) When will funding be made available to each successful applicant?
- (3) Who will be assessing the applications and who will be making recommendations to him of funding allocations?
- (4) Have any of the officers concerned with the assessment of applications declared a pecuniary or personal interest in any of the organisations applying for funds?

(5) On what criteria will the applications be assessed and rated for funding?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (16/11/00):

(1) It is anticipated that assessments will be finalised in November 2000, with announcements of successful applicants in December 2000.

(2) Each successful applicant will be required to sign a funding agreement with the Department. Once the signed agreements have been submitted to the Department, payment of the first stage of the grant will be made.

(3) Officers from the Sport and Recreation area of my Department make an assessment of each application against the established criteria as to the level of financial assistance to be allocated to each eligible organisation and formulate recommendations for my consideration.

(4) I have been advised that Departmental officers assessing these applications do not have a pecuniary interest in the organisations applying for funding (although these people may be involved in sport and recreation activities personally). In line with established practice, if an officer has a personal interest in a particular organisation or activity, they are removed from the assessment of that particular application. A system of peer review in which two officers assess each application assists in maintaining the integrity of the assessment process.

(5) Assessment of applications will consider the following factors:

the appropriateness of the organisation's outcomes in relation to the Program's desired outcomes as outlined in the State Sport and Recreation Development Program Guidelines;

the ability of the organisation to deliver outcomes and maintain continuous improvement, assessment of which is made through the evaluation of past performance of the organisation, including the organisation's success in achieving key performance indicators and meeting accountability requirements relating to previous years funding;

the financial viability of the organisation;

the number of active registered members within the organisation;

the level and extent of services offered to registered members and other participants; and

the organisation's ability to meet the eligibility criteria.

### **1231. Natural Resources Department, Burnett District, Staffing**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/10/00)—

With reference to the shedding of temporary and contract staff from the Department of Natural Resources Burnett District—

- (1) Since 30 June 2000 how many Bundaberg District Department of Natural Resources (DNR) temporary, contract or full-time positions have been discontinued?

- (2) How many such positions (full-time equivalents) are expected to be discontinued between 30 June 2000 and 30 January 2001?
- (3) Will he outline the nature and duties of each of the positions lost between 30 June and 30 January and give rationale for their conclusion?
- (4) Will or have any of these positions be centralised to Brisbane; if so, which ones and why?
- (5) How many of these employees have been given the opportunity to transfer into existing DNR positions/contracts in other regions?
- (6) How many have so far succeeded in obtaining alternative employment within DNR?
- (7) How many new positions have been contracted or will be contracted at the Bundaberg District DNR between the period 1 July 2000 and 30 January 2001?
- (8) Will he guarantee that the work of DNR will not be diminished by the loss of staff?
- (9) With specific reference to the transfer of the groundwater billing project to Brisbane, will he guarantee that growers will receive the same level of service?
- (10) Will any and all complaints be dealt with at a district level or through a Brisbane office?

**Mr WELFORD** (15/11/00):

- (1 & 2) There are no permanent jobs being cut in the Department of Natural Resources Burnett District, no redundancies and a high quality service to the region remains a high priority for our Government. Over the next two years, 19 temporary positions in DNR Bundaberg will wind up because the project work for which the jobs were created has concluded. During the same period, DNR will be advertising 14 temporary positions for new projects in the region. This is the normal ebb and flow of the workforce. For example, between 1996 and 1998 when the National Party was in Government, 41 temporary positions were terminated in the DNR Bundaberg office.
- (3) Contracts are for defined periods as they generally relate to a specific project, are funded for a finite period of time, or are to replace other employees absent for a defined period.
- (4) No positions will be relocated to Brisbane.
- (5) All employees have the opportunity to apply for positions within my Department that are offered through the Government Gazette.
- (6) See previous responses
- (7) See previous responses
- (8) See previous responses
- (9) My Department has established a centralised groundwater billing team to provide a consistent and quality service across the State. Growers will receive a more consistent and timely service from this arrangement.
- (10) Service complaints are dealt with locally.

## **1232. State Development and Trade Department, Staffing**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (Mr Elder) (18/10/00)—

With reference to the Government's intention to employ 16 regional development officers throughout Queensland—

- (1) How many of these positions were advertised in which regions and when?
- (2) How many of these positions have been filled in which regions and when?
- (3) Does the department intend to pursue placements in the remaining regions; if so, in which regions?
- (4) Why has the department abandoned recruitment of officers in some regions?
- (5) Bearing in mind his intention to appoint 32 additional staff, (refer to reply to Question No. 8 of Estimates Committee "E" Questions on Notice), how does this alter the number of additional employees expected to be employed in this financial year?

**Mr BEATTIE** (23/11/00): The Government does not employ staff in the role of Regional Development Officer. The response provided has been prepared on the basis that the question refers to State Development Officers employed by the Department in its regional State Development Centres.

- (1) In total there were 61 positions of State Development Officers advertised in the Queensland Government Gazette on 31 March 2000. However, of the 61 positions advertised there were actually only 39 vacant positions. The additional 22 positions were advertised as potential vacancies, on the basis that these positions would become vacant if staff within the Department were successfully promoted/transferred. Positions were advertised for all State Development Centres.
- (2) Since 18 July 2000, 45 vacancies have been filled. The table below lists the region and the number of positions filled in each region.

### REGION—POSITION NOS.

Brisbane—3  
 Southside (Springwood)—5  
 Bundaberg—2  
 Caboolture—3  
 Townsville—3  
 Cairns—3  
 Gladstone—1  
 Gold Coast—6  
 Ipswich—2  
 Mackay—1  
 Maryborough 4  
 Mount Isa—1  
 Rockhampton—3  
 Sunshine Coast—3  
 Toowoomba—4  
 Roma—1

- (3) The Department is continuing to evaluate requirements of State Development Centres and in



keeping with good management principles, fills positions based both on need and budget. For example, an additional position has recently been allocated to Mt. Isa.

(4) As outlined in the answer to Question (1), a range of positions were advertised to provide the opportunity to fill vacancies depending on appointments.

(5) This answer referred to new positions in both State Development Centres and Corporate Management. The additions in Corporate Management were due to the transfer of HR and Finance functions from the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Overall in Corporate Management and the State Development Centres 41 additional positions have been filled this financial year.

### 1233. Main Roads Department, Statement of Unforeseen Expenditure

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/10/00)—

With reference to the Statement of Unforeseen Expenditure tabled by the Treasurer on 17 October 2000 which included an equity adjustment of \$132m in relation to the Department of Main Roads—

What does this adjustment refer to and why was an adjustment of this size unforeseen in relation to the preparation of the 1999-2000 budget?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/11/00): The Statement of Unforeseen Expenditure referred to is part of the Appropriation Bill (No 2) 2000.

The bill provides for supplementary appropriation for 1999-2000 for unforeseen expenditure by departments in that financial year and is generally procedural and routine in nature. All expenditure has been approved in accordance with normal budget approval processes.

The figure of \$132 million relates to an Equity Adjustment that may be dissected as follows:

Appropriation brought forward for road works from 2001-02 and 2002-03 with approval of Queensland Treasury after approval of budget.

Additional expenditure funded by increased Commonwealth funding that was not anticipated when the budget was completed.

Expenditure on Pacific Motorway brought forward from 2000-01 to 1999-00 due to better than anticipated progress.

### 1234. Tilt Train, Brisbane-Cairns

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/10/00)—

With reference to information regarding the tilt train that has been proposed to run between Brisbane and Cairns—

(1) What is the cost of the project and could a dissection be provided for the track improvements and safety measures at level crossings as well as the cost of the train itself and what level of funds have been expended to date on each of the sections?

(2) What level of support has been indicated by people of north Queensland that the service is required?

(3) Can a report be provided with statistical information and benefits for the implementation of the tilt train service?

(4) What will be the cost of a single fare and a return fare from Brisbane to Cairns?

(5) How long will the journey from Brisbane to Cairns take and will there be sleeping accommodation made available for long distances or will there be only sitting facilities?

(6) Is it likely that either the Sunlander or Queenslander services will be reduced as a result of the tilt train service?

(7) Will any persons holding Queensland Rail passes be excluded from using the tilt train?

(8) When is it proposed for the service to commence?

(9) What number of passengers will each journey cater for between Cairns and Brisbane and how many services will there be each week?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/11/00):

(1) The Cairns Tilt Train Project is budgeted at \$137 million. This project includes the construction of 2 x 9 car tilt trains, a servicing facility upgrade at Mayne Depot in Brisbane, provisioning facilities for the new train at Rockhampton and Cairns, and minor works between Rockhampton and Cairns covering erection of new speed boards and installation of position magnets on the track for tilt activation purposes. The budget cost for the two trains, including design, manufacture, 2 year warranty and spare parts is \$134 million. Expenditure on this project to 30 September 2000 is \$40.2 million. The Cairns Tilt Train project does not include track improvements or level crossing safety improvements. Such improvements are integral to \$320 Rockhampton-Cairns Track Renewal Project. Total expenditure on the Rockhampton-Cairns Track Renewal Project to 30 September 2000, is \$61.9 million.

(2) Market research was undertaken in late 1998, during the initial planning phase of the Cairns tilt train project and involved consultants AC Nielsen, Yann Campbell Hoare & Wheeler, and Urban Economics. This indicated strong support for the new tilt train services, with a substantial increase in patronage possible, if sufficient tilt train capacity was provided. The extremely positive feedback from the current Brisbane-Bundaberg-Rockhampton tilt train services from users and local communities, could be expected to be mirrored from communities north of Rockhampton, following the introduction of the 2 new trains in late 2002.

(3) There is no report available at this time covering these elements.

(4) Fares have not been determined at this time.

(5) The expected journey time will be reduced from a current 31.5 hours to approximately 26.5 hours. The new tilt trains will provide a seating accommodation standard equivalent to the business class on the current Rockhampton tilt train, and all seats will be

equipped with an in seat video system with a choice of 6 separate channels, plus 6 audio channels. The trains have also been designed to take additional carriages in the future to provide sleeper accommodation if considered necessary. A more definitive trip time cannot be assessed until the full details of the Rockhampton-Cairns TrackRenewal Project have been finalised.

(6) Introduction of the Cairns tilt train will provide an increase in total weekly services between Brisbane and Cairns.

(7) No persons holding QR passes will be excluded from using the tilt train.

(8) Services are proposed to commence in December 2002.

(9) Each tilt train will seat a minimum of 171, up to a maximum of 183, depending on take-up of the disability access provision. Two cars are equipped for wheelchair accessibility. Each train will operate two round trips each week between Brisbane and Cairns.

#### **1235. Pacific Motorway; Damage to Local Roads**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/10/00)—

With reference to the concerns expressed by the Gold Coast City Council for the funding required to repair, maintain or rebuild local roads damaged by heavy vehicle usage during the construction phase of the M1 motorway—

Will he now make available the required funds to complete this urgent work in the interest of safety and fairness?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/11/00): The Department of Main Roads is continuing to meet its obligation to the Pacific Motorway project which includes resolving concerns raised by Gold Coast City Council about alleged damage to local roads near the motorway.

Discussions are being held between Council officers and senior officers of the Department of Main Roads to work through the issues. I understand the discussions, to date, have been extremely fruitful and the issue is expected to be fully resolved with Council in the near future.

#### **1236. Queensland Police Service, Fuel Costs**

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/10/00)—

(1) What is the estimated increase in the fuel bill for the Queensland Police Service for 2000-2001?

(2) Will this additional amount be funded by Treasury or will it come from existing regional and headquarters budgets?

**Mr BARTON** (17/11/00):

(1) Based on current expenditure forecasts, fuel costs for the Police Service for 2000-2001 are expected to be in the order of \$8 million. This would

represent an increase of approximately \$1.4 million over 1999-2000 expenditure. This estimate is subject to any further fuel price fluctuations.

(2) Treasury Department has been advised of the expected increased costs and that a request for additional funding will be made as part of the mid year Budget review process.

#### **1237. Rockhampton Correctional Centre**

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/10/00)—

With reference to the new Rockhampton Correctional Centre—

(1) When was the design tender let?

(2) When was the design completed?

(3) When was the Guaranteed Construction Sum (GCS) submitted?

(4) What was the amount of the GCS?

(5) When was a GCS agreed to?

(6) What was that price?

(7) How does this compare with benchmark costs per cell?

(8) What is the anticipated completion date?

(9) What is the anticipated total cost including design?

**Mr BARTON** (16/11/00):

(1) There was no separate design tender for the new Rockhampton Correctional Centre (Capricornia Correctional Centre). The design and construction management tender for the project was let (accepted) on 8 March 1999. This acceptance included the design elements.

(2) The developed design was submitted along with the initial Guaranteed Construction Sum offer on 21 June 1999.

(3) The GCS was initially submitted on 21 June 1999, however, this was revised and resubmitted on 2 August 1999.

(4) The GCS offer of 2 August 1999, which was subsequently accepted, was for \$76,115,496.

(5) The GCS offer of 2 August 1999 was accepted by the Department of Corrective Services on 12 November 1999.

(6) The accepted GCS was for \$76,115,496.

(7) The Capricornia Correctional Centre cost was benchmarked against the Wolston Correctional Centre constructed at Wacol with the following comparisons made. Cost per cell: Wolston Correctional Centre—\$218,000; Capricornia Correctional Centre—\$216,000. \$/m<sup>2</sup>: Wolston Correctional Centre—\$3,100; Capricornia Correctional Centre—\$3,200.

(8) The current date for practical completion is 25 May 2001.

(9) Anticipated total cost, excluding Department of Corrective Services costs and charges, is \$86,629,723. Total project budget is \$89,500,000, which includes project reserve, equipment set up

and an initial amount of \$500,000 for project development prior to the letting of the design and construct contract.

### 1238. Police to Population Ratios

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/10/00)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement in the House on 18 October 2000 when he made comment on the police to population ratio figures and to his latest figures which indicate that the Sunshine Coast has a ratio of one officer to 766 residents in 1998 and on the latest figures the ratio is one officer to 760 residents—

When can we expect the Sunshine Coast ratio to improve in comparable terms to other regions in Queensland?

**Mr BARTON** (16/11/00): The Beattie Labor Government has undertaken a massive police recruitment program which will see an average of 325 extra police delivered every year to 2005. This will increase police numbers in this State to 9100 and it is the largest increase in police numbers Queenslanders will witness since the days of the Goss Labor Government. Already the Beattie Government has delivered more than 700 extra police which is more than double the pitiful attempts of the Borbidge Coalition Government. As you would be aware, while the Government supplies the necessary funding for these increased police numbers, the Queensland Police Service decides where these resources are allocated. In this regard, the Police Commissioner and his senior management prioritise the placement of these extra police according to set criteria such as population growth and crime statistics. This allocation of resources is determined in the later stages of each Police Academy class term. Rather than having a fixed allocation over the next five years for each class of graduates, this process allows for flexibility for the QPS so it can meet particular demands in various regions as they arise. Therefore, in simple terms, there is no detailed list of allocations for each region over the next five years. However, the QPS advises that the Sunshine Coast district continues to be treated as a high priority for the allocation of police resources. In this regard, the Sunshine Coast will continue to receive extra police as decided by the senior management of the QPS. As I stated in my Ministerial Statement, more has to be done to improve police numbers on the Sunshine Coast and across the State. I would like to highlight the reply to a Question on Notice about police to population ratios given by your colleague the Member for Crows Nest when he was Police Minister. He said: "The police to population ratios have limited value as a measure of the effectiveness of delivery of policing services. While the ratio has traditionally been used as such a measure, its adequacy has seriously diminished over recent years. There are other factors that must be considered rather relying solely on police to population ratios." (Russell Cooper, QON 7 October 1997) I take a more liberal viewpoint regarding these ratios and while they may be a useful indicator of police strength they should not be used as the only indicator. I noticed in

press clippings that you have taken an even more liberal and quite incorrect slant on police to population ratios by stating that in the Noosa electorate, the ratio would be one officer to over a thousand people. This is spurious argument and highlights your lack of understanding on the issue because in some electorates, like mine, there are no police stations and therefore, a police to population ratio could not be calculated. As pointed out in your question, it is true that the Sunshine Coast police to population ratio has improved and I would have considered that you would have applauded the government for this achievement considering under your government overall police to population ratios rose and consistently stayed in the 1:520 range. (which no doubt is the reason for Mr Cooper's answer above and why he tried to distance himself from the issue of police to population ratios)

It is true in comparable terms, the Sunshine Coast district is higher than other districts. These districts are primarily in sparsely populated parts of the State like Longreach, Charleville and Mt Isa. I hope that from your question you are not asking the QPS to remove police from these areas (and thus raise their ratio closer to the State average) and place these police on the Sunshine Coast and thus move the Coast's ratio down closer to state average. It would be quite inappropriate to do this as these police numbers are still needed in these sparsely populated areas. I'm sure your National Party colleagues from these areas would also object to any such move.

### 1239. Queensland Ambulance Rural Incentives Scheme; Charters Towers Ambulance Station

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (18/10/00)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Rural Incentives Scheme, which has been reviewed recently and a further 42 stations now being eligible for incentive bonuses due to their remoteness and to also hopefully attract officers to these centres—

- (1) What criteria was used to determine a station's eligibility?
- (2) Why was Charters Towers not considered to be incorporated in this scheme when other centres of less remoteness and serviceability were included?
- (3) Will Charters Towers' station be given the opportunity to appeal this decision of being omitted?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (23/11/00):

(1) The practice of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has been to provide rural and remote assistance in accordance with QAS policy on categorisation of stations. QAS stations are categorised into seven categories, with category one (1) representing larger urban stations and category seven (7) representing the most isolated stations.

The following 17 criteria were used to determine station categorisation.

1. The degree of remoteness calculated on the distance from Brisbane and the distance from

- coastal provincial centres with a population of over 8,000 people.
2. Access to the level of available community services, calculated on the distance from and the size of designated services.
  3. Ambulance service environment and organisational staffing.
  4. Adverse climatic conditions.
  5. Degree of professional, personal and cultural isolation.
  6. The location is impossible or extremely difficult to reach by road (> 5 hours to the nearest major centre). Public entertainment is rarely available.
  7. No public transport is available to the nearest major centre.
  8. Facilities for the purchase of a range of general goods on site are limited or non-existent or are cost prohibitive.
  9. There are little or no employment opportunities for a spouse/partner.
  10. There are no high schools or special education facilities.
  11. The area is affected by long term drought.
  12. The location services Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities where a lower proportion of Paramedics are employed.
  13. There is inadequate or no QAS or Government housing provided.
  14. Market rental is excessive due to geographical location, supply of accommodation, inflated or is influenced adversely due to being in a controlled mine site.
  15. There is no reticulated potable water supply.
  16. There is no hospital or medical officer in residence in the community but the medical officer is not replaced on days off, or neither are available at all.
  17. The Queensland Government Statistician's index of retail prices in Regional Centres rating compared to Brisbane.

The rating of all stations against these criteria ensures that the categorisation of all locations is equitable across the State.

(2) Every station within the QAS, including Charters Towers, was reviewed against the 17 criteria. The criteria cover an extensive range of 'livability' factors including but not limited to remoteness and serviceability. The assessment of each station was based on existing information available on stations, data obtained through a station categorisation survey sent to every station to complete, and extensive consultation with regional management and staff to ensure the accuracy of the assessments.

For each criterion every station was awarded a grading of high (full compliance with criterion), medium (reasonable compliance with criterion), low (minimal compliance with criterion) or zero (no compliance with criterion). The grading was then given a score of 3 (high), 2 (medium), 1 (low), and 0 (zero). These scores were then added to form the

Categorisation Index Score (CIS) which in turn determined the categorisation of each station.

Charters Towers scored below the level required for inclusion in this scheme.

(3) Yes. Charters Towers Ambulance Station can appeal the decision.

#### 1240. Firecom Centres, Staffing

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (18/10/00)—

- (1) How many casual/temporary hours per week were budgeted to each Firecom Centre in 1999-2000?
- (2) What was the actual such hours worked in each centre?
- (3) What is the budgeted casual/temporary hours per week for each centre for 2000-2001?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (23/11/00):

(1) The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) does not budget on the basis of a prescribed number of casual/temporary hours for each FireCom Centre. The current QFRA staffing model provides funding for an additional two full-time temporary or casual operators to provide relief and flexibility in rostering arrangements. The budgeted allocation for this is detailed for each centre in the response for Question on Notice 1242(1). This model effectively enables Regional Communications Centres to operate with two operators during the day when workloads are higher, with extra support provided by the supervisor during peak work periods. The South Eastern Region's Southport Communications Centre is an exception to the standard model in that it provides for one supervisor and eight permanent operators, together with additional funding for four temporary/casual relief staff. This model enables a minimum of two operators to be rostered on each shift at Southport. The QFRA's staffing model provides Regional FireCom Centres with the flexibility to roster temporary and/or casual operators to cover permanent staff sick leave, family leave, rostered days off etc. and to provide additional resources during anticipated high volume work periods.

(2) As indicated above, the staffing model is based on a budgetary allocation rather than an hourly basis. The actual costs incurred in 1999-2000 are as detailed in the response to Question on Notice 1242(2).

(3) The QFRA's regional Firecom staffing model for 2000/2001 has been designed and implemented to provide an equitable distribution of QFRA's human and fiscal resources. The amounts budgeted for temporary/casual staff at each Firecom Centre in 2000/2001 are as detailed in the response to Question on Notice 1242(3).

#### 1241. Firecom Centres, Emergency Calls

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (18/10/00)—

- (1) What was the actual number of emergency calls received at each regional Firecom Centre in Queensland in 1999-2000?
- (2) What is the anticipated number of such calls at each centre for 2000-2001?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (23/11/00):

(1) The following figures reflect the number of emergency incidents processed by Firecom Centres in 1999-2000. It should be noted that one individual incident can generate many emergency calls on the "000" network, therefore the figures may not reflect the number of emergency "calls" actually handled by Firecom Centres. The following figures also include emergency incidents received by Firecom Centres for Rural Fire Brigades—

Far Northern: 4,401 emergency incidents  
 Northern: 5,693 emergency incidents  
 Central: 5,366 emergency incidents  
 North Coast: 5,937 emergency incidents  
 South Western: 3,445 emergency incidents  
 Brisbane: 23,000 emergency incidents  
 South Eastern: 11,933 emergency incidents

(2) The anticipated number of emergency incidents at each Firecom Centre for 2000-2001 is—

Far Northern: Approximately 6372 emergency incidents based on 1593 for the first quarter of 2000-2001  
 Northern: Approximately 6336 emergency incidents based on 1584 for the first quarter of 2000-2001  
 Central: Approximately 6000 emergency incidents  
 North Coast: Approximately 8400 emergency incidents based on an average daily rate of 23 for this financial year.  
 South Western: Approximately 4,850 emergency incidents  
 Brisbane: Approximately 27,000 emergency incidents  
 South Eastern: Approximately 17,000 emergency incidents.

#### 1242. Firecom Centres, Budget

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (18/10/00)—

- (1) What was the budgeted amount for casual/temporary staff for each Firecom Centre in 1999-2000?
- (2) What was the actual expenditure in 1999-2000?
- (3) What is the amount budgeted for casual/temporary staff for each Firecom Centre for 2000-2001?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (23/11/00):

(1) The budget allocation for temporary and casual staff for each Firecom Centre in 1999-2000 was:

Far Northern—\$50,110  
 Northern—\$36,000  
 Central—\$80,000  
 North Coast—\$105,000  
 South Western—\$21,647  
 Brisbane—\$128,207  
 South Eastern—\$185,050

(2) The actual expenditure for temporary and casual staff at each Firecom Centre in 1999-2000 is indicated below. It should be noted that expenditure on casual and temporary staff is not restricted to meeting the 'peaks and troughs' in workload, but in some cases is directly attributable to the 'backfilling' of staff on extended leave or to temporarily fill vacancies against permanent positions. Where temporary/casual expenditure is higher than budget allocation it follows that permanent salary expenditure will be lower.

Far Northern—\$36,510  
 Northern—\$76,433  
 Central—\$87,925  
 North Coast—\$110,627  
 South Western—\$71,065  
 Brisbane—\$167,241  
 South Eastern—\$117,217

(3) The amount budgeted for temporary/casual staff at each Firecom Centre in 2000-2001 is indicated below. The amounts allocated reflect the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority's standard staffing model for regional Firecom Centres. The staffing model has been developed to provide an equitable distribution of the QFRA's human and fiscal resources.

Far Northern—\$60,152  
 Northern—\$60,152  
 Central—\$60,155  
 North Coast—\$60,962  
 South Western—\$55,525  
 Brisbane—\$132,056  
 South Eastern—\$130,003.

#### 1243. Firecom Centres, Staffing

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (18/10/00)—

- (1) How many permanent staff were allocated to full-time duties receiving emergency calls at each Firecom Centre in Queensland in 1999-2000?
- (2) How many such staff have been allocated to this task in each region in 2000-2001?
- (3) Have Firecom Centre supervisors been allocated any hours on this task in any region in 1999-2000 or 2000-2001; if so, where, when, how many hours and why?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (23/11/00):

(1) The following table reflects the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority's model for permanent staff at each Firecom Centre—

Far Northern: One Supervisor and four Communications Officers. This enables a minimum of one Communications Officer per shift with the supervisor on day work Monday to Friday.

Northern: One Supervisor and four Communications Officers. This enables a minimum of one Communications Officer per shift with the supervisor on day work Monday to Friday.

Central: One Supervisor and four Communications Officers. This enables a minimum of one Communications Officer per shift with the supervisor on day work Monday to Friday.

North Coast: One Supervisor and four Communications Officers. This enables a minimum of one Communications Officer per shift with the supervisor on day work Monday to Friday.

South Western: Four full-time staff allocated during this period, however one position is filled by casuals to maintain competency levels of relief staff. A day work supervisor's position was approved during this period.

Brisbane: 23 permanent staff including one manager

South Eastern: One Supervisor and eight Communications Officers. This enables a minimum of two Communications Officers per shift with the supervisor on day work Monday to Friday.

(2) As above.

(3) Firecom supervisors are not generally rostered to take and process emergency calls. Firecom supervisors are however regularly required to assist the communications officers in the processing of emergency calls during periods of high work volume, meal breaks and to cover staff absences. A further exception exists in Brisbane where a supervisor is rostered on each shift to process and take emergency calls.

#### 1244. Whale Watching; Sunlover Holidays

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (19/10/00)—

With reference to the written reply from her dated 4 April 2000 answering a letter dated 20 March 2000 from George Falconer, President of the Whale Watch Industry Association of Hervey Bay, relating to concerns about the manner in which tourism in Queensland is developing—

- (1) As Sunlover Holidays produce a Queensland Whale Watching brochure and all participants contribute \$400 towards the brochure production, will she provide the details of the number of passengers booked by Sunlover for Hervey Bay whale watching for the 1999 and the 2000 season to this point in time?
- (2) As, contrary to her reply, Queensland Government Travel Centres do not accept Queensland products outside the Sunlover range, will she explain why a Queensland Government Travel Centre is restricted to promote and supply only Sunlover Holiday product information and to book only those products, a policy which is detrimental to Queensland tourism at large?

(3) As the reply also stated that Sunlover is widely regarded as one of the State's great tourism strengths and much envied by other States, will she explain how these extremely restrictive practices can be a tourism strength; if so, why have other States not adopted the same policies?

(4) Will she consider reintroducing a network of genuine Queensland Government Travel Centres throughout all major metropolitan regions in Australia to distribute information about all Queensland products directly to the public, to provide easy consumer access and local market intelligence, as was the policy in 1998?

**Mrs ROSE (17/11/00):**

(1) Participants contribute \$440, inclusive of GST. Specific sales details are "Commercial In Confidence"; however all participating providers are advised of their own details, directly.

(2) As stated in my letter of 4 April 2000, the Queensland Travel Centre network does carry products outside the Sunlover range.

(3) My response to question two clearly indicates that the practices adopted by Sunlover cannot be regarded as 'restrictive'. I cannot comment on the policies adopted by the other States.

(4) There are already 10 Queensland Travel Centre offices in Australia. Locations include Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Chatswood, Melbourne, Miranda, Newcastle, Parramatta, Perth and Sydney.

#### 1245. Bribie Island, Ningi Bypass

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/10/00)—

With reference to the current transport study and Bribie Island Road Public Consultation Workshops being undertaken by consultants Cardno MBK and to the current documentation and newsletter put out by Cardno MBK which concerns four bypass option proposals—

- (1) What is the expected length of time before a decision is to be made on the proposals put forward for a bypass of the Ningi township?
- (2) As at a recent public consultation meeting on 17 October 2000 a fifth bypass option was put forward by the community after consultation with Southern Pacific Sands Pty Ltd, what assurances will he give the Ningi community that this fifth option that has received very favourable comment throughout the community will be widely advertised and given the merit of consideration that it deserves?
- (3) Will a newsletter advising all stakeholders of the feasibility of this fifth bypass option based on the blue corridor and utilising Southern Pacific Sands land be distributed and further public meetings undertaken prior to any final report and a preferred option being presented to Main Roads?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/11/00):

(1) At recent public meetings, Mr Peter Quinn, Project Manager for Cardno MBK, stated that he would like to be able to recommend a preferred option to the Department of Main Roads prior to Christmas 2000. However, the consultants need more time to investigate the fifth bypass option which was put forward by the community after consultation with Southern Pacific Sands Pty Ltd. It is now likely that the recommendations of a preferred option to the Department of Main Roads will be delayed until the end of February 2001.

(2) The fifth option will be given full consideration by the consultants and evaluated with the other four to determine the preferred option. The fifth option is a variation of the blue corridor alternative and is not sufficiently different to warrant further advertising and public consultation.

(3) The consultants will complete their evaluation of all five route options and submit a report to Main Roads recommending their preferred route. Officers of Main Roads will consider that report and make a recommendation to me on the preferred route.

#### **1246. Firefighters, Tenders for Uniforms**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (19/10/00)—

With reference to the tender for firefighters' uniforms—

- (1) What was each of the three tendered prices?
- (2) What are the assessment criteria, including the compliance grid for each tender?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (20/11/00):

(1) Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) went through a two-stage evaluation process for the supply of Fire Retardant Station Wear, in accordance with the then State Purchasing Policy requirements. The offer was for a Standing Offer Arrangement for an initial three years with an option for extension for a further two by one-year periods.

In the first round, 10 submissions were received, with five being shortlisted. None of the offers fully met QFRA's requirements and industry briefings were held with each of the shortlisted suppliers prior to their being invited to submit their best and final offers.

The offers submitted had different commercial conditions for the fixing of the price, costing for Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the manufacture of special sizes. The actual price was only one of the evaluation criteria and the actual quantum of prices from the five shortlisted offers remains commercial in confidence. Other factors, such as the length of time for which the prices were fixed, the quality and methods of construction of the garments and the ability of the supplier to provide a managed supply and distribution arrangement, were also important and this was reflected in the evaluation criteria established.

- (2) The evaluation criteria were:

Value for Money—25%;

Product Information and Support—20%;

Availability—20%;

Quality of Samples—15%; and

Logistics and Support—20%.

These evaluation criteria were lodged in an evaluation plan by the QFRA with the Department of Emergency Services, Logistics Services, prior to the initial offer closing date and were used throughout the evaluation process.

The evaluation matrix established that Australian Defence Apparel (ADA) offered the best solution for QFRA. The offers received were provided under the Conditions of Offer as commercial in confidence and it would be inappropriate to distribute these, as detailed in the evaluation matrix.

An external Probity Audit has been conducted on the process for which the auditor was given full access to all documentation. The Probity Audit found that there was no evidence to suggest that any of the processes or proceedings lacked integrity and that the awarding of the contract would be justified and defensible in the context of the Invitation to Offer process, evaluation and selection.

#### **1247. Queensland Transport, Ipswich**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/10/00)—

With reference to the extremely long delays the public are subjected to awaiting service at Queensland Department of Transport issuing offices across Queensland and, in particular, the Colvin Street, North Ipswich centre—

- (1) Will he advise any reason for the customer complaints of waiting time?
- (2) What steps are being taken to address this problem and complaints of the public?
- (3) What are the staffing levels of this centre?
- (4) Will he give an assurance that these unacceptable long delays will be addressed as a matter of urgency?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/11/00):

(1) There have been no complaint forms lodged or other complaints made to the Department about waiting times at North Ipswich CSC in the last 18 months. The Department was unaware of any specific complaints regarding waiting times at North Ipswich.

The average wait time in south-east Queensland is currently less than 7 minutes.

Sudden customer influx on some days does increase the wait. However, Queensland Transport's queue and business management techniques quickly reduce waiting times to an acceptable level.

(2) Queensland Transport has a range of alternative service delivery options for customers, and encourages them to use the one that best suits their needs. Options like BPAY, mail, Australia Post and credit card phonepay offer customers the ability to

conduct some business transactions without needing to visit a Queensland Transport centre.

A customer complaint form is provided to customers who indicate that they are unhappy with any facet of Queensland Transport service provision.

(3) The Customer Service Centre at North Ipswich is currently staffed with 12 full-time officers, 6 part-time officers, and has a casual component equivalent to 1.1 full-time officers. The office also has 2 Driving Examiners, a Transport Inspector, a Road Safety Consultant and 11 officers working in Public Transport and School Transport administration.

(4) I repeat, there have been no complaint forms lodged or other complaints made to the Department about waiting times at North Ipswich CSC in the last 18 months. The Department was unaware of any specific complaints regarding waiting times at North Ipswich.

#### 1248. Rural Fire Brigades, Resources

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (19/10/00)—

With reference to the proposed requirement for annual inspection and registration fees on rural fire brigade vehicles—

- (1) What Federal Government initiative has prompted the Government to require all rural fire brigade vehicles to undergo annual road worthy inspections and annual registration fees?
- (2) Did his department argue against such charges on rural fire brigades?
- (3) If a registration fee is to be charged, at what level will this be set?
- (4) What assistance will his department provide to those low budget rural fire brigades that are already struggling to maintain an acceptable service to their communities?
- (5) Will his department consider covering these registration and inspection charges to this now essential rural service?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (20/11/00):

(1) In 1995, Queensland incorporated the National Road Transport Reform Agenda by proclaiming the Transport Operations (Road Use Management ) Act 1995. The Reform Agenda has various "modules", one of which requires that all vehicles, irrespective of type, be registered and undergo annual roadworthy inspections. Queensland incorporated this into the above Act with the Regulation—Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) 1999. The regulation came into force in October 1999.

(2) Concerns have been raised about the introduction of the scheme, particularly with respect to the cost to Rural Fire Brigades, both operationally and financially and the impact that it might have on the ability of primary producers to continue to use unregistered property equipment to assist their Rural Fire Brigade in firefighting operations.

(3) A joint working party consisting of officers from the Department of Transport and my Department has been established to consider the matter further.

(4) The recent fires that heralded an early start to the fire season have highlighted that some Rural Fire Brigades are having difficulty making ends meet. As a consequence, I have convened a Rural Task Force, chaired by the Commissioner (Rural Operations), and representatives from the Rural Fire Brigades Association and the Rural Fire Council, to develop strategies to assist those brigades that are experiencing financial difficulty. I have asked for the Task Force to provide a report to me by 17 November 2000.

(5) Paramount in my mind and that of the Registration Working Party, is the significant contribution made by our Rural Fire Brigades to the community generally. The financial impact of any proposed scheme on Rural Fire Brigades will be a vital consideration for the Working Party.

#### 1249. Sugar Industry

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (19/10/00)—

With reference to the sugar cane legislation which requires that all cane farmers utilising irrigation develop a detailed and satisfactory farm "water" plan and with the continuing depletion and centralisation of competent Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI) staff and the realisation that DPI staff now serve politicians primarily and farmers secondarily it is now difficult for farmers to access assistance for such planning and reporting and additionally, farmers' confidence in the practical competence of the people who will examine their plans for acceptability has fallen to a very low level and some farmers are asking to see the CVs of the examiners—

How does he plan to overcome these dual problems?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (16/11/00): The Sugar Industry Act 1999 has no specific requirement for cane farmers utilising irrigation to develop detailed and satisfactory farm "water" plans and the development of farm water plans for cane farmers is not a matter dealt with by officers of the Department of Primary Industries.

I would suggest that the problems Dr Kingston refers to are not problems with respect to the Department of Primary Industries.

I am aware the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations is currently conducting a project on water use efficiency which is being funded through the Department of Natural Resources. Water use and water use efficiency are areas normally addressed through DNR and the portfolio of my colleague the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources. It is anticipated that the project will greatly enhance the ability of cane farmers to make use of limited water resources.



**1250. Lake Broadwater Conservation Park**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/10/00)—

With reference to my persistence over two years in seeking to have part of Lake Broadwater Conservation Park revoked so an area can be set aside for boating activities under the control of the Wambo Shire Council and as he has advised that he had no objections and that he was prepared to proceed with this revocation and he also told the CEO of the Wambo Shire Council at a recent "Civic Leaders Forum" that it would proceed once the Leader of Government Business (the Hon Terry Mackenroth) placed it on the Notice Paper—

How can he now raise some objections to this same revocation after giving this assurance, bearing in mind his belated objection is, in fact, a condition placed upon the Wambo Shire Council by his own department?

**Mr WELFORD** (15/11/00): The effective ongoing management of the Lake Broadwater Conservation Park is of utmost importance to me, and Council's trusteeship of this Park is an important part of ensuring this. I accept that the area used for intensive recreation should be revoked from the Conservation Park. However, I cannot agree to a proposal which would diminish management opinions if the trusteeship of the Conservation Park was to change at a future time. I have previously indicated the former Rangers residence should remain available for future use by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Wambo Shire Council have advised that the house is no longer sought as part of the proposed revocation. I have requested the Council to liaise with officers of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service so the plan showing the area sought by the Council is amended to retain the house as part of the Conservation Park.

Upon receipt of these amended plans by my Department, the revocation will proceed. This will redress the failure of the Member for Western Downs to deliver this outcome (among many others) when he was Environment Minister.

**1251. Deputy Crown Solicitors**

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (19/10/00)—

- (1) Since the appointment of each of Mr Pat Dwyer and Mr Robert Campbell as Deputy Crown Solicitors, will he provide details on how many staff are employed in each section under Mr Dwyer and Mr Campbell and what has been the turn-over of staff, both in actual and percentage terms, in their respective sections since their respective appointments?
- (2) Will he provide reasons for any of the above resignations and a comparison of how the staff turn-over compares with the twelve months prior to their respective appointments?

**Mr FOLEY** (20/11/00): The use of Parliament to smear the reputations of individuals is objectionable. The officers named have worked in Crown Law over many years and been promoted by successive administrations. There is no evidence to support the implication that staff turnover has increased within sections led by these officers.

**1252. Flexi Learn Centres**

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/10/00)—

With reference to the Flexi Learn Centres at Jimboomba and Browns Plains which have been successful in providing prevocational programs for young people and have assisted young people in obtaining employment—

Why are these programs being discontinued?

**Mr BRADY** (20/11/00): Programs delivered at these centres will not be discontinued at this stage.

Logan Institute currently delivers a prevocational engineering program at the Jimboomba Campus. No prevocational programs are delivered at Browns Plains where the training programs focus on Office, Business and Hospitality.

The Browns Plains Campus is responding to the large and growing demand for training. Plans for expansion are currently under consideration, and will be informed by a Training Needs Analysis. An allocation of \$2.5 million has been made available for development of a training facility in the Browns Plains area over the next two financial years. In 2000-01, \$495,000 is available with the balance of \$2.005 million available in 2001-02.

Logan Institute will maintain its current program at the Jimboomba Campus in 2001, until the results of a Training Needs Analysis completed specifically for the Beaudesert Shire are known.

**1253. Police Resources, North Coast Region**

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/10/00)—

With reference to my speech in the Adjournment Debate on 18 October 2000—

What are the specific reasons that the North Coast region continues to suffer a police to population ratio that disadvantages that region compared with other regions and the State as a whole and what is he intending to do to redress this disadvantage?

**Mr BARTON** (20/11/00): The Beattie Labor Government has undertaken a massive police recruitment program which will see an average of 325 extra police delivered every year to 2005. This will increase police numbers in this State to 9100 and it is the largest increase in police numbers Queenslanders will witness since the days of the Goss Labor Government. Already the Beattie Government has delivered more than 700 extra police which is more than double the pitiful attempts of the Borbidge Coalition Government. As you would be aware, while the Government supplies the necessary funding for

these increased police numbers, the Queensland Police Service decides where these resources are allocated. In this regard, the Police Commissioner and his senior management prioritise the placement of these extra police according to set criteria such as population growth and crime statistics. This allocation of resources is determined in the later stages of each Police Academy class term. Rather than having a fixed allocation over the next five years for each class of graduates, this process allows for flexibility for the QPS so it can meet particular demands in various regions as they arise. Therefore, in simple terms, there is no detailed list of allocations for each region over the next five years. However, the QPS advises that the Sunshine Coast district continues to be treated as a high priority for the allocation of police resources. In this regard, the Sunshine Coast will continue to receive extra police as decided by the senior management of the QPS. As I stated in my Ministerial Statement, more has to be done to improve police numbers on the Sunshine Coast and across the State. I would like to highlight the reply to a Question on Notice about police to population ratios given by your colleague the Member for Crows Nest when he was Police Minister. He said: "The police to population ratios have limited value as a measure of the effectiveness of delivery of policing services. While the ratio has traditionally been used as such a measure, its adequacy has seriously diminished over recent years. There are other factors that must be considered rather relying solely on police to population ratios." (Russell Cooper, QON 7 October 1997) I take a more liberal viewpoint regarding these ratios and while they may be a useful indicator of police strength they should not be used as the only indicator. I noticed in press clippings that you have taken an even more liberal and quite incorrect slant on police to population ratios by stating that in the Noosa electorate, the ratio would be one officer to over a thousand people. This is spurious argument and highlights your lack of understanding on the issue because in some electorates, like mine, there are no police stations and therefore, a police to population ratio could not be calculated. As pointed out in your question, it is true that the police to population ratio has improved and I would have considered that you would have applauded the government for this achievement considering under your government overall police to population ratios rose and consistently stayed in the 1:520 range. (which no doubt is the reason for Mr Cooper's answer above and why he tried to distance himself from the issue of police to population ratios). Your question implies that I should personally intervene in the allocation of police resources. Politicians should never interfere in the distribution of police in Queensland. The last time this occurred was under the Bjelke-Petersen regime and this type of corrupt behaviour was the catalyst for the Fitzgerald Inquiry.

My predecessor Russell Cooper recognised this important tenet in the separation of powers and also made special note of it in his 7 October 1997 answer to a Question on Notice. He said: "The Commissioner is responsible, on the advice of his senior officers, for allocation of police to various areas of the Service. All allocations are made on the basis of

operational policing and direct service delivery needs to ensure an equitable distribution across all Police Districts. It would be inappropriate of me to intervene in the Commissioner's determination of the allocation of police across the State."

#### **1254. Redcliffe and Metropolitan Harness Racing Clubs**

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (19/10/00)—

- (1) Are both Redcliffe and Metropolitan (Rocklea) Harness Racing Clubs currently under administration by the Queensland Harness Racing Board (QHRB)?
- (2) Did the QHRB General Manager state on television station Briz31 on 20 and 24 September 2000 that no club was currently under QHRB administration; if so, did she approve the QHRB's decision to relinquish its administration over Redcliffe and Rocklea clubs?

**Mrs ROSE** (21/11/00):

- (1) I am advised that neither Club is under current Board administration.
- (2) I am advised that the QHRB General Manager did state on television station Briz31 that no club was currently under Board administration. Ministerial approval in accordance with Section 59 of the Racing and Betting Act 1980 was obtained from the previous Coalition Minister for Racing on 5 June 1997 in relation to the Metropolitan (Rocklea) Club and from myself on 16 October 2000 in regard to the Redcliffe Club.

#### **1255. Metropolitan Harness Racing Club**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (19/10/00)—

Prior to the building of a restaurant at the Metropolitan (Rocklea) Harness Racing Club, were public tenders called for the planning and construction aspects of the project; if not, why not?

**Mrs ROSE** (21/11/00): I am advised that the Metropolitan (Rocklea) Harness Racing Club Incorporated was the body responsible for managing the restaurant project. Accordingly, questions regarding this project should be directed to that Club.

#### **1256. Queensland Harness Racing Board**

**Mr CONNOR** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (19/10/00)—

- (1) In the past 18 months, how many horses have been identified by Queensland Harness Racing Board (QHRB) appointed stewards as having been implanted with the illegal trenbolone steroid?
- (2) Were any horses allowed to race after knowledge of the implants was made known to stewards; if so, why were they allowed to race?

- (3) Were any QHRB appointed stewards aware of any horses carrying an illegal steroid implant prior to being sold to new owners through claiming races without the knowledge of the new owners?

**Mrs ROSE** (13/12/00):

(1) I am advised that two horses, Pauly Ambro and Alabias, were found after tests by the Racing Science Centre to have been implanted with trenbolone.

(2) Pauly Ambro has raced since the trenbolone was found in its body. I understand the horse was permitted to race after Dr J Groenendyke acting on behalf of the QHRB's stewards removed the implant. In respect of Alabias, I am informed that this horse has not competed in a registered race since an implant was removed from the horse by Dr B Morris and this implant was confirmed the Racing Science Centre as being a trenbolone implant.

(3) I am informed that no QHRB-appointed steward had confirmed knowledge of the presence of any illegal substance in any horse prior to its being sold to new owners.

#### 1257. Rockhampton Harness Racing Club

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (19/10/00)—

As the Rockhampton Harness Racing Club has now only been allocated 39 meetings per year, down from a previously allocated 55 meetings per year, and the Queensland Harness Racing Board now only permits five races per meeting, down from a previously allocated six races, where has the budgeted prize money for the sixth race been diverted to and for what use?

**Mrs ROSE** (21/11/00): The Rockhampton Harness Racing Club was allocated 36 meetings for 1999/2000.

The Club has been allocated 35 meetings for 2000/2001. However, as the Club was rarely able during the previous year to attract sufficient nominations to conduct its maximum funded allocation of six races per meeting, I am advised that a maximum of five funded races per meeting have been approved for this current season.

A reserve pool of \$30,000 has also been set aside by the QHRB to enable, at the Board's discretion, six funded races per meeting on occasions when viable nomination numbers are received.

#### 1258. Highfields, Police Station

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/10/00)—

Is the Queensland Police Service seeking to identify land at Highfields north of Toowoomba as a possible site for a future police station; if so, what time frame has been put in place for the construction of the station and what criteria is required before a decision is made to proceed with construction?

**Mr BARTON** (20/11/00): Preliminary investigations as to the availability of suitable land for

any future police facility at Highfields have been undertaken by the Queensland Police Service and inquiries are ongoing.

The Queensland Police Service advise the construction of a police facility has been identified for inclusion on the Queensland Police Service Capital Investment Strategic Plan, but has not been afforded a high priority.

The need for a police presence at a particular location is assessed and prioritised by the relevant regional police management having regard to various factors, including population. Crime statistics and calls for service. Due cognisance is given to regional recommendations when considering the project for inclusion on the Capital Investment Strategic Plan.

#### 1259. Forde Inquiry, Prosecutions

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/10/00)—

With reference to those files referred to the Police Service by the Forde Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions—

What prosecutions have occurred to date, how many have been successful and what are the details of the convictions?

**Mr BARTON** (20/11/00): A total of 20 complaints have been referred to the Queensland Police Service from the Forde Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions. Of these, 3 complaints were withdrawn, 10 complaints were investigated but insufficient evidence was adduced to substantiate prosecution action against any person, and 7 complaints are still under investigation.

#### 1260. Townsville Port Corridor

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/10/00)—

With reference to the Townsville Port access corridor and ongoing investigations into this vital infrastructure link—

- (1) Have all the necessary investigations been completed; if not, what work remains to be undertaken and when is it expected to be finalised?
- (2) When does the Government anticipate a decision/resolution on this issue will be announced to the public?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/11/00):

(1) All technical assessments on the draft Impact Assessment Study have been completed and the draft Impact Assessment Study has been released to the public for comment.

Responses are now being analysed by the proponent group which comprises Queensland Transport, Main Roads, Queensland Rail, Townsville City Council and Townsville Port Authority, before a final recommendation.

A recommendation on the new proposed Eastern Corridor is expected later this year, however, this recommendation could be subject to the

requirements of the new Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, which will ultimately determine the timing of any decision on a new Eastern Corridor.

#### 1261. Chandler Sports Complex

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (19/10/00)—

With reference to the \$183,980 allocated to the Brisbane City Council under the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program for the development and enhancement of Chandler swimming pool—

- (1) Why was this project funded under the above funding program when the National Standard Sport Facility Program (NSSFP) would appear to be a much more appropriate funding source?
- (2) Why is this project not part of the \$1.275m upgrade of the Chandler complex previously announced and funded under the NSSFP?
- (3) Will this project be completed prior to the Goodwill Games?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (16/11/00):

- (1) The project is appropriate to be funded under the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program, rather than the National Standard Sport Facilities Program, as the focus of the project is the internal enhancement of the venue to make it a more flexible facility for community sporting activity, rather than to develop it for national sporting competition.
- (2) The project is not part of the \$1.275 million upgrade planned for the 2001 Goodwill Games, as the Chandler pool will only be used for swimming events during the 2001 Goodwill Games. The moveable bulkhead being constructed under this project will provide greater flexibility to enable the pool to be used for sports such as canoeing, water polo and water aerobics. The pool will not be utilised for these events during the 2001 Goodwill Games.
- (3) It is anticipated the work will be completed by 30 April 2001.

#### 1262. Safe Driving Tips for Queensland Smart Road

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/10/00)—

With reference to the brochure "Safe Driving Tips for Queensland Smart Road" which was distributed in association with the opening of the Pacific Motorway—

- (1) How many brochures were produced and how were they distributed?
- (2) Who were they printed by, where were they printed and what was the total cost of their production, including design, printing and distribution?
- (3) What associated media campaigns were conducted, what media was used and what was the cost of these campaigns?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (16/11/00):

(1) A total of 350,000 brochures were printed, 309,500 of which were distributed in local newspapers, 24,389 were mailed to residences, businesses and retirement homes along the motorway, the remainder were sent to Customer Service Centres of RACQ, Queensland Transport, Queensland Police Service and BP Services Centres.

(2) The brochures were printed by Platypus Graphics, with the design and production carried out by Jolt Pty Ltd and Pep Central. AIS Media coordinated the insertion of the brochures in local newspapers and Salmat delivered the brochures to residences and businesses. The total costs of production, including design and distribution was \$80,177.54 plus 10% GST.

(3) The Driver Education Program was launched on 13 September 2000, followed by two weeks of radio advertising and the comprehensive distribution of the Driver Education brochure. Television advertising followed the radio advertising over the first two weeks of October 2000. The cost of radio advertising amounted to \$14,388 plus 10% GST and television advertising costs totalled \$54,891 plus 10% GST.

#### 1263. Crime Statistics

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/10/00)—

- (1) Will he detail the crime statistics for other offences, i.e. offences other than property offences and offences against the person, for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000?
- (2) What is the clear-up rate for these offences?

**Mr BARTON** (20/11/00): The information you have requested is contained in the 1999/00 Police Annual Report and Statistical Review.

#### 1264. Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (19/10/00)—

With reference to the allocation of funds through the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program—

- (1) Will he table the list of projects funded under this program since its inception in 1998?
- (2) Will he indicate which projects have been totally completed?
- (3) What is the total value of the completed projects and for which funds have been fully acquitted?
- (4) Do the guidelines for funding under this program require applicants to submit detailed plans and application for funds prior to funding being allocated?
- (5) Have all successful applicants complied totally with the funding guidelines and assessment criteria?

**Mr MACKENROTH (16/11/00):**

(1) The list of projects approved under the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program since its inception in 1998 is detailed in Attachment 1.

(2) All projects under the CSRFP 1999 have been completed except for the Zillmere Police Citizens Youth Club project, which will be completed in April 2001.

Projects funded under the CSRFP 2000 are due to be completed in December 2000. Of these projects, 10 have been completed and all but two of the remaining projects are progressing as planned. Significant delays have been experienced with the Redbank Sporting complex, where my Department is awaiting the outcomes of a land study undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources, and the Redlegs Club Rowing Facility, which is subject to development approval from the Brisbane City Council.

(3) The total value of the grant funds for the completed projects since 1998 is \$4,581,421. These funds have been fully acquitted through a subsidy process of payment.

(4) The guidelines for the program require applicants to submit a set of plans for the proposed projects. These plans would be at the concept design stage at the time of application. The applications must also contain details relating to cost, applicant contributions, community need, management arrangements and viability of the project.

(5) Successful applicants are allowed a 12-week period after the date of approval of the grant to further develop their project information and submit those details to this Department. As the CSRFP 2001 projects were only approved on 9 August 2000, these applicants are currently in the process of complying with the specific conditions attached to their approved funds. Attachment 2 lists the status of all CSRFP applications.

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

**1265. Tarong Power Station, Salinity**

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (19/10/00)—

- (1) What dialogue has occurred with the Landcare group, the local community and the Meandu/Barker Creek farmers over the levels of salinity being discharged into the creeks by the Tarong Power Station?
- (2) Is it a fact that the salinity of Boondooma Dam's water is discharged into the Meandu/Barker Creek system and is leading to substantial increases in the salinity of downstream groundwater?
- (3) Have tests been carried out on land that has been irrigated and land that has not, to ascertain what level of salinity and other impurities that are building up as a result of the

mixture of Tarong water with the natural stream water of the Meandu/Barker Creek system?

- (4) Is he aware that crops such as navy beans can't be grown in these irrigated areas due to the possibility of salinity levels that may be causing root diseases, denying farmers the opportunity of planting a substantial income earning crop in the South Burnett?
- (5) Is it not the case that observation bore levels in the area are in some cases double the conductivity microsiemens/cm in recent times?
- (6) Does the Department of Mines and Energy collect the data on impurities in the bores; if so, what are the current levels of salinity, iron, pH, manganese, copper and other elements above the desirable upper limits?
- (7) How do they now compare with the original readings before the Tarong water was introduced to the systems?
- (8) If these readings of salinity and other impurities are escalating as a result of Tarong Power Station's discharges, what measures are being adopted to correct these increases?
- (9) What level of consultation exists between Tarong and the farming community when water is to be stopped or released from the power station?

**Mr McGRADY (23/11/00):** I have been advised of the following information by Tarong Energy.

- (1) Tarong Energy hosts quarterly community consultation meetings with representatives of local industry, the farming community, local councils, Chamber of Commerce and community groups (such as Landcare).
- (2) Hydrogeological investigations by Sinclair Knight Merz in 1999/2000 confirmed that the water releases from Tarong Power Station have not impacted detrimentally on downstream groundwater salinity.
- (3) Meandu Creek was an ephemeral stream (flowing only after storms), prior to water releases from Tarong Power Station. Any land irrigated prior to the operation of the power station was typically irrigated from groundwater supplies.

Some assessment of the impact of irrigation on local soils (irrigated pastures versus non-irrigated pastures) has been made. Although release water from the Tarong power station is of better quality than the ground water (both pre-Tarong and currently), irrigated sites do exhibit degrees of salinity within the soil profile. As irrigation practices contribute to such effects, the creek water may be more suitable than groundwater for less intensive irrigation regimes.

(4) Navy bean productivity has not been raised at any discussions with farmers, Landcare forums or irrigator meetings. Indeed, the strong feedback is that release of cooling water into Meandu Creek has been economically beneficial to the area by enabling more farmers access to irrigation water. A Sinclair Knight Merz survey identified substantial economic value of the Tarong release water to local farmers.

(5) The salinity of local groundwaters is highly variable. It is influenced by a number of factors relating to the hydrogeological environment of the aquifer, including rainfall, climate, geological factors and irrigation practices.

(6) Tarong Energy collects data on groundwater quality. A downstream monitoring bore currently has elevated levels of iron, chloride and molybdenum with respect to the ANZECC Water Quality Guidelines for irrigation water.

(7) The Coalition Government of the day did not conduct sampling to provide readings before Tarong power station water was introduced. Historic data for this monitoring bore is therefore limited to approximately 15 years (representing the commencement of water release from the power station).

(8) The 1999/2000 Sinclair Knight Merz report on the sustainability of power station releases for irrigation stated that continual release of blowdown water into Meandu Creek has not adversely impacted on the groundwater environment. Tarong Energy has a continuing and ongoing program to monitor the impact of releases on the downstream water quality and will continue to work with stakeholders to this end.

(9) Tarong Power Station and the Meandu/Barker Creek Water Advisory Committee signed an agreement in February 2000 on water release regimes. This identified the operational constraints of water releases and the communication protocol between parties. It is a "living document" set for review at least annually.

The communication protocol identifies a contact person at Tarong Power Station and a representative from the Water Advisory Committee to arrange adjustments to water release rates, according to the downstream irrigation needs. In recent (dry weather) times this communication has occurred on a daily basis.

#### 1266. Education Department, Statement of Unforeseen Expenditure

Mr QUINN asked the Treasurer (19/10/00)—

With reference to his Statement of Unforeseen Expenditure to be Appropriated 1999-2000 which revealed the need to provide Education Queensland with an additional \$34.169m for 'departmental outputs'.

What was the precise nature of those departmental outputs and the detailed breakdown of that \$34m?

Mr HAMILL (20/11/00): The additional appropriation of \$34.169M provided to Education Queensland for the 1999-2000 financial year primarily reflected a number of items:

- (a) Supplementation for Cleaner's Enterprise Bargaining Outcome—\$4.929m
- (b) Superannuation Supplementation (Correction of appropriation)—\$6.349m
- (c) Payroll Tax Supplementation (Payroll Tax became payable on Superannuation contributions from 1/1/00)—\$6.022m

- (d) Supplementation for an abnormal Legal Settlement—\$1.176m
  - (e) Adjustment of carryovers (with a corresponding adjustment in 2001-2002)—\$9m
  - (f) Additional funding for Students with Disabilities—\$6.1m
  - (g) Other—#\$0.593m
- Total—\$34.169m

# Net amount after adjusting for transfers of other unexpended appropriations, receivables, etc.

Most of these items reflect changes in costs, with item (f) directed at improvement in the quality of services provided to students with disabilities.

#### 1267. Natural Resources Department, Staffing

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/10/00)—

With reference to the shedding of temporary and contract staff from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (19/10/00)—

- (1) Since 30 June 2000 how many DNR temporary, contract or full-time positions have been discontinued in each district of the State?
- (2) How many such positions (full-time equivalents) are to be discontinued between 30 June 2000 and 30 June 2001?
- (3) Will he outline the nature and duties of each of the positions lost between 30 June 2000 and 30 June 2001 and explain why the positions have been shed?
- (4) Will or have any of these positions be centralised to Brisbane; if so, which ones and why?
- (5) How many of these employees have been given the opportunity to transfer into existing DNR positions/contracts in other regions?
- (6) How many have so far succeeded in obtaining alternative employment within DNR?
- (7) How many new positions have been contracted or will be contracted at each of the district DNR offices between the period 1 July 2000 and 30 June 2001?
- (8) Will he guarantee that the work of DNR district offices will not be diminished by the loss of staff and that the public will receive the same level of service?
- (9) Will any and all complaints be dealt with at a district level or through a Brisbane office?

Mr WELFORD (15/11/00):

- (1) There are no permanent jobs being cut in the Department of Natural Resources. A high quality service to in all regions remains a high priority for our Government. Temporary staff commence or conclude duties in line with short-term projects. In line with this normal course of operations, between 30 June 2000 and 24 October 2000, some temporary employees concluded their tasks.

(2) As project periods are constantly under review, it is not possible to provide a detailed response to this question.

(3) See previous responses

(4) No

(5) All temporary employees are eligible to apply for positions advertised in the Government Gazette.

(6) No specific records are available to provide a definite answer to this question.

(7) It is not possible to provide an estimate of further contracts at this time.

(8) My Department is committed to maintaining a strong presence in all regions of the State.

(9) Service complaints are dealt with locally.

#### 1268. Rural Fire Service

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (19/10/00)—

With reference to his much publicised handing over of 10 light response vehicles at a ceremony at the Rural Fire Service office at Raceview on 23 July—

(1) Were these vehicles deliberately withheld from service during the height of a very severe and dangerous fire period just so he would be available to hand them over?

(2) Were the vehicles actually produced and paid for at least a month before the official hand-over?

(3) Was the official ceremony an invitation-only function?

(4) Were any volunteers told they could not attend the function because they were not invited?

(5) Why were the arrangements for an open invitation function changed to invitation only?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (20/11/00):

(1) No. Manufacture of the 10 Nissan Patrol Light Response vehicles referred to was completed on 22 June 2000. They were shipped to Raceview from Crows Nest in batches of two and three vehicles at a time. Delivery was completed by 19 July 2000. In the period 20 through 22 July 2000 Rural Fire Service District staff completed final pre-delivery checks of each of the 10 vehicles. The presentation of the appliances was well before the commencement of the current fire season.

(2) The vehicles were paid for on 22 June 2000 and were available for release from the supplier on 28 June 2000 following a period of post-production testing. Difficulties were experienced in securing the services of a transport company to move the vehicles from Crows Nest to Raceview and it was only after extensive negotiations that a transport contractor was secured. Vehicles were then transported in small batches during the period 14 to 19 July 2000.

(3) Each of the brigades who received an appliance was invited to attend the ceremony. Other brigade members were welcome to attend if they desired.

(4) No. The Rural Fire Service did not issue any direction that would have precluded any volunteer from attending the handover ceremony.

(5) The staff of the Ipswich District Office who oversaw the organisation of the presentation of the appliances have confirmed they did not change the conditions of the invitations for this event.

#### 1269. Police Resources

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/10/00)—

(1) How many police officers have been sworn-in in the past two years?

(2) How many police officers have resigned from the police service in the past two years?

(3) How many police officers were on extended leave at 1 October 2000?

**Mr BARTON** (20/11/00):

(1) From 1 July, 1998 to 1 October 2000, 1,211 police officers were sworn-in to the Queensland Police Service.

(2) From 1 July 1998 to 1 October 2000, 330 police officers resigned.

(3) As at 1 October 2000, 96 police officers were on leave in excess of 28 days. This includes sick leave, maternity leave, paternity leave and leave without pay but does not include those on normal recreation and long service leave.

The Beattie Labor Government has the lowest staff turnover rate of any Australian police jurisdiction and in addition to that, the Queensland Police Service has the lowest rate of sick leave due to both work and non-work related causes of any police jurisdiction in Australia.

#### 1270. WorkCover

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/10/00)—

With reference to WorkCover—

How many statutory claims were rejected in (a) 1996-97, (b) 1997-98, (c) 1998-99, (d) 1999-00 and (e) from 1 July 2000 to 30 September 2000?

**Mr BRADDY** (20/11/00):

I am advised by WorkCover Queensland that:

(a) 1996-97—3125

(b) 1997-98—3634

(c) 1998-99—3061

(d) 1999-00—1665\*

(e) 01/07/00-30/09/00—241\*

\* It is important to note that there are a number of claims intimated in the 1999/2000 year and 2000/01 year to 30 September 2000 for which a decision has not yet been made.

WorkCover Queensland has advised me that for (d) there are 103 claims which have not yet been decided and for (e) 778 claims have not yet been decided.

It is also important to note that the total number of statutory claims intimated during the complete financial years (a) to (d) has decreased overall, as follows:

- (a) 1996-97—85,110
- (b) 1997-98—79,686
- (c) 1998-99—72,031
- (d) 1999-00—69,620

When expressed as a percentage of the total number of statutory claims intimated during a year, the number of rejected claims in complete financial years is as follows:

- (a) 1996-97—3.7%
- (b) 1997-98—4.6%
- (c) 1998-99—4.2%
- (d) 1999-00—2.5% (WorkCover estimate)

#### 1271. Cardiac Patients, Gold Coast

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (19/10/00)—

In 1999-2000, how many public cardiac patients travelled from the Gold Coast to Brisbane for appointments with specialists and how many travel to Brisbane for procedures?

**Mrs EDMOND** (20/11/00): The number of public cardiac patients who travelled from the Gold Coast to Brisbane for appointments with cardiac medicine and cardiac surgery specialists in 1999-2000 was as follows:

- The Prince Charles Hospital—519
- Princess Alexandra Hospital—Not available
- Royal Brisbane Hospital—Not available.

Both the Princess Alexandra Hospital and Royal Brisbane Hospital have manual outpatient management systems at present and are in the process of implementing computerised outpatient management systems which will capture this data.

The number of public cardiac patients who travelled from the Gold Coast for interventional procedures in 1999-2000 was as follows:

- The Prince Charles Hospital—168
- Princess Alexandra Hospital—328
- Royal Brisbane Hospital—58.

I am advised, according to Australian Health Technology Advisory Council Guidelines, this is well below the recommended minimum number of patients for a free standing interventional cardiac unit.

#### 1272. Cowell Electric; NorthPower

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (19/10/00)—

With reference to work undertaken in North West Queensland by Cowell Electric (a South Australian Company) and NorthPower as subcontractors for

Ergon energy, and now in liquidation and since these contractors left debts of up to \$70,000.00 to individual businesses in the Winton, McKinlay, Richmond and Flinders Shires—

- (1) What is the total of these debts?
- (2) What pre-qualification for these subcontractors was undertaken by Ergon Energy?
- (3) What provision was made to establish the financial capacity of these subcontractors before contracts are awarded?
- (4) Will the unpaid debts to the businesses in question be paid; if so, when can they expect their payments?

**Mr McGRADY** (21/11/00):

(1) The Administrator is currently assessing the total of the debts and will report findings in November 2000.

(2) NORQEB, as a predecessor to Ergon Energy, selected NorthPower on criteria including price, technical and financial capability, quality assurance, previous experience and performance, comparative costs, ability to complete work on time, employment of staff from Mid-West Queensland and live line capability.

(3) As the prime contractor, NorthPower's financial statements were reviewed in detail by NORQEB to establish its financial capacity. NorthPower is a NSW Government Owned Corporation with substantial assets and cash flow and has prime responsibility for Cowell Electric's financial capacity. Cowell Electric's financial statements were also reviewed by NORQEB.

(4) This matter is the responsibility of the Administrator who will report findings in November 2000. Ergon Energy has not yet been able to ascertain if this report will provide conclusive information on the amount and timing of debt recovery.

#### 1273. Stamp Duty on Union Amalgamations

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Treasurer (19/10/00)—

During his term as Treasurer, has his office or the office State Revenue received any requests for ex gratia relief from stamp duty on transfers associated with union amalgamations; if so, will he indicate relevant details including (a) name of union(s), (b) amount of ex-gratia relief sought and (c) whether the request was granted?

**Mr HAMILL** (20/11/00): The Industrial Relations Act 1990 (Qld) provided a stamp duty exemption for an instrument executed pursuant to, or to give effect to, an amalgamation of Queensland registered unions.

Consistent with past practice, to provide equivalent relief regarding the amalgamation of federally registered unions, on 26 August 1998, ex gratia relief \$55,875.00 was approved upon the amalgamation of the Waterside Workers Federation of Australia and the Seamen's Union of Australia.



**1274. Magna Carta; Bill of Rights**

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (19/10/00)—

With reference to a letter written on 16 August 1996 by the then Minister for Justice, the Hon Denver Beanland to Mr A Fraser MP of Coffs Harbour, the Hon Mr Beanland stated that "The legal advice to the Honourable the Attorney-General is that the Bill of Rights 1688 continues in force in Queensland" and on 22 June 2000, Justice J McHugh stated in the High Court that "Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights are not documents binding on Australian legislatures in the way that the Constitution is binding on them ... At the highest, those two documents express a political ideal, but they do not legally bind the legislatures of this country, or for that matter the United Kingdom." (see *Essenberg v The Queen* B55/199 (22 June 2000)) (19/10/00)—

- (1) When did the Bill of Rights change from being "in force in Queensland" to being a "political ideal, but not legally bind the legislatures of the country"?
- (2) How were the changes made?
- (3) Who made the changes?
- (4) By what or whose authority were the changes made?

**Mr FOLEY** (20/11/00): The role of the Attorney-General is set out in the Attorney-General Act 1999 and does not include advice to, or commentary in, the Parliament on the judgments delivered in cases by members of the High Court of Australia. That Court is the final arbiter of what is the law of Australia or of any part of it, and the members of the Court give the reasons for their conclusions in the judgments.

**1275. Drought Assistance**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (8/11/00)—

With reference to several farmers in the Murilla, Chinchilla and Wambo Shires who have records to prove the current drought is the worst in the last 60 years—

Will he write to the Federal Government requesting assistance under exceptional circumstances, bearing in mind to qualify for exceptional circumstances the event in question must meet a 1 in 20 to 25 year criterion?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00): I thank the Member for Western Downs for his question as it gives me an opportunity to clarify some issues regarding Exceptional Circumstances.

There is a perception amongst the rural community that a State drought declaration will trigger Federal Government assistance under Exceptional Circumstances (EC) provisions. This misconception has been fuelled by numerous media announcements by the Opposition, AgForce and the Federal Minister for Agriculture.

A successful EC application must also demonstrate that the current event has had a severe and

prolonged (greater than twelve months) negative impact on farm income and not be driven by structural adjustment. EC applications must be initiated by the relevant industry organisations and forwarded to the Department of Primary Industries for clarification prior to submission to the Federal Government.

As yet I have not received any such application from industry.

I am aware that many producers in southern and south-east Queensland have experienced well below average rainfall during the first nine to ten months of this year and 18 shires and one part are now declared under State processes as a result of the deteriorating seasonal conditions.

Fortunately, the situation has improved in many areas during the last month with above average rainfall being recorded in many centres.

**1276. Fish Habitats**

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (8/11/00)—

With reference to Bernadette Kerby, a researcher with the QDPI-F, who when working on fresh water fish populations in south-east Queensland was asked publicly in Gympie about mullet, she replied that mullet did not enter or live in fresh water—

- (1) Why would she misinform her audience of experienced fishermen, when the publication "Australian Fisheries Resources" compiled by Kailola, Williams, Stewart, Reichelt, McNee and Grieve, clearly states that "adult sea mullet typically inhabit fresh water reaches of coastal rivers except during the spawning season, when mature adult fish migrate through the estuaries to inshore waters", and "postlarval sea mullet first enter estuaries when 2-3 cm long. They tend to migrate in calm weather as a continuous stream of fish. The fish form schools of a few hundred individuals after entering the estuary and move to shallow nursery areas, which may be located from the lower estuary to freshwater reaches of tidal creeks."?
- (2) Do such incorrect statements negatively influence the Government's understanding of the importance of building functional fish ladders on impoundments as rapidly as possible to prevent further decline in this fishery?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00):

- (1) I am advised that the officer in question was last in Gympie in 1998 for a public meeting to discuss the development of the Fisheries (Freshwater) Management Plan 1999.

The fish species discussed at that meeting were those that occur typically in freshwater such as golden perch and Murray cod. Species, including sea mullet that are typically marine, but migrate into freshwater for part of their lifecycle were not discussed.

To clarify further misinformation, the officer is not a researcher with the QDPI. At the time of the meeting

the officer was a Manager with the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority.

I am advised that Ms Kerby is well aware of the life cycle of mullet, and the publication, "Australian Fisheries Resources" by Kailola et al 1993, which is a key resource document for Fishery Managers throughout Australia. Ms Kerby is well qualified and holds a Bachelor of Science with Honours and a Master of Environmental Management. I am further advised that Ms Kerby did not make such an ill-informed statement as alleged.

(2) The building of functional fishways is a priority for this Government. Functional fishways are crucial for the long-term sustainability of many fish species, where barriers to movement have been constructed. Fishways are designed to accommodate all species requiring passage through a river system. In coastal streams they are specifically designed to pass species such as mullet and barramundi.

### 1277. Classification of Firearms

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (8/11/00)—

- (1) Is he aware that the Queensland Police Service (QPS), Weapons Licensing Branch has recently decided to reclassify a firearm from Category H to Category D and, in so doing, has now prevented the owner from using or possessing it?
- (2) Is he also aware that by doing this, the owner who obtained the firearm quite legitimately under the existing Permit to Acquire System, has been forced to hand in the firearm to the police or a dealer for disposal or sale, with no offer of compensation and sale of the firearm is most unlikely as the category that it is now in is extremely restrictive in who may possess such a firearm?
- (3) Why was there no consultation with the owner before the firearm was reclassified?
- (4) Can we expect further random reclassification of firearms, legally obtained by the owner, to a category that prevents ownership by sporting or target shooters?
- (5) What is the likelihood of the QPS offering fair and reasonable compensation to the owners of firearms treated in this manner by the QPS if the owner is unable or unwilling to comply with any new restrictions put in place by the QPS?

**Mr BARTON** (8/12/00):

(1) Yes, I am aware that the QPS Weapons Licensing Branch recently reclassified a firearm from Category H to Category D and that the owner is now prevented from possessing the weapon. I am further aware that the QPS has reconsidered the reclassification and the weapon is now a Category R firearm. The weapon in question is an F88 A2 Steyr manufactured by Australian Defence Industries (ADI) and is a copy of the Australian Army's general issue assault rifle. It differs only in that it is a semiautomatic firearm, not the fully automatic model used by the Army.

As manufactured by ADI, the weapon in question was 79cm long, which prevents it being described as a Category H (handgun). The weapon has been shortened since manufacture to less than 75cm, which is a defining length for a handgun, but is not the only factor in deciding the category of a weapon. A dealer applied the Category of H to the weapon and the owner applied to acquire the weapon as a pistol for use in competition handgun shooting at his pistol club. The suitability of the pistol was certified by the then Pistol Club Captain.

As is common practice, Weapons Licensing Branch staff accepted the category applied by an experienced licensed dealer and approved the Permit to Acquire with all supporting documentation referring to a Category H pistol. During a routine audit of dealer returns, after the acquisition, the Branch identified that Category H was incorrect for an F88 Steyr and acted quickly to apply the requirements of the law. The weapon in question is clearly not a pistol but an artificially shortened, semiautomatic rifle which closely resembles a fully automatic assault rifle. To anyone with firearms experience it is clearly either a Category D or Category R firearm. Further, it is banned by the rules of the competition for which it was allegedly acquired. Serious questions have been raised about the actions of the dealer, the owner and others in this transaction and these matters are now subject to police investigation. The owner has, quite properly been prevented from possessing such a firearm and police are now holding the weapon for further examination.

(2) I am aware of that the firearm was acquired under the Permit to Acquire system but whether it was a legitimate acquisition is now under investigation. I am also aware that police, at this stage, have made no offer of compensation and that a sale or dealer refund is most unlikely.

(3) The matter of the correct categorisation of a weapon, especially a variant of a military assault rifle, is not a matter for consultation or negotiation with the owner. Once decided as Category D the owner could no longer possess it. As a Category R the requirement to remove the weapon became even more immediate. Weapons Licensing Branch attempted to correspond with the owner by letter, but such correspondence was preceded by an automatic advice on licensing and firearms registration that identified the change.

(4) This recategorisation was not random. It corrected a specific situation, which arose when a weapon was inappropriately acquired. This occurred, in part, because it had been miscategorised by an experienced dealer and incorrectly identified as a pistol/handgun/Category H firearm by the applicant for a Permit to Acquire.

(5) The likelihood of an offer of fair and reasonable compensation is a matter for the QPS. Such a decision may depend on the outcome of investigations and a decision on whether the owner, and/or others, deliberately set out to circumvent the proper application of weapons control legislation.

**1278. Bribie Island Bridge**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/11/00)—

With reference to the current plans for the reconstruction of the walkway and footpath on the Bribie Island Bridge—

- (1) Will he give the current estimate of the cost of the amended re-construction of the walkway with the cut out passing bays, as well as the cost of producing the amended plans?
- (2) Considering that the passing bays are extended outside the bridge line, and are built into the bridge structure by cutting through the supporting concrete girder, does this have the propensity to weaken the bridge structure?
- (3) Were estimates of the cost of a complete external walkway taken and considered prior to embarking on the construction of passing bays on the already thin walkway?
- (4) What companies were consulted for these estimates and what was the cost and the costing difference between these proposals?
- (5) Why has he refused to meet with the Bribie Island Chamber of Commerce to discuss the proposed re-construction of the Bribie Island Bridge walkway and Bribie Island Road upgrade through Ningi?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (7/12/00):

- (1) The estimated cost of the project is \$712,000. There was only one design process and therefore no amended plans were produced.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Department of Main Roads' Structures Division has considered and provided an estimate for the cost of widening the walkway for the entire length of the bridge. The division considered in detail three options, all of which are estimated to cost in the order of \$4 million including necessary improvements to the road carriageway.
- (5) Members of the Chamber of Commerce met with my Policy Advisor (Roads) and Mr Bob Drew, the Acting Executive Director (South East Queensland) on Thursday 16 November 2000 to discuss the Bribie Island Bridge proposals. I have been informed of progress and endorse the decisions made by my representatives on both of these projects.

**1279. Industrial Park, Woodstock**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (Mr Elder) (8/11/00)—

With reference to the proposed industrial park at Woodstock—

- (1) What studies have been undertaken to determine the natural flow or direction of the underground water table in this area?
- (2) Has any study indicated the possible ramifications to users of underground water in the surrounding areas due to the possible

leaching from holding dams from proposed industries such as zinc, lead and copper smelters and tanneries?

- (3) What is the lifespan of the protective lining of these holding dams?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (5/12/00):

(1) A major strategic planning study to identify potentially suitable land for heavy industrial development for the next 30 years, the Townsville Industrial Land Project (TILP) was undertaken by McWilliams Consulting Engineers. This recently completed study identifies underground water flows as being from west to east and tending to the south-east towards the Haughton River. Assessment of the flows has been based on a subregional analysis. However, the study report recognises additional underground water investigations will need to be undertaken by any prospective industrial proponent to provide for a more detailed understanding of underground water flows.

(2) The TILP study was aimed at conducting a strategic analysis of the area's overall suitability for industry. It did not deal in detail with individual assessments of the specific impacts of particular industries. Such work is location and product specific and will be required as part of any future investigations in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Any future proponent for major development would have to undertake detailed underground water and risk assessment studies as part of that process. In order that this is included in the EIS process, the study report proposes design mechanisms, specified in standards pertaining to world's best practice, be applied to any future development. In this way, the quality of the underground water resource can be maintained through appropriate design and construction of any proposed industrial development within the area.

(3) Typically, holding dams are constructed from clay. An added protection can be given to the dam with a synthetic liner. The material from which the synthetic liner is made, is designed to last the life of the project if it is installed correctly in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. For additional security, contemporary standards require and technology enables the construction of dams with a leachate collection system for early detection of any possible problems. The monitoring of dams is "cradle-to-grave", that is, when the plant has finished operating, the proponent is responsible for continued monitoring of the dams until the waste is either used (in reprocessing) or no longer considered to be a potential contaminant.

**1280. Boonah, Laidley and Gatton State High Schools**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Education (8/11/00)—

With reference to the State high schools located at Boonah, Laidley and Gatton in the electorate of Lockyer—

- (1) How much has his department spent on each of these high schools since June 1998 on refurbishment or building of new facilities?

- (2) How much has been budgeted for 2000-01 for each of the above high schools for refurbishment or new buildings?
- (3) Are there plans to refurbish or build any new classrooms at the above schools in the next five years?
- (4) What were the teaching staff levels and ancillary staff for each of the above high schools at June 1998?
- (5) What are the current staffing levels at each of these schools?
- (6) What grants has his department provided for the building of private schools in the electorate of Lockyer in the past three years?

**Mr WELLS** (12/12/00):

(1,2 & 6) I am advised by the department that the information that the Honourable Member requests is available in Budget Paper No 5, and at the end of the financial year in the department's annual reports.

(3) The department constantly monitors the needs of schools for possible inclusion on future Capital Works Programs.

(4 & 5) I am advised by the department that all schools are provided with staff according to the allocative model of the day.

#### 1281. Brassall State School

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/11/00)—

With reference to the Brassall State Primary School—

- (1) Is he aware that two school blocks have deteriorating asbestos roofs?
- (2) In light of the new Government policy on asbestos and public safety coming into force from 1 November 2000, what steps does his department now intend to take to address this very dangerous health risk to the Brassall school children and Brassall community?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (8/12/00): It is a measure of the Honourable Member's failure as a local representative that he suddenly "discovered" that some state schools still have roofs containing asbestos.

It is also a measure of his failure that he has taken almost three years to visit the Brassall State School which is in the same street as his electorate office.

I understand the school community is incensed at the negative publicity the Honourable Member has generated, especially at a time the school is encouraging the local community to enrol their children and provide other support.

The Honourable Member claimed he went public on this issue to get the "problem" addressed quickly.

Yet not once in almost three years has he written to me as Minister on this or any other issue relating to school maintenance in the Ipswich West electorate.

For the Honourable Member's information, an asbestos audit on the roofs at Brassall State Primary

School and Preschool was carried out on 16 December 1998. They were identified as being in fair condition, and if left undisturbed, would result in minimal exposure which constitutes a negligible risk to health.

The new Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2000 relates to asbestos materials in the workplace. The roofs were reinspected on 10 November 2000, and there was no change to their status. The nominated officer on site, the Registrar of Brassall State Primary School, manages and monitors the condition of all asbestos materials identified in the asbestos register of the Building Management Plan. This plan is developed by QBuild under the Workplace Health and Safety Act to provide information for Contractors and staff to raise awareness of the asbestos materials and requirements for management and to ensure that the existing asbestos is not disturbed.

The presence of asbestos in roofing material is an issue that the State Government has been addressing for many years—and continues to address in a manner that is both financially responsible while putting top priority on the safety and wellbeing of building occupants.

#### 1282. Mackay Hospital

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Health (8/11/00)—

With reference to Mackay Base Hospital—

- (1) What was the total number of staff by type at 30 June 1998?
- (2) What was the total number of staff by type at 1 November 2000?
- (3) What were the patient bed numbers at 30 June 1998?
- (4) What were the patient bed numbers at 1 November 2000?

**Mrs EDMOND** (8/12/00):

(1) Total number of full-time employed (FTE) staff by type at 30 June 1998 was as follows:

Clinical—323.55  
Other—233.83  
Total—557.38

(2) Total number of FTE staff by type at 1 November 2000 was as follows:

Clinical—331.17  
Other—230.26  
Total—561.43

(3) Occupied bed days in June 1998 were 4257.

(4) Occupied bed days in October 2000 were 4273.

#### 1283. Port Authorities

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Treasurer (8/11/00)—

What is the after-tax profit of each of Queensland's port authorities and what dividend will each authority be required to pay the State Government?

**Mr HAMILL** (8/12/00): The after-tax profit of each of Queensland's port authorities will be contained in their respective 1999-2000 Annual Reports.

Some port authorities will not have to pay a dividend for 1999-2000.

The Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 provides that the Government may require a GOC to pay a prescribed dividend through issuing a direction, however, no such direction has been issued.

#### **1284. Logan Village, Traffic Intersection**

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/11/00)—

With reference to the dangerous state of the intersection of the State controlled road, Waterford-Tamborine Road and North Street and Quinzeh Creek Road at Logan Village and as the dangerous condition of this intersection is obvious because of several horrific accidents at this corner—

Will the Government allocate funds to upgrade this intersection?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (7/12/00): The Department of Main Roads has allocated \$50,000 this financial year to the Beaudesert Shire Council for the design and construction of safety improvement works. This includes the provision of median strips on the side streets, improved pavement marking and road furniture and provision of a left-turn lane out of Quinzeh Creek Road.

Additionally, a traffic and planning study is being jointly considered by Beaudesert Shire and Main Roads to determine appropriate treatments for the long-term needs at this intersection. Subject to the outcome of this study, funds for appropriate treatments to further redevelop the intersection have been identified in the indicative forward allocations of the Roads Implementation Program 2000-2001 to 2004-2005.

#### **1285. Justice Department, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his department for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr FOLEY** (8/12/00): Details of outsourced legal services for the 1998/99 and 1999/2000 financial years are set out in attachments A and B respectively.

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

#### **1286. Forest Conservation and Regeneration**

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (8/11/00)—

With reference to Issue No 36 of Between the Leaves in which there is a celebration of 100 years of forestry in Queensland and to an article titled The Evergreen Years in which it mentioned the reservation of 575,000 hectares for forestry use by 1904, the adoption of silviculture practices, the natural regeneration of red cedar in north Queensland, standardisation and expansion of silvicultural techniques on native hardwood forest reserves in south-east Queensland and Atherton and report that by 1937 more than 37,000 hectares were so treated, that prudent logging and the removal of marginal trees was allowed in 1937 and that "assisted natural regeneration" based on rules derived from research and experience was applied from 1940—

- (1) Why did QDPI-F cease its proven silviculture practices and assisted natural regeneration processes?
- (2) Is this cessation of assisted natural regeneration by the Forestry Department that has caused the intentions of Section 33 of the Forestry Act 1959 to 1982 namely of timber production in perpetuity, protection of water sheds, and the multiple use (such as grazing) of forest reserves to be unachievable and thus now the forest reserves have closed to logging and silviculture and grazing?
- (3) Is he aware that private silviculturalists graze cattle and continue to increase their annual sawlog yields on land that adjoins forest reserve?
- (4) If this cessation of silviculture practices caused a decline in sawlog yield and environmental integrity, why not reinstate the practices of the 1940s and return to the evergreen years?
- (5) Has he been overwhelmed by the criticism of the conservationists and the biased views of one of his fellow Ministers?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00):

(1) DPI Forestry continues to adhere to sound silvicultural practices in the way natural forests are managed for timber production. Harvesting and other forest operations are based on detailed procedural manuals developed over many years by DPI Forestry to reflect the results of both silvicultural and environmental research. In the area covered by the South East Queensland Forest Agreement and the cypress belt of western Queensland, DPI Forestry's harvesting guidelines are further supported by a Codes of Practice developed after wide consultation with industry and other stakeholders. These Codes of Practice specifically deal with forest regeneration and require that DPI Forestry ensure regeneration following harvesting is adequate.

(2) The cessation of harvesting in certain areas covered by the South East Queensland Forest Agreement had nothing to do with DPI Forestry's silvicultural practices, including stand regeneration. It was a result of an historic agreement between the timber industry, the conservation movement and the Government which recognised changing community interests in the forests of SEQ and the need by industry for resource security plus an opportunity to

build a new production base centred on plantation resources.

(3) DPI is aware of the good work being done by many graziers to diversify their farm income streams, with commercial forestry opportunities being increasingly recognised. There are also obvious benefits for the environment with forests being managed for timber production rather than being cleared or degraded over time. DPI extension officers are actively pursuing programs to assist farmers and graziers better manage their forests. In terms of relative yields, my advice is that there is no hard evidence in this regard. It depends on the particular area. What is true however is that State Forests are managed for a wider range of uses than simply timber production and there is a legitimate community expectation that this be the case. This point is clearly reinforced by Section 33 of the Forestry Act.

(4) It is well understood that the volume available for harvest from Queensland's native forests has been in decline for many years, however this decline is not a result of a lack of silviculture. The key factors influencing the available volume are the transition from the first cut forest condition with high standing volumes to a recut forest condition, the loss of forests through land clearing, and the cessation of harvesting in nominated high conservation value forests. A decline in sawlog availability from the natural forests was in fact foreseen by the forest service decades ago and was one of the key drivers behind the development of a number of major plantation projects upon which industry and the community are now so dependent for wood supplies. The latest project in this line is the Hardwood Plantation Initiative which will see the Government establish some 5000 ha of new plantations to allow the hardwood based industry in SEQ to grow and prosper into the future—indeinitely.

(5) No.

#### 1287. Treasury, Outsourced Legal Services

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Treasurer (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his department for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr HAMILL** (8/12/00): The following table lists fees paid to barristers and solicitors for outsourced legal services from 1 July 1998 to 31 October 2000.

##### NAMES—AMOUNT PAID

A J Williams—5,915.00  
 Allen Allen & Hemsley—1,004,791.51  
 Andrew Fitzsimons Barrister at Law—4,194.00  
 Andrew Philp—4,735.00  
 Australian Government Solicitor—11,658.74  
 Barry Beaverson & Stenson—68.20  
 Bain Gasteen—7,061.00  
 Biggs & Biggs—706,359.86  
 Bradley & Co Lawyers—2,865.00  
 Carew McKimmie Lawyers Trust—500.00

CC Hayworth-Smith—700.00  
 Clayton Utz—1,220,782.71  
 Colin White—700.00  
 Corrs Chambers Westgarth—440,989.22  
 D H Tait—39,065.00  
 Damian F Gordon—1,070.00  
 Dunhill Madden Butler—554,583.01  
 Ebsworth & Ebsworth Solicitors—3,989.00  
 Freemans Brisbane—562.50  
 Gadens Lawyers—310,804.20  
 Gall Stanfield & Smith—140.00  
 Gavin D O'Sullivan—13,930.00  
 Gilshenan and Luton—2,423.80  
 G J Gibson QC—3,925.00  
 Greg Sowden LLB LLM—654.00  
 Gregory M Egan—350.00  
 Groom & Lavers—575.00  
 Hartwell & Graham—123.50  
 Higginson McIntyre—875.15  
 Hunt & Hunt—283,823.54  
 J A Griffin—3,000.00  
 J J Clifford—42,400.00  
 Jensen McConaghy Solicitors—625.00  
 K F Holyoak—7,390.50  
 Keith N Wilson—114,302.50  
 Kelly and Co—600.00  
 Kruger Lawyers—75.00  
 L T Barnes—16,260.00  
 Macgillivrays Solicitors Trust A/c—2,200.00  
 Mallesons Stephen Jaques—305,517.11  
 McCullough Robertson—51,726.63  
 Michael J Hogan—3,800.00  
 Michael Sing & Associates—50.00  
 Michael Stewart—15,260.00  
 Minter Ellison—2,381.00  
 Morrow & Associates—51.00  
 Nicol Robinson Halletts Trust A/C—6,820.00  
 O'Shea Corser & Wadley—529,849.13  
 P A Keane—3,000.00  
 P.D.T Applegate—4,702.50  
 P V Ambrose—41,850.00  
 Peter Crokery—2,200.00  
 Peter D Lane—33,036.20  
 Peter Munro—300.00  
 Phillips Fox—342,373.20  
 Quinlan Miller & Treston—300.00  
 R B Dickson—38,535.00  
 R F King-Scott—28,024.50  
 R R Douglas—18,825.00  
 Reidy & Tonkin—14,323.75  
 Richard Douglas—9,330.00  
 Robert Whiteford—550.00  
 Roberts Nehmer McKee—99.00  
 Roger Maguire LLM—9,750.00  
 S C Williams—105,934.00  
 Shine Gouldson Trust A/c—633.03  
 Stephen Lee—800.00  
 Suthers Lawyers—60.00  
 Tolhurst Druce & Emmerson—7,060.00  
 Tutt & Quinlan—5,892.00  
 W A Martin—4,095.00  
 Walsh Halligan Douglas—473,021.14  
 Walter H Tutt Solicitor—2,438.00  
 Wayne Elliott—312.50  
 Williams Graham & Carman—90.00  
 TOTAL—6,878,056.63

**1288. Transport and Main Roads Departments, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his departments for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (7/12/00):

Total expenditures since 1 July 1998 were:

MR:	1998/1999—\$236,357; 1999/2000—\$749,027; 2000/2001 (to Oct 2000)—\$75,581; Total—\$1,060,965
QT	1998/1999—\$483,825; 1999/2000—\$725,645; 2000/2001 (to Oct 2000)—\$276,332; Total—\$1,485,802
Subtotal	1998/1999—\$720,182; 1999/2000—\$1,474,672; 2000/2001 (to Oct 2000)—\$351,913
Total	\$2,546,767

Both the Department of Transport and the Department of Main Roads have engaged private legal firms for large infrastructure legal advice through public tender processes. Figures have not been provided for the 2000/01 financial year given that the year is still in progress.

The following is a breakdown of expenditure:

**FINANCIAL YEAR 1998/1999**

**DEPARTMENT OF MAIN ROADS**

Name; Solicitor/Barrister—Amount Paid  
 Allen Allen & Hemsley; Solicitor—\$2,000  
 Boulton, Cleary & Kern; Solicitor—\$26,003  
 Carter Newell; Solicitor—\$33,974  
 Clayton Utz; Solicitor—\$163,782  
 Minter Ellison; Solicitor—\$10,598  
**TOTAL—\$236,357**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**

Name; Solicitor/Barrister—Amount Paid  
 Michael White, QC; Barrister—\$3,000  
 Jack Farrell; Barrister—\$1,000  
 Frank Brewer; Barrister—\$5,000  
 Livingstones Australia; Industrial Advocate—\$12,195  
 Allen Allen & Hemsley; Solicitor—\$107,941  
 Carter Newell; Solicitor—\$217,787  
 Gadens Lawyers; Solicitor—\$79,249  
 Doyles Construction Lawyers; Solicitor—\$17,993  
 Boulton Cleary & Kern; Solicitor—\$1,000  
 Corrs Chambers Westgarth; Solicitor—\$38,660  
**TOTAL—\$483,825**

**FINANCIAL YEAR 1999/2000**

**DEPARTMENT OF MAIN ROADS**

Name; Solicitor/Barrister—Amount Paid  
 Allen Allen & Hemsley; Solicitor—\$14,382  
 Blake Dawson Waldron; Solicitor—\$5,011  
 Boulton Cleary Kern; Solicitor—\$29,840

Carter Newell; Solicitor—\$9,016  
 Clayton Utz; Solicitor—\$418,992  
 Gadens Lawyers; Solicitor—\$70,026  
 Ian Hanger; QC—\$9,450  
 Minter Ellison; Solicitor—\$110,225  
 R R Douglas; Solicitor—\$8,350  
 Raelene Kelly; Barrister—\$37,300  
 Wordware Solutions; Solicitor—\$36,435  
**TOTAL—\$749,027**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**

Name; Solicitor/Barrister—Amount Paid  
 Allen Allen & Hemsley; Solicitor—\$187,952  
 Blake Dawson Waldron; Lawyers—\$5,243  
 Carter Newell; Solicitor—\$142,185  
 Clayton Utz; Solicitor—\$34,638  
 Corrs Chambers Westgarth; Solicitor—\$68,561  
 David French/Mr Burns; Solicitor/Barrister—\$995  
 Doyles Construction; Solicitor—\$61,628  
 Gadens Lawyers; Solicitor—\$220,063  
 Richard Jones; Solicitor—\$4,380  
**TOTAL—\$725,645**

**1289. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for her departments for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Ms BLIGH** (8/12/00): Payments made for outsourced legal services for each financial year since 1 July 1998 are as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

**1290. Education Department, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his department for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr WELLS** (12/12/00): The total value of outsourced legal services for the department in 1998/1999 was \$11,931.15. In 1999/2000 the total outsourced legal services for the department was \$35,847.28.

These services were provided Clayton Utz and Minter Ellison. The legal services provided by Minter Ellison were the pro rata share for Education Queensland in relation to legal advice and representation in the recent Copyright Tribunal hearing. Minter Ellison represented the schools sector across all states and territories and all

educational sectors pursuant to a MCEETYA agreement in endeavouring to reach an equitable method of remuneration for all the copying that must be performed in schools to produce optimal student learning outcomes.

The legal services provided by Clayton Utz relate to a matter on which the Crown Solicitor could not appropriately advise.

**1291. Communication, Information, Local Government and Planning Department, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his departments for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (8/12/00): Expenditure on outsourced legal services by the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport between 1 July 1998 and 8 November 2000 is as follows:

Provider—Cost

1998/99

Minter Ellison—977.50  
 Blake Dawson and Waldron—20,000.00  
 Howarth (Bne)—687.00  
 Clayton Utz—148,730.13  
 Geoffrey Hackett-Jones Pty Ltd—6,240.00  
 Allen Allen and Hemsley—10,755.00  
 Dunhill Madden and Butler—1,170.00  
 Total—\$188,559.63

1999/00—

Gadens—50,900.00  
 Clayton Utz—17,199.00  
 Geoffrey Hackett-Jones Pty Ltd—13,320.00  
 Total—\$81,419.00

2000/01 (to date)—

Clayton Utz—7,582.80  
 Total—\$7,582.80.

**1292. Mines and Energy Department, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his department for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr McGRADY** (11/12/00): Attached is a schedule outlining total value of outsourced legal services. (Tables and attachments may be obtained

from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

**1293. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Department, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr GOSS** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for her departments for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Ms SPENCE** (8/12/00): In response I wish to provide the following information:

Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development Legal Providers (Non-Government) Summary 1998-2000—

Financial Year: Legal Providers, Company—Amount

1998-1999: Dunhill Madden Butler—\$2,220

1999-2000: Dunhill Madden Butler—\$2,100

2000-2001: N/A—0

Total—\$4,320

Office of Fair Trading, Department of Equity and Fair Trading Legal Providers (Non-Government) Summary 1998-2000

Financial Year

1998-1999

Legal Providers, Company—Amount

Dept of Justice—\$590

John Heath, Document Consultants—\$1,087

P J Flanagan—\$3,025

Macrossans—\$1,420

D A Mullins SC—\$1,420

J B Sweeney—\$800

Windsor Craig, Solicitors—\$3,600

Clayton UTZ—\$872

1999-2000

E J Morzone—\$2,750

P J Flanagan—\$247

M D Hinson—\$1,800

2000-2001

Kiernan Dorney QC—\$2,130

Helen Bowskill—\$1,140

Total—\$20,881.

**1294. Public Works and Housing Departments, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his departments for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?



**Mr SCHWARTEN** (8/12/00): Details of outsourced legal services for the 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 financial years for, the Department of Public Works is at Attachment 1, and the Department of Housing is at Attachment 2. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

**1295. Queensland Health, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for her department for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mrs EDMOND** (8/12/00): For the financial year 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, see the attached.

Figures for the 1999-2000 year are currently being compiled. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

**1296. Environment and Heritage, and Natural Resources Departments, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his departments for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr WELFORD** (13/12/00): Expenditure on outsourced legal services for my Department of Natural Resources for the financial years 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 was \$126 165.95 and \$160 561.46.

A full breakdown of who provided the services and the value of legal work undertaken by each of the legal service providers is shown in Attachment One.

Expenditure on outsourced legal services for my Environmental Protection Agency for the financial years 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 was \$40,265.32 and \$79,606.36, respectively.

A full breakdown of who provided the services and the value of legal work undertaken by each of the legal service providers is shown in Attachment Two.

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

**1297. Tourism and Racing Department, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for her departments for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services

including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mrs ROSE** (8/12/00): I refer the Honourable the Member for Toowoomba North to the two tables set out below:

Department of Tourism Sport and Racing 1998-1999

**PROVIDER—COST**

Deacons Graham and James—400.00  
D A Kelly—2,180.00  
Baker and McKenzie—5,019.25  
Gilshenan and Luton—5,394.45  
E J Morzone—250.00  
Ron Frigo—1,500.00  
Graham Rhead—6,800.00  
Pilgrim Geddes—700.00  
Minter Ellison—1,861.00  
TOTAL—\$24,104.70

Department of Tourism and Racing 1999-2000#

**PROVIDER—COST**

Andrew Herbert—23,050.00  
Barry Thomas—650.00  
Graham Rhead—2,800.00  
Gilshenan & Luton—553.15  
Hunt & Hunt—1,100.00

TOTAL—\$28,153.15

# (including Office of Sport & Recreation until 14 December 1999).

**1298. State Development and Trade Department, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (Mr Elder) (8/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his departments for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (13/12/00): The following table details the amounts spent on outsourced legal fees (listed by legal provider) by the Department of State Development in each financial year since 1 July 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

**1299. Crisis Accommodation**

**Mr TURNER** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/11/00)—

With reference to the previous Family Services Act in which I understand that if a family had a sudden housing crisis and the parents and children found themselves on the street if it was purely a matter of money to pay for accommodation then Family Services were obliged to provide funds for accommodation to the unfortunate family, however under the new Act Family Services claim that they have no obligation to assist the parents only to take the children into care and as senior officers of Family

Services when asked which division of Family Services has the responsibility of assisting a total family in crisis, have replied there is no such division and no such responsibility, our concern is only about the children—

- (1) What measures will she put in place to address this apparent neglect of the total family and the current legislation which by consequence forces the separation of the children from the parents?
- (2) Does she feel this separation is acceptable given that the parents are not guilty of a misdemeanour other than to be poor?
- (3) Does she agree that keeping a family together where possible is paramount?

**Ms BLIGH** (8/12/00): The Family Services Act 1987 contains no such legislative provision. Families who are at risk of homelessness are assisted to access the Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program (SAAP) services available through the Department. This program assists people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through a range of supports, including supported accommodation services. There are 22 SAAP services across Queensland specifically targeting the needs of families. In addition, many services funded by the Department, including Crisis Care, are able to provide money to families in exceptional circumstances.

I am concerned at your suggestion about advice purportedly provided by departmental officers, as the principles of the Child Protection Act 1999 state: "the preferred way of ensuring a child's wellbeing is through the support of the child's family". The Department's focus is on keeping families together. I would ask the Honourable Member to give the names of the departmental officers who provided this advice to the Director-General of Families, Youth and Community Care Queensland.

### 1300. Gold Coast Seaway

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/11/00)—

- (1) Is he aware that since the Seaway at the Gold Coast has been constructed the velocity of the tidal currents has increased twofold and considerable erosion to both sides of the Nerang River and the Broadwater has taken place?
- (2) When will a proper engineering and environmental study take place to find a solution to correct the above matters?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (7/12/00):

- (1) Since the construction of the Gold Coast Seaway, there have been increases in tidal currents, but advice received from the Environmental Protection Agency indicates that these would be substantially less than twofold. Erosion has taken place in the Nerang River and the Broadwater, but this cannot be attributed solely to increases in tidal flows since the construction of the Seaway. Discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Gold Coast City Council indicate

that it is likely that a number of other factors have also contributed to the erosion (including natural processes; increases in flows resulting from the construction of canal estates and dredging; and wash from increases in boat traffic). It would be very difficult to determine the relative impacts of all of these factors.

(2) The situation is being monitored by the Gold Coast City Council, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transport to ensure that appropriate action is taken to identify and correct problems where necessary. It is understood that the Gold Coast City Council is currently taking action to develop comprehensive computer modelling to assess and monitor changes in tidal flows in the area. The Department of Transport is liaising with the Council and the Environmental Protection Agency regarding this matter.

### 1301. Fuel Prices

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (8/11/00)—

With reference to the substantial price differential of up to 9 cents/litre in fuel prices between petrol stations on the Warrego Highway between Withcott and Hatton Vale and petrol stations in Toowoomba, only ten to fifty kilometres away—

Will the Queensland Government take any action to give Toowoomba motorists the advantage of the lower prices available at nearby areas; if so, what is this action?

**Ms SPENCE** (8/12/00): The Queensland Government does not have any control over petrol prices.

Petrol pricing is a national issue.

In 1998 the Commonwealth Government petroleum industry reform package effectively deregulated the industry by ending the role of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in setting the wholesale price. After the Commonwealth failed to negotiate the reforms, the situation became worse and we are now left with the aftermath—the removal of wholesale price control.

Competition is a major factor in determining pump prices. Retail margins on fuel are low and operators often rely on sales volumes or the sale of other more profitable non-fuel lines to maintain viability. Petrol demand is relatively stable and the only opportunity for service stations to increase sales is to take business from the competition. The volatility of retail petrol prices stems from the highly competitive nature of the industry and ongoing price discounting.

The discounting cycle can be triggered by service station operators or oil majors seeking to increase volumes through competitive wholesale buying, volume based rebates or wholesale price reductions. Other operators in the area must also discount or lose volume. Often service station operators appeal to the supplying oil company for a reduction or refund on part of the wholesale price to be able to compete. Discounting continues until one of the oil

companies withdraws or reduces support to service station operators. This action is usually followed by other oil companies resulting in a rapid across the market rise in prices. Of course, the less competitive/low turnover sites which often do not have access to discounted supplies commonly have higher prices.

Oil companies are forbidden by Commonwealth legislation from setting retail prices at service stations except at different sites owned and operated by the same company. However, this does not preclude the practice of closely monitoring the prices offered by competitors. Fuel prices at different branded service stations are electronically monitored by using data collected from credit card sales and the oil companies and many services station operators closely watch the price movements of competitors and adjust their own prices so as not to lose sales volumes.

The GST is another factor currently impacting on fuel prices and despite calls from automobile associations, industry and consumers, the Prime Minister has refused to reduce Commonwealth excise by the full amount of GST or to remove the GST inflation spike from the February excise adjustment.

The Federal Opposition has established an inquiry and is seeking submissions and taking evidence from industry and consumers. Concerned constituents are invited to make submissions to the inquiry.

Last year the Commonwealth Shadow Minister for Small Business introduced a private member's Bill into the House of Representatives designed to bring petrol prices down and to reduce the gap separating city and country fuel prices. This Bill is currently being examined by the Senate Economics Reference Committee. It 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 also provides protection for resellers from retribution from oil majors by providing access to ACCC enforcement measures.

The Queensland Government has continued to press the Commonwealth at the Council of Australian Governments and at the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs to introduce measures to address consumer concerns on the fuel pricing issue.

### 1302. TAFE, Audits

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (8/11/00)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No 1173—

How does he account for the fact that none of the 1232 audits he mentions gave prior indication of the problems revealed by the three user-choice compliance audits of TAFE institutes?

**Mr BRADDY** (8/12/00): The reason is simple: user choice audits focus on user choice. The audit tools used are designed for that specific purpose

and the people who conduct the audits are trained for that purpose. The same point I am making about user choice can be made about information technology, accounting, workplace health and safety and so on.

Each type of audit is designed for a purpose and a broad range of types is essential to safeguard a complex organisation like TAFE. That is why the audit program in TAFE embraces a broad gamut of audits, using different tools, with different objectives and conducted by teams with expertise in different areas.

### 1303. Gladstone Meals on Wheels

**Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (8/11/00)—

Given the critical role Meals on Wheels plays in ensuring senior members of the community can stay in their homes and receive suitable meals, what assistance can her department give Gladstone Meals on Wheels to ensure they retain their current facilities (a sum of \$125,000 is required)?

**Ms BLIGH** (8/12/00): The provision of funding for Meals on Wheels is the responsibility of the Honourable Wendy Edmond, MP, Minister for Health. However, I have been advised that a Gladstone based community committee has been established to discuss this matter.

### 1304. Primary Industries Department, Local Drought Committees

**Mr COOPER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (8/11/00)—

Will he table a list of all local drought committees in Queensland, also the names and occupations, including Department of Primary Industries representatives, of those who are on those committees and how many times did these committees meet in the seven months from 31 March 2000 onwards to the end of October 2000, to discuss drought declarations?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00): No. I believe that these members face enough pressure in the performance of their duties without mentioning their names in Parliament. There are some 260 industry members on 68 LDCs in the State.

These members perform their duties for no remuneration and very little gratitude. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the State's LDC members for their input into this uniquely Queensland process where drought is declared free of political bias.

LDCs in southern and south-eastern Queensland have met numerous times during the year to discuss seasonal conditions and assess Individually Droughted Property (IDP) applications. These meetings have resulted in recommendations to drought declare eighteen shires and one part shire under State processes.

Local Drought Committees (LDCs) bring together relevant local expertise representing the different

agricultural activities performed in the area. The local Stock Inspector is the coordinator of the committee.

LDCs are responsible for the assessment of IDP applications and making recommendations to the Department of Primary Industries and Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities on Shire declarations and revocations.

### 1305. WorkCover

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (8/11/00)—

With reference to WorkCover's Annual Report for 1997-98 which shows a staff satisfaction level of 85 per cent and to WorkCover's Annual Report for 1999-2000 which shows a staff satisfaction level of 66 per cent—

Will he list the reasons for this substantial drop in staff satisfaction since the Labor Government came to power?

**Mr BRADY** (8/12/00): I am advised by WorkCover Queensland that the surveys undertaken in 1997 and 2000 were undertaken by different organisations utilising different survey instruments, objectives and criteria. As such, the results cannot be meaningfully compared and therefore, no conclusions on comparative staff satisfaction can be drawn.

I am further advised that the statistics quoted in the 1997-98 Annual Report were based on a cultural audit of WorkCover, not staff satisfaction. The cultural audit identified the key elements of the organisation's culture at that time and involved a survey as well as focus groups.

This audit was undertaken in 1997 by Corporate Vision and the results were based on responses to individual survey items rather than an integrated index of employee satisfaction.

WorkCover advise that the 1997-98 report did not state an 85% staff satisfaction level, rather it showed that 84% of respondents rated WorkCover as a satisfactory organisation to work for with 37% rating it above average to excellent.

In 2000, Colmar Brunton undertook an annual employee opinion survey. This survey was different from the 1997 survey and had different objectives, criteria and questions. The survey had three objectives:

To provide a benchmark for measuring employee satisfaction on an ongoing annual basis.

To obtain feedback on WorkCover's ability to manage the change which occurred in 1998/99.

To identify other issues requiring resolution.

The survey included a comprehensive People Satisfaction Index which generated an overall satisfaction rating of 66%. Colmar Brunton advised that this was a superior result for an organisation that had undergone significant organisational cultural change over the past 1-2 years. Other results included:

65% of employees rated their satisfaction with their current job at 7 or more out of 10.

62% rated their satisfaction with WorkCover as an employer at 7 or more out of 10.

A comparable survey will be undertaken in 2001 which will provide a meaningful comparison to the 2000 survey.

### 1306. Gold Coast Police District

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (8/11/00)—

With reference to his recent answer to my Question on Notice as to the desperate need for a permanent police presence in the Arundel, Parkwood, Silver Bridle and Ashmore area of the Gold Coast—

- (1) Will he explain the formula by which it has been identified that there is no need to establish a permanent police presence in this area, bearing in mind that constant representation is being made to my electorate office from residents of those suburbs who are concerned about the escalating incidents of crime, particularly crime involving young people?
- (2) Why are these concerns being treated with contempt by him?
- (3) Why have young police officers who originally were designated to be stationed at Southport and Surfers Paradise now been transferred to Woodridge and Logan?

**Mr BARTON** (8/12/00):

(1) The Assistant Commissioner, South Eastern Region, has determined that in the immediate future the priorities for additional police presence in the Gold Coast Police District should be commenced by increasing the staffing allocations at existing stations. Whilst there have been population increases on the Gold Coast the Assistant Commissioner advises that it would be inappropriate at this time to build new facilities before maximising the full potential of existing establishments.

(2) This government is committed to increasing the number of police officers for operational duties. An additional seven police positions have been allocated to the Southport division since June 1998, bringing the allocated strength of the division to 83. Two additional marked patrol vehicles have been allocated to the Southport division in 2000.

(3) The Queensland Police Service have the responsibility to manage staffing issues and deployments to maximise efficiency. First Year Constables are transferred to the South Eastern Region for their 12 months training period. At the conclusion of their training the Assistant Commissioner, South Eastern Region may redeploy these officers to other areas in the police region to fill vacancies and meet policing needs.

### 1307. National Competition Policy; Queensland Rail

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/11/00)—

With reference to the recommendations of the National Competition Policy regarding the withholding of some \$8.6m in payments to Queensland because of the Government's failure to address competitive neutrality concerns about the subsidised operations of Queensland Rail—

Will he act immediately to protect the interests of public sector passenger transport providers by reviewing subsidy arrangements and compensation issues?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (7/12/00): The assertion in this question is wrong. The Federal Treasurer suspended an amount of \$8.6m in Queensland's second tranche Competition Payments pending the development by the Queensland Government, and presentation to the Council by 31 December 2000 of a Community Service Obligation Framework for public transport. A supplementary assessment is to be made by the Council at that time with respect to the suspended payment.

We are on track to deliver the Framework, which has been developed on the basis of extensive research, and focuses on achieving legitimate Government priorities in the most efficient manner possible, to the Council before the end of the year.

### 1308. Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (9/11/00)—

With reference to a recent letter forwarded to him concerning the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations (BSES) and its handling of plant breeders' rights—

What is the Government's intentions to the request to convert the BSES into a corporation in which shares are allocated to the industry participants to allow the industry to elect its own board of directors who will be directly answerable for their actions to the shareholders?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00): I have received two identical letters from residents of Ayr concerning the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations (BSES) and its handling of Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR).

The new Board of BSES took up office on 24 September 2000.

I have asked the new chairman, Mr Tom Fenwick, to hold discussions with sugar industry organisation leaders regarding options for the future structure of BSES.

BSES was raised at the fifth meeting of the Sugar Industry Development Advisory Council on 26 October 2000. I was pleased to hear at that meeting the consensus among industry members of the continuing importance of BSES to the industry.

I expect that Mr Fenwick will report these industry views following his discussion with industry leaders.

I would then plan to seek the in-principle agreement of the Government for industry and Government to proceed with the development of an options paper on the future structure of BSES.

### 1309. Police Stations, Lockyer Electorate

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (9/11/00)—

With reference to the police stations located at Boonah, Kalbar, Harrisville, Laidley, Forest Hill and Gatton in the electorate of Lockyer—

- (1) How much has his department spent on refurbishing these stations since June 1998?
- (2) How much has been budgeted for 2000-01 for each of the above stations for refurbishment?
- (3) Does his department have plans to build a new station at Gatton to replace the current grossly inadequate and aged facility; if so, when?
- (4) What were the staffing levels at each of the above stations, uniformed, plain clothes police officers and administration staff at June 1998?
- (5) What are the staffing levels at each of the above stations, uniformed, plain clothes police officers and administration staff at November 2000?

**Mr BARTON** (11/12/00):

- (1) Refurbishment costs for the specified police stations from 1 June 1998 to 22 November 2000 were:

Boonah—\$2089.40

Kalbar—\$56.75

Harrisville—\$855.05

Laidley—\$13555.85

Forest Hill—\$4613.30

Gatton—\$27980.10

- (2) No dedicated budget has been allocated for the refurbishment of the stations in question. The maintenance and upkeep of these stations will be undertaken on a prioritised basis within the regional minor works and maintenance programs as determined by the Assistant Commissioner, Southern Police Region.

- (3) The Queensland Police Service recognises the need for new police facilities at Gatton. A new police station and watchhouse complex for Gatton has been included in the Queensland Police Service's Capital Investment Strategic Plan. However, based on available funds and statewide priorities at this time, it is not envisaged that the project will proceed within the next four years.

- (4) As at 01 June 1998 the staffing levels of the below listed stations were as follows—

Police: Actual Strength—Allocated Strength

Boonah Station: 2 officers—2 officers

Kalbar Station: 1 officer—1 officer

Harrisville Station: 2 officers—2 officers

Laidley Station: 5 officers—5 officers

Forest Hill Station: 2 officers—3 officers

Gatton Station: 14 officers—13 officers

Gatton CIB: 4 officers—3 officers

**Administrative Officers**

Boonah Station: 1 permanent part time—1 permanent part time

Kalbar Station: 1 permanent part time—1 permanent part time

Harrisville Station: 1 permanent part time—1 permanent part time

Laidley Station: 1 full time—1 full time

Forest Hill Station: Nil—Nil

Gatton Station: 2 full time—2 full time

On 4 July 1998 the Forest Hill Police Station was transferred into the Laidley Police Division and the Forest Hill Police Division was abolished.

(5) As at 01 November 2000 the staffing levels of the below listed stations were as follows—

Police: Actual Strength—Allocated Strength

Boonah Station: 2 officers—2 officers

Kalbar Station: 1 officer—1 officer

Harrisville Station: 2 officers—2 officers

Gatton Station: 16 officers—15 officers

Gatton CIB: 3 officers—3 officers

Laidley Station: 8 officers—8 officers

**Administrative Officers**

Boonah Station: 1 permanent part time—1 permanent part time

Kalbar Station: 1 permanent part time—1 permanent part time

Harrisville Station: 1 permanent part time—1 permanent part time

Gatton Station: 2 full time—2 full time

Laidley Station: 1 full time—1 full time

On 4 July 1998 the Forest Hill Police Station was transferred into the Laidley Police Division and the Forest Hill Police Division was abolished.

**1310. Fish Ladder, Mary River Barrage**

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (9/11/00)—

With reference to the current fish ladder on the Mary River barrage which was designed by Hamar Midgley and was, at that time, "state of the art". Hamar Midgley has been awarded an OA, and an honorary doctorate of science for his services to limnology. He was aware at the time of design that his fish ladder may not work. Equipped with his usual determination and ever inquiring mind he persistently demanded the aid of myself, and members of the local branches of ANSA and Sunfish to monitor the progress of fish up the fish ladder. This has resulted in some 18 years of observation by people with a genuine interest in and knowledge of fish. It is reported that currently a fisheries officer from Bundaberg is carrying out a pre-construction survey of the fish ascending Midgley's ladder—

(1) Does this imply that the Minister believes that the selected fisheries officer can collect more data than the informal, but persistent observation by devoted fishermen over 18 years?

(2) Does this imply that the Minister does not recognise the wealth of knowledge held within the responsible section of the fishing community and thus wastes Fisheries Department time and funds by consigning an officer to conduct a survey, when better results would be forthcoming by consulting the Tiaro Land Care Group, ANSA, and Sunfish?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00):

(1) The monitoring being done on the Mary River barrage fishway is part of an ongoing program being undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to upgrade ineffective existing fishways and to retrofit fishways on key structures that do not currently have fishways.

The Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS) receives funding from DNR to assist with the design process which requires a combination of biological and engineering expertise and to monitor the results of the fishway upgrade.

The monitoring is undertaken using standardised equipment and methodology. It allows results to be compared between various fishways and allows before and after comparisons.

It provides information on the use of the fishway by all species not just commercially and recreationally important ones and provides detailed information on the species and size class of fish that can successfully ascend the fishway.

The present assessment of the Mary River barrage fishway is being undertaken in conjunction with an assessment of the Tinana barrage fishway and is part of an upgrade of both these structures.

(2) The role of the Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA) and Sunfish in monitoring fish movement and drawing attention to the need for better fishways is fully acknowledged. However this does not negate the need for standardised and rigorous monitoring to be done.

The Fisheries officer concerned will be contacting both ANSA and Sunfish when some preliminary results are available. I am advised the officer has already spoken to a member of the Tiaro Land Care Group.

The program being undertaken by DNR is of major benefit to both commercial and recreational fisheries. The cooperation between DNR and QFS has been very productive. I would urge you to support this important initiative.

**1311. Brassall State School**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Education (9/11/00)—

With reference to the Brassall State Primary School—

(1) Is he aware that two classroom blocks have deteriorating asbestos roofs?

(2) Is he aware that air conditioning units are not working and that paint is peeling from walls with broken and cracked concrete and leaking taps?

- (3) What action does he intend to take to address the health and safety risks associated with the asbestos?
- (4) What is the amount of funding provided to this school for maintenance?
- (5) What formula is used to calculate the number of groundsmen at this school?

**Mr WELLS** (12/12/00): The Honourable Member would be aware of the recent public statements by the Brassall State School parents and citizens association, which in part stated that the association did not have an issue with the asbestos roofs at the school. The parents and citizens association was also concerned about the impact on the school following the negative comments made by the Honourable Member.

The department informs me that the roofs have recently been inspected by Q-Build Asbestos Auditors and an independent expert and are considered to be in a fair condition.

The air conditioning units referred to, service a small section of staff accommodation and it has been a school-based decision to decommission these units.

The issues of cracked concrete and leaking taps are matters for consideration by the school when determining their maintenance priorities.

Education Queensland supports the whole-of-government approach in producing asbestos management plans and not removing material that is in a safe condition.

Should Q-Build at any time provide advice that there is an unacceptable risk with asbestos materials, immediate action will be taken to remove that material from the site

Brassall State School receives an annual maintenance allocation. It is the school's decision as to how this funding is expended.

All state primary schools are provided with one Janitor/Groundsperson if their enrolment is greater than 200 students.

Brassall State School is an excellent school that achieves quality outcomes. The Honourable Member should be careful not to talk down a school, which he as local member should be supporting.

### 1312. Hervey Bay Hospital, Specialist Services

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Health (9/11/00)—

With reference to the Hervey Bay Hospital and the need for specialist staff, such as specialist doctors of whom the hospital has only one in some fields and to a patient who has just been informed that their appointment to see the specialist regarding cancer will have to be postponed for a number of weeks whilst the specialist has his much needed holiday and respecting that these highly skilled people do require a break from time to time—

- (1) What temporary replacement staff will be made available while these specialists are taking their much needed holidays?

- (2) Are there any alternative arrangements in place to cater for people who are waiting on the lengthy waiting lists when this situation arises; if not, does she think it is acceptable for patients to be put on hold whilst they have major concerns over issues such as cancer while the specialist takes a holiday?
- (3) What plans are in place for the upgrading of the services provided by the Hervey Bay hospital?
- (4) When will we see some improvement in all of the above issues?

**Mrs EDMOND** (11/12/00):

(1) The Division of Oncology, Royal Brisbane Hospital and Health Service District provides a Radiation Oncology Clinic twice a month at the Hervey Bay Hospital. Dr Allison, Oncologist will conduct the Oncology Clinic during Dr Dickie's absence on annual leave.

(2) The Oncology clinic will be held one week later than usual but all patients referred to the clinic will be seen.

(3) There are no plans to alter Oncology Services at the Hervey Bay Hospital.

(4) A replacement Oncologist has been arranged to cover annual leave.

### 1313. Laguna Quays Resort, Whitsundays

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (9/11/00)—

With reference to a large private airstrip currently under construction at Laguna Quays Resort in the Whitsundays—

- (1) What input, if any, has the Department of Natural Resources had or is it having?
- (2) What input, if any, has the Environmental Protection Agency had or is it having?

**Mr WELFORD** (11/12/00):

(1) Development of the airport is subject to assessment under the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS) of the Integrated Planning Act 1997. My Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and my Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has an advisory role to the Assessment Manager, the Mackay City Council.

On 19 April 2000, DNR provided a response to the Department of Communication and Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport (DCILGP&S) as part of the referral coordination process under the IDAS process of the Integrated Planning Act 1997, requesting additional information to assess the application for a Material Change of Use (rural land use to airport) and registered concern with DCILGP&S that construction had already begun.

On 25 May 2000, DNR wrote to Mackay City Council regarding the construction under way on the site despite referral coordination still being in process and no response to DNR's information request having been received.

In June 2000 DNR officers carried out two site inspections investigating acid sulfate soils and defining watercourses as part of the referral coordination process.

On 11 September 2000 DNR provided further comments concerning identification of issues that need to be addressed in the Environmental Management Plan for the proposal (for example, acid sulfate soil management, pest plant management and soil and erosion control).

On 18 September 2000, a second application was received for a Material Change of Use application for a concrete batching plant and quarry to supply building material for the private airstrip. DNR supplied comments to DCILGP&S requesting additional information on elements of the Environmental Management Plan including erosion and sediment control, water quality, buffer areas and pest plants, required to enable an adequate assessment of the application to be made. DNR also raised concerns that the (extraction) operation had already been undertaken and was currently in progress.

DNR is currently assessing an application from Staged Developments for a permanent road closure as part of this development. (Road adjoining Lot 4 on RP 846359).

(2) The EPA has also provided advice to DCILGP&S regarding information that should be requested from the proponent to allow the Mackay City Council to properly consider the application.

Advice has been provided by the EPA to the Mackay City Council on measures which should be taken to prevent environmental harm through exposure of acid sulfate soils and storm water management, and to minimise impacts on biodiversity and coastal values.

Specifically, the EPA suggested to the Mackay City Council, and the applicant's consultant, that the runway should be moved to avoid the need for removal of high conservation value vegetation on adjacent State land. The applicant's solicitors responded to the EPA indicating that the runway threshold would be altered to avoid the need for removal of vegetation on adjoining State land.

The impacts from aircraft noise are subject to the requirements of State Planning Policy 2/92—Planning for Aerodromes and other Aeronautical Facilities. This policy, and the associated guidelines, place restrictions and requirements on aerodromes to minimise the impacts of noise, and must be considered by Council in determining the application for development approval. Council may seek the advice of the EPA once the Australian Noise Exposure Forecast contours are defined.

#### **1314. Caboolture Hospital, Specialist Services**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Health (9/11/00)—

(1) What is the current waiting time at the Caboolture Hospital for patients needing

specialist consultations/appointments in the following areas (a) urology, (b) gynaecology, especially suspected cervical cancer, (c) orthopaedic and (d) cardiac?

- (2) Are the already unacceptable delays of approximately two months now being extended up to five months, due to Christmas vacations?
- (3) Is it anticipated that specialist care, available at the Caboolture hospital will be even further reduced over the November/December period?

**Mrs EDMOND** (11/12/00):

(1) The current next available new patient appointment at Caboolture for patients needing specialist consultations/appointments is:

Urology—No service provided at Caboolture

Urgent Gynaecology—Two weeks

Non urgent Orthopaedic (outreach service from Redcliffe. Urgent cases are automatically transferred to Redcliffe Hospital)—Three months

Cardiac (not specifically provided—included in General Medicine)—One week

(2 & 3) No.

#### **1315. Fuel Subsidy Scheme**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Premier (9/11/00)—

With reference to a meeting of 'confused and irate' business people in Toowoomba recently who were protesting over the State Government's new fuel subsidy scheme where it was stated businesses were already groaning under the weight of paperwork and needed this latest scheme 'like a hole in the head'—

Will he immediately review his confusing and unworkable scheme and revert to the original arrangements in the interests of small business people and farmers?

**Mr BEATTIE** (11/12/00): Following concerns about the operation of Queensland's fuel subsidy scheme, a Taskforce was established to review the way in which Queensland's unique fuel subsidy scheme is delivered. The Taskforce was made up a wide range of industry representatives, including business representatives.

The Taskforce sought to ensure the scheme was sustainable and benefits all Queenslanders. As a result of the Taskforce's consultations, changes to the scheme will commence on 1 December 2000.

My Government has no intention of returning Queenslanders to the failed fuel subsidy scheme introduced by the Borbidge/Sheldon Government. The current reforms, prepared in consultation with users and industry, are designed to stop rorts and deliver the fuel subsidy directly to users.

Administrative complexities with the fuel subsidy scheme are the result of changes implemented by the Commonwealth Government with its new off road diesel subsidy scheme. The Queensland Government has raised a number of concerns with the Commonwealth over this issue.



**1316. Railway Line, Barambah Electorate**

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (Mr Elder) (9/11/00)—

With reference to the proposed railway line currently being negotiated through the Barambah electorate to transport future coal supplies to the Tarong Power Station and the ongoing negotiations with landholders and my redirection to him by the Minister for Transport who failed to supply an adequate response to the following question asked on 6 September 2000—

Will he guarantee the landholders (a) that no forced resumption of land will occur, (b) no pressure will be applied to landholders to accept less than a reasonable and fair compensation package which reflects the true value and distress inflicted upon those landholders and (c) that all reasonable questions, suggestions and concerns of land holders will be resolved?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (5/12/00): The proposed Brigalow to Tarong Rail line and the development of the Glen Wilga Coal Mine near Chinchilla constitute integral components of the strategic fuel supply plan for the Tarong Power Station, and the Tarong North Power Station currently under construction. These power stations are significant elements of the State's power supply system. Tarong Energy Corporation has indicated that it intends to use best endeavours to negotiate commercial deals for acquisition of the land required for the rail corridor. It is the Government's expectation that deals agreed to will embody reasonable and fair compensation.

The Impact Assessment Study process, currently being finalised, is the principal mechanism for dealing with questions and suggestions regarding the project and its associated impacts. The consultation with landholders affected by the project has been extensive, and I expect that it will continue to be so as the project development phase proceeds.

**1317. Suppression of Criminal History**

**Mr TURNER** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (9/11/00)—

With reference to a declaration from Townsville women, passed to him recently, calling for the Government to change a law that suppresses past criminal history when the accused face court on sexual violence charges—

- (1) Does the Government agree that the past criminal history of perpetrators of sexual violence should be admissible in court?
- (2) Will this Government be making the necessary changes to this law?

**Mr FOLEY** (11/12/00):

(1) The Government has reformed the impact of the criminal law on women through the Criminal Law Amendment Act 2000 which gave effect to recommendations of a broadly based taskforce of women.

The past criminal history of an accused is always admissible at a hearing to determine bail, or at sentencing. However, past criminal history is seldom relevant at a trial. A basic tenet of our system of justice is that a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty, by relevant and reliable evidence. The fact that a person has previous convictions does not of itself prove that the person committed the further offence. It is dangerous to assume guilt based on the fact that a person has been convicted of other offences. There are recognised exceptions to this, for example, a previous conviction may be admissible to show striking similarities, unusual features, or a system or pattern of behaviour with respect to the offence being proved.

(2) As previous criminal convictions can be admitted where relevant, the Government does not propose to change the law in this regard.

**1318. Emu Park-Rockhampton Road**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/11/00)—

- (1) What moves are in hand to further upgrade the Emu Park-Rockhampton Road?
- (2) What is the 10 year plan for this ever increasing busy road?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (13/12/00):

(1) The recently published Roads Implementation Program allocates funds for the following projects on the Rockhampton-Emu Park Road:

upgrading of the intersection with Yeppoon-Tanby Road in 2000-2001 at a cost of \$370,000; and

installation of traffic signals at junctions with Berserker Street, Dean Street and Thozet Road in Rockhampton City after June 2002, at a total cost of \$1.2 million. This allocation is indicative only and will be subject to competing priorities.

Regular maintenance also will be performed to ensure this road is kept in a safe and trafficable condition.

(2) Main Roads appreciates the importance of the Rockhampton-Emu Park Road and, within available funds, has allocated significant funding in recent years to provide a wider road with sealed shoulders.

However, due to the relatively low traffic volumes and traffic growth rates on the rural section of this road, no further works are scheduled at this time.

**1319. Primary Industries and Rural Communities Department, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (9/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his departments for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00): Details of outsourced legal services provided to my department are set out in the following tables:

Outsourced Legal Providers 1 July 1998-30 June 1999

Provider—Amount

RN Alldridge—1,454.00  
Justice Atkinson—1,825.00  
RJ Douglas—650.00  
RW Gotterson QC—5,380.00  
RV Hanson QC—3,220.00  
GJ Koppenol—2,378.50  
PD McMurdo QC—2,505.00  
DF Jackson QC—12,000.00  
DOJ North—1,800.00  
M Plunkett—2,160.00  
H Gibbs QC—350.00  
B Thomas—2,235.00  
C Wilson—8,141.50  
Douglas Heck & Burrell—3,000.00  
Milburns—600.00  
Ruddy, Tomlins & Baxter—155.00  
Suthers & Taylor—228.00  
G Cooper—135.96  
Sub Total (DPI)—48,217.96

Forestry

PJ Baston—562.50  
DA Mullins—2,380.00  
JC Sheahan—4,635.00  
RW Gotterson QC—2,030.00  
Sub Total (Forestry)—9,607.50  
TOTAL—57,825.461

July 1999-30 June 2000

Provider—Amount

CEK Hampson QC—6,000.00  
MD Hinson—2,230.00  
DA Mullins—250.00  
S McLeod—1,290.00  
C Wilson—485.00  
Vandeleur & Todd—333.05  
Barry, Beaverson & Stenson—179.45  
MacDonnells—287.30  
Allen Allen & Hemsley—3,942.50  
C Clark—1,280.00  
Sub Total (DPI)—16,277.30

Forestry

H Bowskill—1,200.00  
J Hogan—425.00  
DC Rangiah—2,920.00  
RW Gotterson—2,070.00  
Sub Total (Forestry)—6,615.00  
TOTAL—22,892.30.

### 1320. Brisbane Airport Rail Link

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/11/00)—

With reference to the proposed operation of Airtrain to and from the Brisbane Airport—

- (1) Is he satisfied that the projected patronage of 2.3m passengers will be achieved in the first years operation of Airtrain?
- (2) Will he ensure that the fare levels charged by Airtrain reflect a commercial rate of return on investment and not be subsidised by the taxpayer?
- (3) If the project is not commercially viable, will the Government provide financial support for the project?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (13/12/00):

(1) The assessment of patronage forecasts by Airtrain Citylink Limited for the Brisbane Airport Rail Link is a matter solely for Airtrain, and the Government does not accept any responsibility for the validity of Airtrain's forecasts. Nevertheless I am aware that Airtrain and its financiers undertook thorough assessments of the likely patronage.

(2) The State's approval for Airtrain to proceed with the Brisbane Airport Rail Link was on the basis that (a) it will be at no net cost to Government other than the State's own costs, including staff and consultants engaged by the State for its own purposes and (b) there will be no contingent liability for the Government. The commercial risk is totally with Airtrain, and there is therefore no intention for the Government to subsidise Airtrain.

(3) Before proceeding with the project, Airtrain determined that its proposal was commercially viable by thoroughly examining all aspects including patronage, revenue and costs, which were independently audited.

There is no intention for the Government to financially support this project and no basis to suggest any such support has been sought by Airtrain.

### 1321. Primary Industries Department, Sale of Hardwood

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (9/11/00)—

With reference to the comments attributed to a Department of Primary Industries officer on ABC Radio News on Monday 23 October 2000 in reference to new hardwood timber selling opportunities—

- (1) Why is the Department of Primary Industries advocating the sale of spotted gum logs for plywood to New South Wales rather than Queensland mills?
- (2) On what basis would it be preferable to transport the raw product interstate?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00):

(1) I am advised that the transcript of the radio interview reveals that the Department of Primary Industries officer did not advocate the sale of veneer logs to plywood mills in New South Wales (NSW). The officer has investigated the present market for high quality veneer logs in southern Queensland and northern NSW.

(2) I am advised that using the prices available from NSW mills (within economic transport distance) as a means of price discovery is a legitimate way of establishing the value of the standing tree. There has been no advocating of sales to any specific NSW mill but any such sales from private land cannot be prevented.

### 1322. Government Projects, Licensed Subcontractors

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (9/11/00)—

With reference to the Government's policy to ensure that only licensed subcontractors are used by pre-qualified builders working on Government projects—

- (1) Does his department comply with this Government policy?
- (2) Has there been or are there any unlicensed subcontractors engaged on Government projects in Queensland during the last twelve months; if so, what action has he, as the Minister responsible, taken to remedy these situations?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (20/12/00):

(1) Government policy on this subject is reflected by the provisions of the Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991. Departmental contracts require all contractors to comply with all relevant legislation, which includes the abovementioned Act.

(2) The Honourable Member should be aware that the information sought would require a vast amount of time and research by officers in the Department of Public Works. This would be an expensive exercise and I consider that taxpayers' funds should be directed towards programs that can provide more job opportunities for our young people. However, if you have any specific instances, please do not hesitate to forward them on to me so that they can be investigated as a matter of urgency.

### 1323. Queensland Abattoir Corporation

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (9/11/00)—

With reference to the 2000 Annual Report for the Queensland Abattoir Corporation (QAC) and specifically to the reference that a loss of \$7,660,000 was incurred by taxpayers on the sale of the Cannon Hill abattoir by the Government—

- (1) How was a loss of this magnitude sustained given the high standard of the Cannon Hill plant and its prime location?
- (2) What inducements were offered to the purchaser of the plant and did these contribute to the loss recorded?
- (3) Why hasn't any provision for payment of a dividend or dividend equivalent to the Queensland Government been made?
- (4) Can taxpayers expect any return on the Government's disposal of QAC's assets; if so, how much?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00):

(1) The Cannon Hill abattoir was not sold as a going concern. This abattoir was sold to a proponent who planned to demolish the out of date kill facility and other redundant structures to make way for a state of the art meat processing facility. The loss flagged in the QAC annual report is an abnormal item and it is the difference between the revenue received from the sale process against the book value that the previous QAC Board had ratified. The book value is not necessarily the redeemable value as is demonstrated in this market.

(2) No inducements were offered to the purchaser.

(3) Although, the majority of QAC assets have been disposed of, the entity, QAC will continue in existence until December 2001 until it has completed the divested process. Until final wind up of the total operations of QAC it is unclear what moneys will be remitted to the Government on the cessation of QAC. Any moneys identified during this period will be offset against liabilities and profits will be remitted to Government.

(4) The financial position of QAC after divestment will be detailed in its 2000/2001 annual report and any financial windfall will be remitted to the Government.

### 1324. Teacher Resources

**Mr QUINN** asked the Minister for Education (9/11/00)—

What were the estimated FTE staffing levels for all teachers by education output (e.g. pre-school, primary, secondary, special, distance, others) and district at 31 October 2000 (Please include TRS numbers, teachers being paid from both State and Commonwealth funding sources and long service leave numbers)?

**Mr WELLS** (12/12/00): The department informs me that the following notes have been provided in relation to understanding the information provided on teacher full-time equivalents (FTEs)—

(1) The estimated FTE staffing levels provided below are point-in-time counts of teachers paid via the department's Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) for the payment fortnight ending Sunday 5 November 2000.

(2) The estimated FTE staffing levels provided as at 30 September 2000 were point-in-time counts of teachers paid via the department's HRMIS for the payment fortnight ending Sunday 24 September 2000.

(3) Comparisons of point-in-time data on the number of teachers paid must recognise the impact of a range of factors. These factors include variations in the levels of temporary and casual employment and payment, variations in the number of teachers on paid leave, and the impact of school vacation periods on both employment trends and payment processing.

(4) The estimated count as at 5 November 2000 reflects a decrease in the estimated count as at 24 September 2000 to the extent of 357 FTEs. The point-in-time count of permanent and temporary

teachers in fact decreased by 52 FTEs, while the count of TRS casual teachers decreased by 308 FTEs and the central office count increased by 3 FTEs. This is due to the timing of the count, in that the count was taken during Term 4. TRS casual teachers claims for payment had decreased due to fewer claims being processed.

(5) The teacher numbers provided include a count of casual TRS teachers, teachers being paid from both State and Commonwealth funding sources and long service leave numbers.

(6) The teacher numbers for Special Needs include teachers of students with disabilities and schools of distance education.

(7) The teacher numbers for Central Office represent teachers performing statewide services.

District—Estimate as at 5 November 2000

Bayside—1,384  
 Bundaberg—865  
 Cairns and Cape—1,491  
 Chinchilla—253  
 Coopers Plains—1,725  
 Corinda—1,414  
 Darling Downs—555  
 Emerald—487  
 Fraser Cooloola—950  
 Geebung—1,687  
 Gladstone—725  
 Gold Coast North—1,485  
 Gold Coast South—1,342  
 Ipswich—1,080  
 Isis Burnett—457  
 Logan Beaudesert—1,667  
 Longreach—214  
 Mackay Hinterland—596  
 Mackay North—804  
 Mooloolaba—1,439  
 Mount Gravatt—1,100  
 Mount Isa—397  
 Murrumba—2,139  
 Nambour—1,138  
 Rockhampton—934  
 Roma—382  
 South Burnett—439  
 Stafford—1,225  
 Tableland Johnstone—774  
 Toowoomba—960  
 Torres Strait—209  
 Townsville Burdekin—1,218  
 Townsville North & West—605  
 Warwick—523  
 West Moreton—749

Output—Estimate as at 5 November 2000

Preschool—928  
 Primary—18,133  
 Secondary—12,289  
 Special Needs—2,379  
 School-Based & District Office Total—33,410  
 Central Office Total—319  
 Grant Total—33,729.

### 1325. Roadside Drug Testing

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/11/00)—

With reference to recent press articles regarding the prevalence of drivers driving under the influence of drugs—

- (1) What were the results of the trial of roadside drug testing that was to be undertaken by Queensland Transport in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service?
- (2) What drug driving education and enforcement programs are currently being conducted?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (13/12/00):

(1) In its original submission to Travelsafe, Queensland Transport had referred to a 'trial' involving the use of a checklist designed to provide an observation guide to recognition of impairment. The checklist had been included in the training manual of a new breath testing device, the SD400. This guide is for physical indicators such as impairment of speech, demeanour and appearance. The intention was to follow up with police to determine the level of usage of the checklist and address any problems experienced.

Queensland Transport initially viewed the delivery of the checklist to North Queensland police as a tool for setting the scene for an initial 'trial', which would inform future, more systematic, trials. At the time, it was decided that the main focus of this initial trial would be how operators found the functionality of the checklist, while simultaneously determining what was required for accreditation and certification.

(2) A public education campaign entitled "You can't drive straight on drugs" was developed to warn people of the road safety risks of driving while under the influence of drugs. Queensland Transport has run press advertisements in street, youth and university press to target the issue of drug driving using recreational drugs. Information is also contained in the Glovebox Guide which is mailed out with registration labels. A series of postcards has also been produced and distributed through youth areas such as cafes, coffee shops and universities.

Information is regularly included in Road Sense 2000 and News Fax, particularly at seasonal periods when people would be most likely to be at risk (e.g. winter, Schoolies Week, Orientation Week). Safety Net Community Service Announcements have also been produced.

To communicate the issue of prescription drugs, a promotion was run last year through pharmacies. This included counter stands and other promotional material to encourage people to check whether their prescribed medication would affect their driving.

With regard to enforcement, whilst roadside drug testing procedures involving simple exercises such as walking a straight line and standing on one foot have been mentioned in articles, those procedures have not yet been developed by the Queensland Police Service or Queensland Transport. The legislation provides that police may make or cause to be made any inquiry, investigation, inspection, examination or test to establish whether or not a

breach of transport legislation has been committed. Advice received from the Queensland Police Service indicates that although tests such as those outlined in the article, are not commonly used, the legislation governing driving while under the influence is enforced.

**1326. Public Works and Housing Departments, Payment of Contractors**

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (9/11/00)—

Will he advise whether his department or business units within his department acting on behalf or engaged by other Government departments have fully complied with legislation that requires the prompt payment of contractors within 21 days; if not, could he provide the details of such breaches (project, contractor, date for payment/s due, actual date of payment and value of payment)?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (20/12/00): The Honourable Member should be aware that the information sought would require a vast amount of time and research by officers in the Department of Public Works. This would be an expensive exercise and I consider that taxpayers' funds should be directed towards programs that can provide more job opportunities for our young people. However, if you have any specific instances, please do not hesitate to forward them on to me so that they can be investigated as a matter of urgency.

**1327. Queensland Ambulance Service, Staffing**

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (9/11/00)—

With reference to claims by ambulance officers that staff shortages are causing deep concern throughout the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) for the welfare of officers—

- (1) Has he been made aware of the concerns being expressed by staff?
- (2) Has the subject of staff shortages, particularly in the Greater Brisbane Region, been raised either formally or informally with him in the past six months?
- (3) Is he aware of constant complaints that the Corporate Services Section of the QAS has enjoyed substantial increases in staff numbers at the expense of ambulance officer numbers?
- (4) Has his attention been drawn to the unacceptably high number of ambulance officers taking stress leave, especially officers working in the Great Brisbane Region?
- (5) When does he intend to take action to ease the heavy workload burden on ambulance officers throughout the State?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (11/12/00):

(1) No. This government continues to support ambulance officers. Funding for 68.5 new ambulance officer positions was provided in the last budget.

(2) No. To the best of my recollection the subject has not been raised with me during the period concerned.

(3) It is not correct to say that Corporate Services Section of the QAS has enjoyed substantial increases in staff numbers at the expense of ambulance officer numbers. 12 administrative positions have been created in the Corporate Services Sections, including in the Regions, supporting QAS whilst during the same period 68.5 uniformed positions have been created (January 2000 to September)

(4) There has been no increase in the number of officers taking stress leave in the Greater Brisbane Region. The data shows that there has been a decrease in the number of officers in the Greater Brisbane Region taking such leave, as follows:

Period 01/07/98—30/06/99, 13 for Greater Brisbane Region

Period 01/07/99—30/06/00, 9 for Greater Brisbane Region

Period 01/07/00—to date, 2 for Greater Brisbane Region

(5) The government remains committed to ensuring a world class ambulance service in Queensland and will take appropriate steps to make sure that it is delivered. In addition to providing more ambulance officers and delivering significant in-service training, QAS continues to implement a range of technical enhancements such as the recently commissioned Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) program which is designed to improve the efficiency of the service.

**1328. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Outsourced Legal Services**

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (9/11/00)—

- (1) What is the total value of outsourced legal services for his department for each financial year since 1 July 1998?
- (2) Will he list the legal firms and individual lawyers who provided those services?
- (3) Will he list the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr BRADDY** (11/12/00):

(1) For the 1998-1999 financial year the total payment of outsourced legal services excluding Crown Law was \$114,560.

For the 1999-2000 financial year the total payment of outsourced legal services excluding Crown Law was \$174,223.

(2) Yes. See attachment.

(3) Yes. See attachment.

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

**1329. Dental Services**

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Health (9/11/00)—

What computer systems does the department have in place to track patients on public dental waiting lists for general appointments?

**Mrs EDMOND** (11/12/00): Queensland Health has a statewide information system for adult oral health services known as DECAID (Dental Clinical Administration and Information).

**1330. Dental Clinics, Sunshine Coast**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (9/11/00)—

With reference to the public dental clinics—

- (1) How many public dental patients from the townships and suburbs of (a) Maroochydore, (b) Mooloolaba, (c) Alexandra Headland, (d) Pacific Paradise, (e) Mudjimba, (f) Marcoola, (g) Twin Waters and (h) Buderim are accessing services at Sunshine Coast Public Dental Clinics each year?
- (2) How many are on waiting lists awaiting general appointments?
- (3) How many attended these clinics for emergency sessions during the last twelve months?

**Mrs EDMOND** (11/12/00):

(1) The Sunshine Coast Health Service District completed 20,489 emergency and general courses of care in the financial year 1999/2000. Of these, 1,429 were from Maroochydore, 846 from Mooloolaba, 164 from Alexandra Headland, 536 from Pacific Paradise, Mudjimba, Marcoola and Twin Waters, and 1,219 from Buderim—a total of 4,194 from these areas. The total in 1998/99 was 3938.

(2) There are 1,482 patients currently waiting for general care from these areas.

(3) There were 2,872 completed courses of emergency care from these areas during the financial year 1999/2000.

**1331. CITEC, Review**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (9/11/00)—

Will he outline any changes or reorganisations being considered by the Government for the commercialised business unit (CITEC) and whether any such changes/reorganisations may result in job losses?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (8/12/00): I am yet to receive the Steering Committee's report on the review of CITEC. I will be making no decisions until such time as I have reviewed and considered the Steering Committee's report.

**1332. CITEC, Review**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (9/11/00)—

With reference to the review of CITEC undertaken by the Government earlier this year—

- (1) Why has the review of CITEC, conducted by an independent third party, still not been released by him?
- (2) Did the review uncover widespread dissatisfaction from staff and other management regarding the performance of the two senior people in CITEC; if so, why has no action yet been taken?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (8/12/00): I am yet to receive the Steering Committee's report on the review of CITEC. I may give consideration to the public release of those aspects of the review which will not impact on the commercial integrity of CITEC's operations and its relationship with its clients.

**1333. CITEC, Financial Performance**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (9/11/00)—

With reference to CITEC—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived (accrued based) for each month since (including) July 2000 up to and including October 2000?
- (2) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) for each month since (including) July 2000 up to and including October 2000?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by CITEC for each month since (including) July 2000 up to and including October 2000?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (8/12/00): It is normal business practice to only release quarterly reports on financial performance as monthly fluctuations are not entirely reliable as trend indicators.

Accordingly, the results for the September 2000 quarter are:

Revenue: \$29,429,000

Expenditure: \$29,149,000

Profit/Loss: \$280,000 profit.

**1334. CITEC, Power Failure**

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (9/11/00)—

With reference to the major power failure that occurred at the CITEC facility in Edward Street on 12 October 2000—

- (1) Did the power failure result in major client systems including the Queensland Police Service, Education Queensland, Queensland Health and other major interstate clients being unavailable for most of the day?

- (2) Was the power interruption due to the failure of a major component that had failed a month previously and was still awaiting repair?
- (3) Was the risk of a similar failure identified as low after the first failure?
- (4) Why did the 'state of the art' and expensive automatic switchover diesel generators not work as widely promised to clients?
- (5) Given the power unit failure, will these diesel generators need to continue to run for a number of weeks to come?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (8/12/00):

(1) The power disruption occurred at 10.05am on 12 October 2000. All clients of CITEC's Brisbane Data Centre were affected by the power disruption. The majority of systems were restored to normal operation by 3.00pm on 12 October 2000.

(2) The Data Centre Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) was tested on 17 September 2000. During this test the static bypass switch (a fourth-level reserve mechanism which invokes the diesel generators in the event of the UPS and its three-level back-up system failing) failed. A replacement static bypass switch was sourced in France and ordered immediately. It was not however available and therefore not installed by 12 October 2000.

(3) CITEC was advised by its building manager the risk to clients of running the UPS while awaiting delivery of the replacement component was low given the low incidence of UPS failure and the role of the static bypass switch as a fourth-level reserve mechanism. I understand the fourth-level reserve mechanism had only been required once in the last decade.

(4) See response to Question (2) above. I am advised that following the power failure, CITEC manually switched over to diesel generator power.

(5) The Data Centre returned to mains power on Sunday 12 November 2000 following the installation of the new static bypass switch.

### 1335. Mosman Hall, Charters Towers

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (9/11/00)—

With reference to the current debacle with the contract on the refurbishment of Mosman Hall in Charters Towers—

Has all the capital works funding from the Health Budget for this project been transferred to the Department of Public Works as the procurement manager; if not, is she in a position to withhold any further funding so that unpaid subcontractors on the project may be paid for work already completed?

**Mrs EDMOND** (11/12/00): As a result of the unpredicted financial failure of McMaster Pty Ltd, twelve (12) subcontractors on the Mosman Hall project have placed subcontract charges on any payments due and payable to McMaster Pty Ltd.

This means that any payments by the Crown in respect of work already completed on this project

under the McMaster contract, must be paid into court. The sum paid into the Supreme Court is \$315,229.

The issue of actual payment to "unpaid subcontractors" is therefore a matter for decision by the Supreme Court.

### 1336. Department of Premier, Outsourced Legal Services

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Premier (9/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his department for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr BEATTIE** (11/12/00): The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has spent reasonable amounts on outsourced legal expenses in the financial years since 1 July 1998: \$66,655.30 (1998-1999), and \$141,229.42 (1999-2000).

### 1337. Police and Corrective Services Departments, Outsourced Legal Services

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (9/11/00)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his departments for each financial year since 1 July 1998 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

**Mr BARTON** (11/12/00):

Queensland Police Service

The value of outsourced legal services for the financial year 1998-1999 was \$9210.50.

The value of outsourced legal services for the financial year 1999-2000 was \$49,839.99.

Details of individual providers and the value of legal work undertaken by each from 1 July 1998 to 31 October 2000, are:

1 July 1998-30 June 1999

Name—Amount

D O J North SC—900.00

Dianne Linnane—4,804.00

Dunhill Madden Butler—2,306.50

R B Dickson—1,200.00

Total—9,210.50

1 July 1999-30 June 2000—

P J Baston—27,360.00

D A Mullins—675.00

M D Hinson—250.00

P J Flanagan—7,620.00

Bernadette Callaghan—1,350.00

Victorian Government Solicitor—5,226.75

Anthony J H Morris QC—3,600.00

Glenn Martin SC—2,500.00

Charter Mercantile Agency—1,258.24

Total—49,839.99

## Department of Corrective Services

(1) The providers of outsourced legal services utilised by the Department of Corrective Services for the financial years 1998/99 and 1999/2000 are detailed in Tables 1 and 2 in Attachment 1, respectively. Individual amounts for each particular service provider, as well as the totals for each of the financial years are also provided in Tables 1 and 2.

(2) The general types of outsourced legal services which are listed are for judicial review applications, inquests, litigation and general legal services.

(3) The 'various' figure of \$124,773 at the end of Table 1 comprises outsourced legal services provided to the then] QCORR. The individual service providers were not recorded for these legal services.

Table 1—1998/99 Financial Year:

Barrister—Amount
R M Bourke—\$2,345.00
M J Burns—\$1,897.00
P J Flanagan—\$1,060.00
G J Gibson QC—\$2,498.00
M D Hinson—\$1,695.00
K Buxton—\$1,553.75
G J Koppenol—\$2,665.00
E J Morzone—\$2,670.00
R I Cameron—\$303.00
W Elliott—\$1,190.00
D A Mullins—\$5,200.00
M Plunkett—\$12,881.00
S J Lee—\$2,290.00
N Samios—\$1,167.00
S McLeod—\$2,255.00
R Griffith—\$100.00
Carter Capner—\$116.40
Hartwell & Graham—\$1,100.00
MacDonnells Solicitors—\$331.50
P F Dent—\$310.00
Stephens & Tozer Solicitors—\$121.85
Wettenhall & Associates—\$400.00
Sedgwick MacDermott—\$3,748.00
Heiser Bailey Mortensen—\$3,000.00
Nall Payne—\$2,398.00
William M Mercer—\$2,730.00
Brendan Butler—\$1,200.00
Barry Beaverson & Stenson—\$31,350.00
Roberts Leu & North—\$1,527.00
J Hogan—\$500.00
Allen Allen & Hemsley—\$2,923.00
D Linnane—\$2,225.00
Various—\$124,773.00
Total—\$220,523.50

Table 2—1999/2000 Financial Year:

Barrister—Amount
Bradley & Co—\$820.75
M J Burns—\$6,725.00
D J Campbell—\$180.00
P J Flanagan—\$586.00
M D Hinson—\$5,695.00
J Hogan—\$985.00
K Buxton—\$2,383.00
A J Kimmins—\$180.00
G J Koppenol—\$2,790.00
J A Logan—\$2,300.00

Andrew MacSporran—\$2,761.25
M Williams—\$900.00
W A Martin—\$3,845.00
E J Morzone—\$910.00
D G Eliades—\$2,010.00
R I Cameron—\$270.00
R Whiteford—\$168.00
W Hughes—\$48.00
M Plunkett—\$10,640.00
S McLeod—\$8,753.00
D Tait—\$420.00
S C Williams QC—\$4,410.00
Davies Collison Cave—\$1,500.00
Freemans Brisbane—\$839.95
Noel Saines—\$650.00
Hartwell & Graham—\$1,481.25
Hickey & Garrett—\$400.00
John Murphy & Co—\$292.70
Murray Lyons Dickenson—\$131.00
Robin Smith Solicitors—\$105.30
D Rangiah—\$1,300.00
Various—\$10,933.95
Total—\$75,414.15.

**1338. Disability Services; Project 300**

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (9/11/00)—

With reference to Project 300 in the Disability Services Sector—

- (1) How many of the 300 people for whose benefit this project was designed have now been relocated from psychiatric hospitals to the community?
- (2) How many of these were relocated prior to the project being transferred to her department?
- (3) From which hospitals were these people relocated?
- (4) To what range of locations have these people moved?
- (5) How many of those arrangements remain in existence three months after placement?
- (6) How many people remain in psychiatric hospitals awaiting relocation to the community?

**Ms BLIGH** (13/12/00):

- (1) 216
- (2) 185
- (3) People have been relocated from Wolston Park Hospital, Baillie Henderson Hospital, and Mosman Hall.
- (4) Across Queensland.
- (5) Since the program transferred to Disability Services Queensland all people who had relocated from hospital have been sustained.
- (6) I refer the Honourable Member to the Minister for Health, Wendy Edmond MP as this matter falls within her portfolio.



**1339. Physical Activity Strategy**

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (9/11/00)—

With reference to his announcement of the development of the Government's new physical activity strategy—

- (1) When did work on this new strategy start?
- (2) How many Sport and Recreation Queensland staff are involved in the development of this new strategy?
- (3) Did he initiate work on this new strategy or was it initiated by the previous Minister?
- (4) How many consultative forums have been held so far, which organisations have been involved and when were they held?
- (5) How many more consultative forums are planned, who will they involve and when will they be held?
- (6) What date has been set for the strategy to be finalised and publicly announced?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost, including all staff allocations and forum costs, for the development of this strategy and how much has been budgeted in 2000-01?
- (8) Are staff of any other departments involved in the development of this new strategy?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (8/12/00):

- (1) Work commenced on the development of the Queensland Physical Activity Strategy in April 2000.
- (2) From April to September 2000, the equivalent of 2.5 Sport and Recreation Queensland staff were involved in the development of the Strategy. Since September, the equivalent of 1.5 staff have been involved in the refinement and finalisation of the Strategy.
- (3) The previous Minister endorsed the establishment of the Physical Activity Taskforce in December 1999. I support the continuation of the Taskforce and the development of the Physical Activity Strategy.
- (4) Between April and September 2000, Sport and Recreation Queensland staff conducted:

Individual interviews with 30 representatives of Government and non-Government organisations;

23 consultation workshops (held in Townsville, Mount Isa, Longreach, Cairns, Maroochydore, Kingaroy, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Mackay, Charleville, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, and Brisbane) attended by 221 representatives of Government and non-Government organisations and community members;

Five focus group sessions for 71 representatives of targeted populations (ie Indigenous Queenslanders, women, youth, people with a disability and people from multicultural backgrounds); and

Surveys (eight) for those not able to attend the interviews or consultation workshops.

In total 330 people from Government and non-Government organisations and community members participated in the consultation process for the development of the Physical Activity Strategy.

(5) There are no further consultative forums planned. However, following endorsement by Cabinet, it is intended the Physical Activity Strategy will be released for public comment.

(6) The Physical Activity Strategy is scheduled to be presented to Cabinet in February 2001. Following endorsement by Cabinet, I will make an announcement about the release of the Strategy for public comment.

(7) The estimated cost to date (1999-2000 and 2000-2001 year to date) for the development of the Strategy is \$103,892 including staff allocations and forum costs. There is no separate budget for the development of the Strategy in 2000-2001; costs will be absorbed in operational budgets.

(8) Staff of the following departments are involved in the development of the Strategy:

Department of Health;

Department of Education;

Department of Transport; and

Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

**1340. Property Valuations**

**Mr HEGARTY** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (9/11/00)—

With reference to the recent practice of the Department of Natural Resources when undertaking property valuations throughout Queensland to delete the names and addresses of property owners from the property lists—

- (1) Why has this new practice been introduced?
- (2) Will the residential addresses of property owners be obtained from the department upon request?

**Mr WELFORD** (11/12/00):

(1) The names and addresses of property owners are removed from the property lists that are provided for public display upon the issue of the revaluation because of privacy issues. However, the names and addresses of property owners have not been removed from the valuation roll.

As each landowner is informed by personal letter of the details of the revaluation of their property, the need to provide the owner's name in the public display is an unwarranted intrusion into the private affairs of individuals.

(2) Details of residential addresses of property owners can be obtained from the valuation roll upon the payment of the prescribed fee. In certain situations owners may have their details suppressed.

**1341. Borallon Correctional Centre**

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/11/00)—

With reference to comments made by him in this House on 3 October 2000 when in a Ministerial Statement which focused on corruption within the Borallon Prison which is managed by the Corrections Corporation which is owned by Corrections Corporation of America and the French company Sodexho and I quote "it casts a cloud over everyone"—

- (1) Is he aware that he has caused great offence to the rank and file staff members, many of whom are/were very loyal Labor supporters?
- (2) Will he apologise for the offence he has caused in lumping all honest hard working staff in with alleged corrupt officials of the company?
- (3) Is he aware that it was the local general manager who first raised concerns regarding alleged criminal matters?
- (4) Will he confirm that it is not the rank and file but the company performance which is 'under a cloud'?

**Mr BARTON** (11/12/00):

(1 & 2) It has always amazed me that people can misinterpret simple English whether it is due to a lack of understanding or deliberately in order to further their own causes. The implication in your questions is just another case of a former One Nation person only seeing what they want to believe in order to construct some convoluted political conspiracy. For the Member's information, I did not lump all honest hard working staff in with alleged corrupt officials at Borallon Correctional Centre. On the contrary, I went to great lengths to explain that police should investigate the allegations so those staff not involved in illegal activities could clear their names. Rather than selectively quote my ministerial statement the Member should read the entire statement, particularly the paragraph containing the words "it casts a cloud over everyone". Just so the Member is under no illusions, the paragraph concerned says:

"Until police fully investigate these allegations, no-one will know for certain which staff were involved. It casts a cloud over everyone, and that is not acceptable for all those staff who have done the right thing and worked honestly and responsibly. The department has sought legal advice on this matter. Unfortunately, I do not have the power to order the police to act on this matter. As I said, only CCA can resolve this matter. I urge it to do the right thing, not only for the company's integrity but to give its staff every opportunity to clear their names."

(3) Yes. As I explained in my ministerial statement, the allegations were referred to the Corrective Services Investigation Unit which found there was enough evidence to warrant further more detailed investigations by police. However, these allegations were subsequently withdrawn by the management of Borallon and the company CCA.

(4) It is not the company's performance that is under a cloud, rather it is the company's integrity by

refusing to refer the allegations to police and thus enable all those honest staff to clear their names.

**1342. Fisheries Habitats**

**Dr KINGSTON** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (10/11/00)—

With reference to the Marine Environmental Conference in Brisbane in 1995 which identified lack of long term monitoring as a serious problem—a problem likely to prevent detection of potential trouble spots and make sustainable management of human impact less effective (Johnson and Young, 1995, p.6). In 1995 Zann released the Commonwealth Government's State of the Marine Environment Report. He highlighted concerns amongst the scientific community and resource managers about loss and disturbance of marine and coastal fisheries habitats. During the 1996-97 period, the QFMA, the QDPI, and the MACs and ZACs raised seven major issues for the sustainability of Queensland fisheries habitats. In 1998, B. Zeller, in the QDPI Report, "Queensland Fisheries Habitats: Current Condition and Recent Trends" stated: "there is a recognised need for long term monitoring of the condition and trends of the habitats supporting Queensland's fisheries. Selection of the best indicators for long term monitoring is currently at a development stage—few monitoring reports have focused on habitats from the viewpoint of importance of fisheries production". In 1998 the Executive of the Fisheries Group of the QDPI states that "the Queensland Government is committed to report on the status and health of the resources in its care, and to promote the ecologically sustainable development of our natural resources". The Fisheries Group cannot report on the status and health without accurate collated base line and progressive data using the best indicators—

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 fisheries habitats; if so, how?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00): The Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS), Department of Primary Industries commenced a Long Term Monitoring Program for major fisheries resources and key habitats in July 1999 with \$0.75 million allocated to the second year of the program from Consolidated revenue and other sources in 2000/01. This program operates across the State with eight field staff engaged in annual monitoring of stocks of recreationally and commercially important fish, crab and mollusc species and the habitats supporting these species. Seven estuaries and twenty coral reefs along the north Queensland coast, the Fitzroy estuary and Port Curtis in central Queensland and the Mary and Logan estuaries in southern Queensland are surveyed. Freshwater habitats and fish communities are being monitored in ten major river systems throughout the State.

QFS/Reef CRC staff at Northern Fisheries Centre, Cairns, continue to monitor seagrass habitats, important nursery habitats for prawn and fish species as well as dugong and turtle feeding areas, as part of Ports Corporation of Queensland's environmental management strategy for several north Queensland ports.

By August 2001, QFS will have completed mapping of the coastal wetland resources (mangrove and saltmarsh communities) of the Queensland coast using satellite imagery. This information provides a baseline for future habitat monitoring at the catchment/regional level and contributes to strategic planning for marine protected areas, especially further Fish Habitat Area declarations.

QFS is collaborating in a two year project with the Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to develop coastal habitat monitoring protocols (including appropriate indicators) suitable for use by community groups. Implementation of these protocols by community groups will enhance monitoring being undertaken by Queensland Government agencies and complement the successful Seagrass-Watch activities in Hervey Bay and the Whitsunday's and WaterWatch activities throughout Queensland coordinated by QFS/EPA and Department of Natural Resources respectively.

The Queensland Government remains committed to long term monitoring of important fish habitats through these programs as part of its broader commitment to ensuring fisheries resources continue to be used in an ecologically sustainable way. Results of fish habitat monitoring will be reported regularly through such mechanisms as "State of Environment" reporting processes and assessment reports for major fisheries.

#### 1343. Northern Bypass, Caboolture

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/11/00)—

With reference to the northern bypass of Caboolture—

- (1) When is the first sod on this project to be turned and the project finally started?
- (2) When is the Moodlu bridge going to be removed considering his statement that it was to be removed before December 2000?
- (3) How many resumptions have yet to be concluded with respect to this project?
- (4) When are these resumptions expected to be finalised?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (13/12/00):

(1) Preliminary works involving relocation of services will commence early next year, with the contract for construction of the bypass expected to be released to tender by June 2001.

(2) As I have advised recently, the Moodlu Bridge will be removed from operation early in the construction process. However, this will not be before the end of December 2000.

(3) The process to generate the Notices of Intention to Resume is currently under way, and they will be

distributed very soon. All property owners who are affected have been contacted by departmental representatives, and have been given the opportunity to view the draft resumption plans prior to their finalisation.

No properties have been acquired as yet. However, 12 owners have requested that their properties be acquired under hardship considerations. Most of these have now reached the stage whereby a contract has been entered into, with 10 having reached settlement.

This will leave a total of 21 property owners to whom a Notice of Intention to Resume will be sent.

(4) The finalisation date for the resumption process will depend on the number of property owners who decide to exercise their statutory right to object.

#### 1344. Maryborough-Hervey Bay, Rail Link

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Premier (10/11/00)—

With reference to the strong community support for reinstatement of the Maryborough to Hervey Bay rail link, support which is evident at all the community development meetings that his Government has held in my electorate—

Will he agree to commissioning a pre-feasibility study of re-establishing this branch line for the convenience of the ever increasing number of Maryborough/Hervey Bay daily commuters?

**Mr BEATTIE** (11/12/00): Currently, the Wide Bay Transit Authority through Queensland Rail operates a comprehensive Trainlink bus service between Maryborough and Hervey Bay. The 25 weekly return services are scheduled to meet all Queensland Rail tilt train services at Maryborough West Station.

The Trainlink bus service is subsidised so that the cost of a full-fare single trip is \$4. Full Queensland Rail concessional arrangements for the benefit of the community are also available.

The Trainlink buses are modern (approximately 12 months old) and have been purpose built. The 46 seater buses are air conditioned, wheelchair accessible and include a luggage container.

There is no longer a complete Queensland Rail rail corridor into Hervey Bay, with the existing rail corridor terminating at Takura Station. The remainder of the old corridor is now classified as a future transport corridor. Part of this section was bought by the Hervey Bay City Council and has been converted into a walking track. There would be a considerable cost associated with re-establishing the line, which would undoubtedly increase the cost of providing a quality service. Consequently, the ability to offer a full-fare single trip at a cost of \$4 could be jeopardised.

#### 1345. Mackay, Police Station for Northern Beaches

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/11/00)—

What is the time frame for the building and commissioning of the mooted police station to be located in the northern beaches area of Mackay?

**Mr BARTON** (11/12/00): In the lead-up to the 1998 State Election, I made a commitment that, if the Labor won that election, planning for a Mackay North Police Station would be under way before the next State election due in 2001. The \$150,000 in the 2000/2001 Police Capital Works assigned to the Mackay North Police Station honours that election commitment. The funding is to cover the planning and development of the new station up to the construction stage. Money has also been set aside under land acquisitions to buy a suitable property in the Mackay North area for the new station. Construction of the station is due to start next financial year and continue into the following financial year.

#### 1346. Rosewood Ambulance Station

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (10/11/00)—

With reference to the Rosewood Ambulance Centre, Rosewood—

- (1) How many staff are attached to this station?
- (2) How much overtime in hours has been worked by the staff per week for the last six months?
- (3) What are the open hours of operation for this ambulance centre?
- (4) After hours, what staff are available on call out?
- (5) How many serviceable ambulance vehicles are attached to this ambulance centre and what is their breakdown of class of ambulance vehicle?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (12/12/00):

- (1) There are five staff attached to Rosewood Station.
- (2) Rosewood staff claimed 1089.41 hours of overtime in the past six months. (This equates to 41.9003 hours per week from May-October)
- (3) The station is open seven days a week from 7 am to 5 pm.
- (4) There are two officers on call after hours every night.
- (5) There are three vehicles based at Rosewood station: two stretcher Ford F-Series unit; single stretcher Holden Commodore unit; and a single stretcher Toyota 4x4 unit. All are classified as emergency response units.

#### 1347. Lockyer Electorate, Roadworks

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/11/00)—

With reference to the main roads located in the Beaudesert, Boonah, Ipswich, Laidley and Gatton Shires in the electorate of Lockyer—

- (1) How much has his department spent on upgrading sections of these roads including National highways since June 1998?

- (2) How much has been budgeted for upgrades for 2000-01?
- (3) What sections of main roads and National highways are scheduled for upgrade in the next five years and at what estimated cost?
- (4) How many old wooden bridges have been replaced in the electorate of Lockyer since June 1998 and at what cost?
- (5) How many wooden bridges are scheduled to be replaced in 2000-01 and at what estimated cost?
- (6) How many bridges are scheduled for replacement in the next five years, at what location and at what estimated cost?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (13/12/00):

(1) Since 1998, the Department of Main Roads has spent \$18.774 million on asset enhancement and maintenance on State-controlled roads and National Highways in the Shires of Boonah, Beaudesert, Ipswich City, Laidley and Gatton.

(2, 3 & 6) Details of roadworks programmed over the next five years for all Shires are outlined in the 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 Roads Implementation Program which was tabled in Parliament on 10 November 2000. Projects are detailed under each of the following categories:

National Highways;

Other State-controlled Roads; and

Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (subsidies to local governments for upgrades to local roads generally applied on a 50/50 basis).

The Roads Implementation Program is a five year program of works which is approved annually on the basis that project commitments in Years One and Two are firm with Years Three to Five indicative for planning purposes.

- (4) Since 1998, the wooden bridge over Ma Ma Creek on the Gatton-Clifton Road has been replaced with a \$2.0 million concrete bridge.
- (5) The wooden bridge over Laidley Creek on Mulgowie Road is programmed for replacement with a new concrete bridge in 2000-2001 at a cost of \$700,000.

#### 1348. Gold Coast Seaway, Erosion

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (10/11/00)—

- (1) Is he aware that since the Seaway at the Gold Coast has been constructed that the velocity of the tidal currents has increased at least twofold?
- (2) Is he also aware that considerable erosion to both sides of the Nerang River and the Broadwater has taken place?
- (3) When will a proper engineering and environmental study take place to find a solution to correct the above matters?

**Mr WELFORD** (11/12/00):

(1) The 1976 Delft Report on the Nerang River entrance stabilisation works indicated that tidal velocities in the entrance would increase by about 10%. Current assessments of post Seaway conditions in relation to the impact of the recent dredging works in the Broadwater have indicated minimal changes to tidal velocities in the entrance.

With the construction of canal estates connected to the Nerang River since the early 1970s, the tidal compartment of the river has increased substantially. However, a doubling of the tidal compartment does not mean that the tidal currents have doubled. The two parameters are not proportional and any increase in velocities would be much less than the corresponding increase in tidal compartment.

(2) The erosion which has taken place in the Nerang River and the Broadwater cannot be attributed solely to increases in tidal flows since the construction of the Seaway. It is likely that natural processes, increases in flows resulting from the construction of canal estates and dredging, and wash from increases in boat traffic are all contributing factors. It would be very difficult to determine the relative impacts of all of these factors.

(3) The situation is being monitored by the Gold Coast City Council, my Environmental Protection Agency and Queensland Transport to ensure that appropriate action is taken to identify and correct problems where necessary. It is understood that the Gold Coast City Council is currently taking action to develop comprehensive computer modelling to assess and monitor changes in tidal flows in the area. The Council is liaising with Queensland Transport and my Environmental Protection Agency regarding the matter.

#### 1349. Port Authorities

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Treasurer (10/11/00)—

Which Queensland port authorities will be required to hand over cash to the Government as part of a series of debt-for-equity swaps announced by the Government in this year's State Budget and how much will each authority be required to pay?

**Mr HAMILL** (11/12/00): The Government is continuing to discuss capital structure issues with Queensland port authorities and the final arrangements have not yet been confirmed.

#### 1350. Queensland Ambulance Service, Tablelands Electorate

**Mr NELSON** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (10/11/00)—

- (1) Is the acute ambulance staff shortages in and around the Tablelands resulting in some staff on the Tablelands grossing over \$6,000 per fortnight?
- (2) Are some staff working so much overtime that they are a danger to themselves and the public due to the large amount of hours they are performing on continuous duty, sometimes

more than 400 hundred hours continuous duty, including callout arrangements, which is more than five times the average working fortnight without adequate relief?

- (3) What is the cover ratio for ambulance officers taking time off?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (20/12/00):

(1) Due to the unexpected absence from duty on Workcover by two officers who suffered injuries during the course of their regular duties, remaining officers were required to provide an unusually high level of "On Call" and Emergency Availability coverage during the period of the injured officers' absence. Officers were remunerated according to the provisions of the relevant Industrial Agreement.

(2) Due to an unexpected confluence of circumstances, ie, sick leave, annual leave and Workcover requirements, a number of officers worked in excess of their normal rostered hours. It should be noted that a large proportion of these excess hours were "On Call" hours, meaning that officers may perform this duty at their respective residence and are therefore able to rest and sleep.

There has been absolutely no suggestion of any officer working such hours that they presented a danger to themselves or the public. Officers are well aware that there are provisions in their Award that provides for a fatigue break in the event of extended duty. I understand that a number of officers availed themselves of this provision.

(3) Ambulance stations work various rosters designed to suit the local area needs. The staff establishment on the Atherton Tablelands has recently been increased by one officer in order to more adequately meet local area service needs.

#### 1351. Education, IT Support Services

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Education (10/11/00)—

With reference to the Enhanced Information Technology Support Program—

- (1) Why has the Government changed the timetable of payments under this program so that schools are now expected to maintain information technology support services for the next 12 months whilst receiving funding for only the next six months?
- (2) How does the Government expect schools to enhance information technology support programs with reduced funds?

**Mr WELLS** (12/12/00): I am pleased to be able to inform the Honourable Member that neither the Government nor Education Queensland has made any change to the timetable of payments under this important program.

Far from reducing the funds available to schools for information technology this Government has provided, for the first time, dedicated resources to support the use of existing equipment in schools over and above our ongoing commitment to the acquisition of new computers and their connection to

networks to give teachers and students access to quality materials.

In the 1999 Budget, this Government gave a commitment to deliver \$40 million over four financial years through the Networked Learning Community initiative to promote the more effective use of information technology to support learning.

I am informed by the department that forward planning for that expenditure determined that there was a need to provide schools with the capacity to secure appropriate technical support so that teachers can concentrate on working with students. The Enhanced Information Technology Support Program will make available \$8 million directly to schools in each of the school years 2000 to 2002 to do that.

I am confident that schools will make good use of those additional funds to promote the excellence in learning outcomes that will contribute to our development as the Smart State.

### 1352. Natural Resources Department, Staffing

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (10/11/00)—

With reference to the Department of Natural Resources' plans to rationalise the local Government asset management services and engineering-related services provided to local councils—

- (1) What are the implications of centralising staff to Brisbane, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Cairns and Longreach to Mackay and Bundaberg?
- (2) What is the rationale for this proposal and has, or when will implementation begin?
- (3) How many staff are currently employed in Bundaberg and Mackay primarily in this service area and in which population centres are they based?
- (4) How many full-time positions will be eliminated from the Burnett district service in the long term in line with this new policy?
- (5) How will these positions be shed, i.e., voluntary redundancy, or transfer to other regional centres?
- (6) How many full-time positions will be transferred out of the Mackay district in the long term in line with this new policy?
- (7) How will these positions be shed, i.e., voluntary redundancy, or transfer to other regional centres?
- (8) What impact will these changes have on the access by local Governments to engineering-related services of the Department of Natural Resources?

**Mr WELFORD** (11/12/00):

- (1) No decision has been made as to which centres these services will be delivered from in the future.
- (2) There is an increasing complexity in the water supply and sewerage systems operated by Local

Governments in Queensland. These systems are now also subject to regulation under the Water Act 2000.

My Department has recognised the need for higher skill levels in its staff to help local governments deal with these changes. It is considering how best to meet this challenge.

The end result will be an improvement in the overall standard of service to local governments.

Implementation of the changes will commence in 2001 if the proposal under consideration proceeds.

(3) Departmental staff who are engaged in this work also perform a range of other duties. The workload varies throughout the year and between years. The number of full-time equivalent staff members engaged in these duties is approximately three at Bundaberg and one at Mackay. All of these staff are based in either Bundaberg or Mackay.

(4) As no decision has been made to implement changed arrangements for these services, the impact on Burnett district staff positions is unknown at this time.

(5) It is premature to specify any mechanisms at this point in time. However, there will be no redundancies arising from this proposal, if implemented.

(6) As no decision has been made to implement changed staffing arrangements at Mackay, the impact on Mackay staff positions is unknown at this time.

(7) It is premature to specify any mechanisms at this point in time. However, there will be no redundancies arising from this proposal, if implemented.

(8) If this proposal is implemented access by local governments to engineering-related services of my Department will not be affected, other than in terms of the location from which services are accessed. Qualitatively services should improve.

### 1353. Recreation Centres

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (10/11/00)—

With reference to the ongoing professional and personal concerns being expressed by staff members in his department about the future of the State's network of recreation camps—

- (1) Has his department completed the audit of recreation camps that was started more than two years ago by consultants?
- (2) Has a report on the audit been compiled by departmental staff and has his department assessed that report and referred it to him, complete with recommendations?
- (3) What were the major recommendations from the department?
- (4) Were there any recommendations for the closing, selling or leasing of any of the camps?
- (5) When will he be acting on those recommendations?
- (6) Will he make the report available to the public?
- (7) What was the consultant's tender price for the project and how long was the project originally expected to take to complete?

- (8) Considering the project is now in its third financial year of funding, what has been the total cost of the audit project including all costs such as project advertising, consultant's fees, staff wages, travel, accommodation etc, and where did that amount appear in the annual budget papers?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (8/12/00):

(1) The Business Plan for the future operation of the Outdoor Recreation Centres is currently being assessed by officers of my Department.

(2-6) As previously advised in my response to Question on Notice Number 539, when the assessment is finalised the Report will be presented to me with recommendations for my consideration.

(7) In September 1998, the then Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing, appointed Robertson Recreation and Events Company (RRE) to undertake the development of business plans for three of the Department's Outdoor Recreation Centres. The total value of this consultancy was \$84,850. The consultancy was originally intended to be finalised by April 1999.

Following ongoing discussion with RRE the Department was notified that an administrator had been appointed to RRE in February 2000. Following Crown Law advice, the contract with RRE was terminated in March 2000 due to breach of contract. At that stage, approximately 60 percent of the brief had been completed and the Department paid RRE a total of \$46,675 in recognition of work undertaken. No further moneys were paid to RRE and the remaining funding for the project was used to fund the project's completion within the Department.

(8) The total cost of the original project, including advertising, consultant fees, staff wages, travel and accommodation was limited to the original \$84,850 allocation.

Subsequent involvement by staff of my Department who are evaluating the report is estimated at a further \$8,000 since August 2000.

This expenditure is not itemised separately within published budget papers. It is reflected in the "Supplies and Services" category on page 25 of the Ministerial Portfolio Statement.

#### 1354. FarmBis Program

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (10/11/00)—

With reference to FarmBis—

- (1) How much money is left in Queensland's current tranche of FarmBis funding?
- (2) Of the current tranche of FarmBis funding in Queensland so far, will he provide a breakdown of the money provided in direct assistance to producers, the money spent on administering and managing the scheme (taking into account the costs of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA), Queensland Rural Industry Training Council (QRITC) and the FarmBis Committee) and the money spent on salaries

and wages, as well as the number of public servants (casual and full-time) employed using FarmBis funding?

- (3) For every dollar provided to assist producers under the program, how much does it cost in terms of administration, policy, management, etc. (taking into account the costs of the DPI, QRAA, QRITC and the FarmBis Committee)?
- (4) What amount of funding will the Queensland Government be offering to fund the next three-year tranche of the FarmBis program?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00):

(1) The current \$22 million FarmBis program, which will cease on 30 June 2001, is funded jointly by the State and Commonwealth Governments (ie \$11 million each). As at 13 November 2000, there was a total balance of \$9,768,205, including \$7,733,059 for training subsidies comprising \$5,593,882 committed to further training over the coming months and \$2,139,177 available for new applications. The remaining funds are reserved to meet other budget program items. In total, \$18,062,400 or eighty two per cent (82%) of total program funds will be delivered in subsidy payments for training.

(2 & 3) A breakdown of the total funds expended since the outset of the program, which takes into account actual expenditure for 1998/99, 1999/00 and for 2000/01 until 13 November 2000 is:

Dollars Expended—Percentage to direct assistance dollars

Direct assistance to producers: 10,329,341

QRAA administration costs: 895,752—8.67%

SPG administration costs: 68,592—0.66%

QRITC—coordination network: 609,720—5.90%

State coordination & program management: 218,511—2.12%

Marketing development plan: 109,879—1.06%

Total: \$12,231,795

The vast majority of funding has been provided in direct assistance to producers and administration, policy and management costs have been kept to an absolute minimum.

In relation to the employment of public servants, the State Coordinator and two contracted support staff are public servants and are employed through the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). Members of the SPG are technically DPI employees as remuneration is paid for meeting fees. QRAA is a State statutory body, but no staff has been specifically engaged from FarmBis funds as funding is provided as a percentage of the grants paid. All other functions were awarded through open tender processes.

(4) In consultation with other stakeholder departments, DPI officers have developed an appropriate submission to secure funds through the State's upcoming budget mid year review process.

The Commonwealth has identified a number of program matters that require negotiation on a state by state basis and an announcement on the level of

funding for the new program will be made when those negotiations are finalised, possibly by March 2001. An early finalisation of negotiations would greatly assist a smooth transition to the new program on 1 July 2001.

### 1355. Gumlu State School

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Education (10/11/00)—

With reference to Education Queensland who I believe are considering the removal of one of the two teachers from the Gumlu State School on the commencement of the school year 2001 and as the population of the Gumlu area has not declined in numbers and to the contrary, numbers have increased with families with school children moving to the district—

- (1) How does he and his department justify this decision considering the number of students at the Gumlu State School consistently fluctuates and increases to around 35 students due to the seasonal pickers who bring their families into the area?
- (2) How does he expect one teacher to teach a class of this size?

**Mr WELLS** (12/12/00): The department informs me that Gumlu State School is staffed on a model that is applied to every state primary school in Queensland. The Acting Principal at the school has indicated that he expects a maximum of 23 students from year 1 to year 7 in 2001. The staffing model allocates 1 class teacher when a school has this number of students. An additional 0.5 of a teacher is allocated to the school to provide specialist teaching and other professional support. Depending on enrolments as of the 7 February 2001, the staffing will be reviewed. If enrolments indicate the need for additional staff, another teacher will be allocated.

### 1356. Lang Park Redevelopment

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (10/11/00)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No 933 of 18 September 2000—

Does the Government still plan to begin construction of the redevelopment of Lang Park in March 2001 as was publicly stated by him on 8 August 2000?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (8/12/00): It is proposed that construction will commence in March 2001, subject to obtaining the necessary development approvals from the Brisbane City Council and the finalisation of tenancy agreements and other matters associated with the redevelopment.

### 1357. Child Care Services

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (10/11/00)—

What are the details of State Government owned and subsidised child care services and facilities, including

(a) their value individually, (b) their locations, (c) the numbers of children attending each facility, (d) the number and locations of those facilities now under construction, (e) the number and locations of those proposed for construction, (f) the cost to the Government of maintaining services at each centre and (g) the reasons for Government, as opposed to private sector provision of such services?

**Ms BLIGH** (13/12/00): The State Government does not own any child care services. Of the 917 Long Day Care Centres operating across the State, the Department owns 26 Long Day Care facilities which are operated by community organisations. In relation to State Government owned child care facilities:

(a) The value of land and buildings is outlined in the attached table.

(b) See attached table

(c) Details of the licensed capacity are outlined in the attached table.

(d) None.

(e) One at Cairns.

(f) The average annual cost of maintaining the Centres over the last five years is provided in the attached table. The Commonwealth Government, not State Government, provides operational subsidies to targeted community child care centres. I suggest the Honourable Member seek further information from the Commonwealth Government regarding these costs.

(g) In the past, due to the under supply of child care, the State Government has assisted in funding the construction of child care centres to meet demand. Given current supply and demand, the Government invests capital where private operators cannot meet the need or where it is not profitable to operate a service; for example rural and remote areas or for disadvantaged clients. The engagement of a suitable operator is then sought through open tender.

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

### 1358. South East Transit Busway

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/11/00)—

With reference to the opening of the first stage of the South East Transit Busway and to reported incidents involving pedestrians—

(1) Who is responsible for the operations of the busway?

(2) What budget has been allocated for the operation and maintenance of the busway?

(3) How many incidents involving pedestrians and or other vehicles have occurred since the operations commenced?

(4) What action is being taken to improve safety and operational efficiency of the busway?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (13/12/00):

(1) Queensland Transport is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the busway



infrastructure and for passenger information and safety at platforms. The busway operation is managed from the Busway Operations Centre at Woolloongabba which is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Contracted bus companies are responsible for operating the buses on the busway.

(2) The busway operating budget for September 2000 to June 2001 is \$1,350,000. This is comprised of \$800,000 for the Busway Operations Centre and \$550,000 for busway maintenance.

(3) Two incidents have occurred on the busway since operations commenced, and three incidents have occurred in the vicinity of the busway. All incidents involved pedestrians crossing illegally in locations that are not designated as crossing points.

(4) A comprehensive safety management program is in place to manage the busway. Risk assessments were prepared prior to the busway operations commencing and safety procedures were written in consultation with emergency services agencies. The Busway Operations Centre staff were trained in the safety procedures prior to the commencement of operations. The safety procedures are the subject of ongoing monitoring and review. With specific reference to incidents involving jaywalking temporary fencing has been erected to encourage people to cross at the designated crossing points. The first stage of permanent fencing is expected to commence in mid December.

### 1359. Mackay, Queensland Ambulance Service Investigation

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (10/11/00)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No 1148 concerning the incident involving stolen drugs at the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) Centre at Mackay—

- (1) Have all QAS centres in the State been notified of circumstances surrounding the incident?
- (2) Did he or any senior QAS officer issue instructions for a complete audit of drugs being held in all QAS centres; if so, did the audit uncover any discrepancies?
- (3) Did he or any senior QAS officer order a State-wide tightening of the security system involved in the storing and handling of drugs in QAS centres?
- (4) What new measures have been introduced State-wide to ensure the security of drugs being held in QAS centres?
- (5) Apart from the QAS, are drugs held by any other Emergency Services Department units anywhere in the State; if so, has any audit been done on the drugs held by these units and have any additional security measures been put in place?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (11/12/00):

(1) No.

(2, 3 & 4) The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has a requirement under legislation to ensure proper purchasing, storage, use, recording and disposal of all drugs used by the QAS.

In January 2000 the Commissioner QAS issued a Memorandum to all staff regarding the control and management of drugs. This was followed up by a detailed procedural memorandum from the QAS Medical Director to all staff regarding the control and management of drugs. To date no discrepancies have been registered.

The QAS policy on Control and Management of Drugs has been revised to ensure the necessary control and management of drugs as follows:-

QAS Officers may order, store, possess, carry and administer drugs only in accordance with the provisions of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 as amended and relevant QAS policy and procedures.

QAS Officers do not delegate authorisation for the use of controlled or restricted drugs or other drugs under any circumstances.

Drug stock movement and patient administration details for all drugs are routinely entered into the QAS Drug and Dangerous Drug Registers respectively.

All drug stock movements in and out are counter signed by a second/checking Officer or appropriately delegated person.

Regular audits of drug registers, drug ordering, stock movement, storage and usage (in accordance with the provisions of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 as amended and relevant QAS policy and procedures) are conducted at Station and Sector levels and reported to the Regional Executive Director on a regular basis.

(5) No other units in the Department of Emergency Services hold any drugs.

### 1360. Health Services, Funding

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Health (10/11/00)—

Will she provide the following information (a) the amount of funding for each Queensland hospital over each of the last four years, (b) the amount of funding over the last four years for orthopaedic surgery within this State including if possible, children's orthopaedic surgery, (c) the number of children on orthopaedic surgery waiting lists, in categories one, two and three throughout Queensland over the last four years, (d) the same information as requested in (b) and (c) above for children under 12 years old and (e) are children with 'special needs or disabled', categorised any differently from so-called 'normal' children?

**Mrs EDMOND** (11/12/00):

(a) Funding is allocated to Health Service Districts and they determine the level of funding provided to hospitals based on the demand for services within that district and the hospitals' capacity to supply those services.

(b) Queensland Health does not allocate dedicated funds to hospitals for specific specialties. Individual hospitals make funding decisions at the speciality level based on the demand for those services and

the hospital's capacity to supply those services (eg availability of specialists).

(c & d) Elective surgery waiting list information is published quarterly hospital by hospital, specialty by specialty and category by category.

(e) Decisions relating to the categorisation of children with 'special needs or disabilities' are clinical decisions that can only be made by the treating surgeon.

### 1361. Forde Inquiry Report

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (10/11/00)—

With reference to the Government's commitment to carry through on Recommendation 39 of the Forde Inquiry Report, "That the Queensland Government and responsible religious authorities establish principles of compensation in dialogue with victims of institutional abuse and strike a balance between individual monetary compensation and provision of services"—

- (1) Will she specify the venues, dates and times since the Forde Report was handed down when the Government has engaged in formal dialogue with the victims who gave evidence at the inquiry?
- (2) How many of these acknowledged victims of abuse were present on each occasion to provide the Government with their valuable input to the process of dialogue?

**Ms BLIGH** (13/12/00):

(1) The Queensland Government has regular contact with victims of abuse in institutional care. In addition to the countless letters and personal meetings I have had with former residents, the following formal mechanisms have been established—

I have had a number of meetings with the Esther Trust, a support group for former residents, which is funded by the Government. The Esther Trust also coordinated the "Healing or Horror" response by former residents to Government which provided feedback on those recommendations of the Forde Inquiry which related to after care;

Inclusion of two former residents on the Forde Monitoring Group;

Appointment of two former residents on the Board of Advice to the Forde Trust;

Distribution of Forde News and free call access to the Forde Contact Officer;

Appointment of a former resident to assist the Government to respond to Recommendation 38 of the Forde Inquiry; and

Funding to establish a peer support network.

- (2) See (1).

### 1362. First Home Owners Scheme

**Mr HORAN** asked the Treasurer (10/11/00)—

What is the amount expended to promote the First Home Owners Grant Scheme, dividing this expenditure into (a) printing of brochures, (b) radio advertising, (c) TV advertising, (d) newspaper advertising, listing the various publications used and (e) other?

**Mr HAMILL** (11/12/00): The combined cost of State and Federal Government communication activities associated with the GST—including the First Home Owners Scheme—totals \$616 million.

The Honourable Member would appreciate that the most significant portion of this amount was expended by the Commonwealth and consequently the State Government does not have access to the breakdown of this total expenditure between individual media outlets.

### 1363. TAFE, Flying Lessons; Mr R. Godden

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/00)—

- (1) What is the current TAFE policy regarding paying for staff to have flying lessons?
- (2) Can he confirm that a Mr Ross Godden of Mt Isa TAFE has had flying lessons at taxpayers expense?
- (3) What is the total cost of these flying lessons to the taxpayer?

**Mr BRADY** (11/12/00):

(1) There is no TAFE Queensland wide policy regarding paying for staff to have flying lessons.

(2) Mr Ross Godden of Mt Isa Institute of TAFE undertook flying lessons at a cost of \$10,107.86 of which he contributed \$1,071.90 or approximately 10%. In the event of Mr Godden leaving Mt Isa Institute of TAFE within the 3 years of the lessons he is obliged to reimburse an amount equal to a third of the cost of the lessons for each year remaining.

(3) The total cost of these lessons to the taxpayer was \$9,035.96

The decision to allow Mr Godden to undertake flying lessons was taken by the then Director of the Institute and endorsed by the Institute Council, which is made up of senior members of the North West Community.

The decision was based on a business case that argued that the cost was outweighed by the benefits of having a person on staff with flying qualifications to enable services to be better delivered across the North West.

I have received a copy of a letter the Chair of the Institute, Mr Terry Lees, wrote to you on 14 November 2000 in which he says among other things: "that the geographical area covered by the Mount Isa Institute of TAFE is vast, taking in around 500,000 square kilometres or 30% of the State of Queensland. It is the largest area of any TAFE Institute in Queensland. The tyranny of distance, isolation of some communities, the wet season and the damage it causes to roads, and even the safety aspects of travelling by road through sections of the

region are all problems encountered in the delivery of service by TAFE within its boundaries.

It has long been our contention that the people of Boulia, Burketown, Normanton, Doomadgee, Mornington Island—indeed all the communities within this region—are as entitled to the services of TAFE as are people of South East Queensland or the East Coast. Access to those services by people within our region is certainly not as easy as for those other parts of this State. The cost of delivery is higher and there are unique difficulties faced in ensuring that delivery.

Therefore, there are times when the traditional methods of travel are not always suitable or best when it comes to ensuring continuity of delivery. These are the times we expect the TAFE team to think 'outside the square'.

We see many real benefits for the communities in this region and for TAFE in using this innovative method of service delivery. It is also consistent with what is happening in other State Government departments for deliver (sic) into remote areas. In fact, I understand that Health and Police are two services that actually have ownership of aircraft."

#### 1364. Dairy Industry

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (10/11/00)—

With reference to dairy farmers—

- (1) Is he aware that the Federal Government Package is now at least two months behind schedule and dairy farmers are not going to be able to meet their financial commitments?
- (2) More importantly, is he also aware that some major banks are not extending overdrafts to dairy farmers who are milking less than 200 milkers?
- (3) As this is a known fact regarding the major banks, can he do something to alleviate the hardship which these farmers are going to be facing over the Christmas holidays and bring some pressure to bear on banks to give protection to these grossly disadvantaged small producers?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (8/12/00):

(1) I am aware of the unfortunate delay in payments to Queensland dairy producers under the Commonwealth's Dairy Structural Adjustment Package (DSAP).

Responsibility for the unfortunate delay in the "first round" of DSAP payments lies with the body charged with administering the DSAP, namely the Dairy Adjustment Authority (DAA) which is a Commonwealth statutory body over which Queensland has no jurisdiction.

Part of the problem appears to lie in the inability of the DAA to reconcile information on individual market milk entitlements that existed at the date chosen by the Commonwealth, without proper consultation with the States, as the relevant day for the determination of an individual producer's payment entitlements

under the DSAP (this date being 28 September 1999).

The Queensland Dairy Authority has always been prepared to provide whatever assistance it can to help the DAA to resolve its problems so that Queensland producers can receive the DSAP payments to which they are entitled.

(2) In association with industry, I have previously met with representatives from the Banks. If DPI, or the Honourable Member can provide me with concrete examples of the behaviour he refers to, I will be prepared to again take up the matter with the senior management at State level of the financial institutions in question.

(3) Unfortunately, as I am sure the Honourable member is aware, the Queensland Government has no legal power to direct the behaviour of Banks. Regulation of banking conduct, or rather what seems at times to be the complete absence of any such regulation, is entirely a Commonwealth matter at the present time.

However, I am aware that there is some disquiet in the rural sector concerning apparent Bank actions in regard to primary producer clients who have been affected financially by low commodity prices and poor climatic conditions.

It is for this reason that I have asked DPI to advise me on the possible options for helping farmers and their Banks to resolve any difficult issues that may arise between them as a result of financial problems.

A possible option could be introducing legislation to provide for compulsory farm debt mediation. I have also asked DPI to ascertain the views of peak producer bodies such as the Queensland Farmers Federation on these matters, and the Banks will be asked for their comments as well.

I intend to consider these options as soon as possible and to consult with industry and the Banks on how best to implement them with a view to alleviating farmers' difficulties.

#### 1365. Child Abuse Allegations

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (14/11/00)—

If an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor is reported to an office of her department, what action is expected of the personnel of that office and, in particular, what level of priority is to be given to allegations of sexual abuse of a minor?

**Ms BLIGH** (15/12/00): When any allegation of abuse is reported to an area office, professional staff determine whether the information provided by the notifier constitutes a child protection notification based on the nature of the concerns expressed by the notifier, the vulnerability and needs of the child and the family circumstances. If the matter is deemed to constitute a notification, a further determination is made in relation to the most appropriate type of response and the level of priority to be given to the response.

Notifications relating to sexual abuse allegations, where a child is in imminent danger of significant harm and/or risk of future significant harm, require urgent assessment and are given a high priority rating. Departmental staff are required to take action to determine the immediate safety of the child—including contact with appropriate external agencies and/or contact with the child and family.

**1366. Whitsunday Electorate, Public Housing**

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/11/00)—

With reference to public housing in the Whitsunday electorate—

- (1) At 14 November 2000, 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** (20/12/00):

(1) Data for most reporting criteria is compiled at the end of each month. Department of Housing staff have advised me that at 31 October 2000, there was a total of 13 public rental dwellings vacant in the Whitsunday electorate. One dwelling at Bowen and one dwelling at Proserpine were undergoing basic maintenance. Two dwellings at Bowen were ready to be allocated. Three dwellings at Bowen, one dwelling at Calen and four dwellings at Collinsville were scheduled to be sold with funds generated to be used for public housing capital works. One dwelling at Cannonvale was scheduled for a major upgrade. The dwellings to be sold at Bowen, Calen and Collinsville were not economic to refurbish and fell below the departmental standard of accommodation. There is also little demand for public housing in the Collinsville and Calen areas.

(2) Department of Housing staff have advised me that as at 31 October 2000, there were a total of 182 applicants on the waitlist for two, three and four-bedroom dwellings in the Whitsunday electorate. These comprised 53 applicants for two-bedroom accommodation, 119 for three-bedroom accommodation and 10 for four-bedroom accommodation. The total number of public housing tenancies in the electorate at this time was 103.

(3) Department of Housing staff have advised me that the department is undertaking a number of new construction and upgrade activities within the Whitsunday electorate to assist in meeting demand for public rental housing. These activities include the recent completion of upgrade works on six existing seniors' units, as well as the recent completion of four apartments and two duplex units. Of the four units constructed, two dwellings are specifically for clients with a disability and a further two dwellings

have been designed to adaptable housing standards. In addition, the department plans to commence construction of a further two duplex units, both designed to adaptable housing standards. One of these will also meet the needs of a client with a disability. The bottom line in addressing the demand for affordable housing throughout Queensland is the availability of funds and in particular the impact of federal funding cuts under the Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement. I have been campaigning publicly for some time in an effort to have the Howard government reverse its cuts which, over the term of the current four-year CSHA, will see Queensland effectively lose \$90million through reductions in funding and the impact of the Goods and Services Tax. The Honourable Member should ask himself the question he has asked me—what action has he taken to have the federal government change its funding cuts. I would be interested to see evidence of his efforts in that regard.

(4) Department of Housing staff have advised me that the average waiting time for clients allocated public housing in two, three and four-bedroom dwellings in the Whitsunday electorate during the six months to 31 October 2000 was 12.1 months. A total of 44 clients were allocated in this period. A breakdown of clients allocated by waiting time and number of bedrooms is as follows:

Bedrooms	Allocations	Average Wait Time (months)
2	15	18.4
3	27	9.5
4	2	1.2.

**1367. Haighmoor Mines; Property Development**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (14/11/00)—

With reference to the old Haigmore mines at Mount Crosby Road and bounded by the Warrego Highway that has been cleared for development—

- (1) Is he or his department aware that this area is shallow undermined?
- (2) What steps has his department taken to advise the Ipswich City Council of any development of this site?

**Mr McGRADY** (20/12/00):

(1) The Department of Mines and Energy has records of underground mining in the area of the old Haigmore (Haighmoor) mines. These records are available for public search.

(2) The Department is aware that some clearing has occurred in the vicinity of land described as Lot 1 on RP866580. There are no current mining leases over this freehold land. Development of private land is a matter between the land-owner and the relevant Local Authority and in this case that is the Ipswich City Council.

There is a close working relationship between the Ipswich City Council and the Department concerning mining related matters. The Council has ready access to mining information.

**1368. Local Government Funding, Lockyer Electorate**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (Mr Mackenroth) (14/11/00)—

With reference to the shires of Beaudesert, Boonah, Ipswich, Laidley, Gatton and Esk—

- (1) How much money has his department granted to these shires above normal annual recurrent grants since June 1998?
- (2) For what projects was this money granted?
- (3) What amount was each grant for each project and what were the conditions under which the grant was given?
- (4) Were the grants based on a population base in these shires or on a needs basis?
- (5) At present, what other grants are being considered for the above shires and for what purpose?

**Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM** (14/12/00):

(1) Since July 1998, a total of \$17.9M has been offered to Beaudesert, Boonah, Ipswich, Laidley, Gatton and Esk shires under the local government funding programs.

(2) See attached table.

(3) See attached table. Grant recipients are required to carry out works as detailed in the funding application, according to funding program guidelines and, where appropriate, in accordance with the requirements of recommending authorities (e.g. Department of Natural Resources).

(4) The basis of the grants provided under each of the funding programs is:

Local Governing Bodies' Capital Works Subsidy Scheme—percentage based, with the quantum of funds provided based on overall project cost and other sources of funding.

Rural Living Infrastructure Program—percentage based, with the quantum of funds dependent upon the overall cost of the project and the population of the local government, that is, funding is available to councils with a population of less than 15,000.

Smaller Communities Assistance Program (SCAP)—needs based subsidy also dependent on population figures, that is, funding is available to councils with a population of less than 5,000. The quantum of funds allocated depends on the effect of costs on rates and charges.

Regional Centres Program—percentage based, with the quantum of funds dependent upon the overall cost of the project and the population of local government, that is, funding is available to councils with a population of greater than 15,000.

Security Improvement Program—percentage based, capped at 50% of the overall costs of the project.

Landfill Remediation Assessment Program—percentage based, capped at 50% of the overall costs of the project.

Advanced Wastewater Treatment Technologies Scheme—percentage based, capped at \$0.25M.

Showgrounds Capital Works Subsidy Scheme—percentage based, with scaling adopted where applications exceed budgeted yearly funds available.

Natural Disasters Relief Arrangements—needs based and is triggered following the declaration of a natural disaster event by the Minister for Emergency Services. Dependent on the council's rate base, the council contribution is limited to a set "trigger point".

(5) Should the Member require information on grant and subsidy applications which Councils have submitted to the Department for consideration, I suggest he contact the relevant Council.

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

**1369. Recreational Vessels**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/11/00)—

With reference to the large number of recreational vessels that are not fitted with navigational equipment or marine radios that are currently accessing the waterways of Queensland—

- (1) What is the number of registered recreational vessels under 20 feet in length?
- (2) What is the number of these vessels not fitted with marine radios?
- (3) With this in mind, will he advise if there are any wind weather vanes installed at any harbour or public boating facility in Queensland; if not, will he consider investigating the possibilities of this type of unit to be installed as it would provide valuable information to all boat users?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (14/12/00):

(1) Of 152,111 registered recreational vessels in Queensland at September 2000, 136,865 fall into the under 6 metre category.

(2) There is no requirement under the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 and Regulation for recreational vessels to be fitted with marine radios and while the Department of Transport (the Department) supports and recommends installation of marine radios particularly to vessels that voyage offshore they have no way of determining the number of vessels fitted with marine radios.

(3) There are no wind weather vanes fitted to any harbour or public boating facility by the Department. However, the Department provides a Maritime Weather Service which can be accessed anywhere in Queensland for the cost of a local telephone call. This service provides up-to-date weather information from the Bureau of Meteorology.

**1370. Motorcycle Safety**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/11/00)—

- (1) Has he given further consideration to the grave concerns in the "Issues Concerning Safe Road Use and Motor Cycling" paper delivered to him by the Motor Cycle Riders Association of Queensland and what are those further considerations?
- (2) When is he considering the introduction of non-slip road marking paints for Queensland roads to reduce the incidents of motor cycle accidents?
- (3) Has he considered the approval of the two year trial of competency based rider training and certification as detailed in the Q Ride draft paper scheduled to commence in January 2001?
- (4) Has he considered the dangers of non-rigid wire rope roadside barriers and considered the merits of placing a moratorium on further installation of this type of dangerous roadside barrier due to the potential of further fatal motor cycle accidents?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (14/12/00):

(1, 2 & 4) The Department of Main Roads and Queensland Transport have investigated the issues raised in the paper and the outcomes were provided to the Motor Cycle Riders Association of Queensland on 20 October 2000.

A number of initiatives have been undertaken to address the concerns raised including the development of recommendations based on the outcome of the Queensland Motorcycle Crash Data for inclusion in Queensland Transport's Road Safety Action Plan 2000-2001. The recommendations provide that:

a motorcycle crash review working group be established to improve the understanding of crashes involving motorcycles; and

there be increased awareness and use of the Austroads "Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice, Part 15, Motorcycle Safety" to enhance the consideration of motorcycles in road planning and design.

(3) Q-RIDE will commence as a two year trial in the first quarter of 2001.

**1371. Wunjunga Boat Ramp**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/11/00)—

With reference to the proposed Wunjunga boat ramp car park facilities and road and as it is clear that the Burdekin Shire Council had never made a commitment to the project, whether it be by joint agreement or any other and with this evidence now undisputed—

- (1) What intentions has he towards Wunjunga's proposed boat ramp and facilities and road construction?

- (2) Will he fund the entire project or is he prepared to scrap it considering Burdekin Shire Council's affirmation that there was never a joint undertaking between Queensland Transport and Burdekin Shire Council?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (14/12/00):

(1) The Department of Transport (the Department) has allocated funds for the construction of an all-tide boat ramp at Wunjunga in the Burdekin area and has invested considerable resources in undertaking research and approvals for the project. This clearly establishes the Department's commitment to provide an all-tide facility that will be in high demand for the Burdekin area. However, the allocation for the construction of the boat ramp has been deferred over a number of years, awaiting a commitment from the Council that it is proceeding with the construction of the access road and car parking facilities as it is their responsibility.

(2) Funding for boat ramps is provided on the basis that Queensland Transport provided marine based facilities and local governments fund land based facilities. The project will proceed when the Burdekin Shire Council commits funds to the land based facilities.

**1372. Motor Vehicles, Safety Certificates**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/11/00)—

With reference to recent media comment claiming the failure of the recently introduced safety certificates for motor vehicles—

- (1) What audit procedures have been introduced as part of this new system?
- (2) How many audits have taken place since safety certificates were introduced?
- (3) What was the result of these audits?
- (4) How many complaints have been received about certificates issued?
- (5) Have any prosecutions been instituted as a result of these complaints?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (18/12/00):

(1) Since 1 April 2000 Queensland Transport has initiated a system of audits of car yards and Approved Inspection Stations to detect incidents of non-compliance with the new regulations for the display of safety certificates on vehicles that are for sale and to inspect vehicles where there was reasonable indication that the vehicle may not have met the mechanical safety requirements of the certificate.

(2) From 1 April 2000 to 31 October 2000 Queensland Transport Inspectors visited 622 car yards and 539 Approved Inspection Stations.

(3) As a result of the audits 57 Penalty Infringement Notices and 159 warnings have been issued for various contraventions of the Regulation. A number of car yards and inspection stations required follow up visits and these have now been completed.

(4) 76 recorded complaints have been investigated.

(5) In the six month period from April to October there have been 23 prosecutions for offences of the Transport Operations (Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 1999. This has resulted in 23 show cause actions being initiated against Approved Inspection Station proprietors and examiners, of which there has been 21 suspensions of approvals. There are currently 5 show cause matters in the process of being finalised.

### 1373. Notified Areas

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (14/11/00)—

- (1) How many applications have been made for special designated areas to be proclaimed areas for the purpose of 'move on' powers?
- (2) Will he detail which local Governments have made these applications?
- (3) How many applications have been approved and for which local Governments?

**Mr BARTON** (14/12/00):

(1) Many Councils have written to the Queensland Police Service expressing an intention to apply for a Notified Area within their local government area. However, as at 30 November 2000 only seven (7) formal written applications have been received by the Police Service.

(2) The Councils who have made formal applications for a declaration of a Notified Area within their local government area are Townsville City Council; Calliope Shire Council; Gold Coast City Council; Toowoomba City Council; Rockhampton City Council; Clifton Shire Council and the Hinchinbrook Shire Council. The Hinchinbrook Shire Council has since advised the police service that it no longer intends to proceed with its application.

(3) As at 30 November 2000 only the Gold Coast City Council has had its application for a declaration of a notified area approved.

### 1374. McMaster Pty Ltd

**Mr LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (14/11/00)—

With reference to his answer to Questions on Notice Nos 1156 and 1157—

Will he provide the details of all tenderers on the seven projects including but not restricted to (a) company name and address of each tenderer, (b) amount of tender, (c) details of any non-price criteria considered, (d) whether any of the companies had 'seek advice flags' on their file at the time the tender was let, (e) whether any of the companies had ever had 'seek advice flags' on their file since the commencement of PQC until the present time and (f) other relevant information?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (20/12/00):

Details relating to the seven projects are as follows:

(a) and (b)

### TOWNSVILLE—REFURBISHMENT OF POLICE STATION

Tenderer; Address—Amount

McMaster Queensland Pty Ltd; PO Box 1385 Milton QLD 4064—\$1,249,000

Incorp Constructions Pty Ltd; PO Box 1259 Aitkenvale QLD 4814—\$1,286,700

Q-Build a Business Unit of the Department of Public Works; Burdekin Regional Office PO Box 561 Townsville QLD 4810—\$1,286,850

Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd; GPO Box 2777 Brisbane QLD 4001—\$1,297,000

Anchor Industries Pty Ltd; 111-113 Draper Street Portsmith Cairns QLD 4870—\$1,326,722

Iezzi Constructions Pty Ltd; 278 New Cleveland Road Tingalpa QLD 4173—\$1,357,000

TF Woollam & Son Pty Ltd; PO Box 123 Alderley QLD 4051—\$1,364,000

CBQ Pty Ltd; PO Box 7270 Garbutt MC QLD 4814—\$1,398,000

A Gabrielli Constructions Pty Ltd; PO Box 693 Thuringowa QLD 4817—\$1,458,000

Watpac Australia Pty Ltd trading as Watpac; PO Box 2053 Fortitude Valley QLD 4006—\$1,573,700

### COOLOOLA TAFE—TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

Tenderer; Address—Amount

Evans Harch Pty Ltd trading with others as Evans Harch Pty Ltd and EH Ceilings Pty Ltd and Kongrove Pty Ltd; 40-44 Maroochydore Road Buderim QLD 4556—\$2,823,000

Delaney and Molineux Pty Ltd; 17 George Street Maroochydore QLD 4558—\$2,882,000

Bli Bli Nominees Constructions Pty Ltd trading as BBN Constructions; Progress Road Maroochydore QLD 4558—\$2,903,512

McMaster Queensland Pty Ltd; PO Box 1385 Milton QLD 4064—\$2,938,000

### EDMONTON—NEW POLICE STATION

Tenderer; Address—Amount

McMaster Queensland Pty Ltd; PO Box 3713 South Brisbane QLD 4101—\$1,527,000

Metrobuild Constructions Pty Limited; PO Box 4923 Cairns QLD 4870—\$1,543,313

Barclay Mowlem Construction Limited; 34 Hannam Street Cairns QLD 4870—\$1,546,800

Iezzi Constructions Pty Ltd; 114 Kenny Street Portsmith QLD 4870—\$1,598,000

CBQ Pty Ltd; PO Box 7270 Garbutt MC QLD 4814—\$1,672,595

Anchor Industries Pty Ltd; 111-113 Draper Street Portsmith Cairns QLD 4870—\$1,719,310

KOWANYAMA—REPLACEMENT POLICE STATION

Tenderer; Address—Amount

McMaster Pty Ltd; PO Box 3713 South Brisbane QLD 4101—\$1,469,000

CMC Cairns Pty Ltd; 31 Hannam Street Cairns QLD 4870—\$1,765,000

Q-Build a Business Unit of the Department of Public Works; Cape York Regional Office PO Box 812 Cairns QLD 4870—\$1,787,334

TOOWOOMBA DPI—AIR-CONDITIONING OF BLOCKS A & B

Tenderer; Address—Amount

McMaster Pty Ltd; PO Box 3713 South Brisbane QLD 4101—\$539,000

Quadric Pty Ltd; PO Box 296 Salisbury QLD 4107—\$543,875

Kenbar Constructions Pty Ltd; 29 Amega Street Mt Gravatt QLD 4122—\$578,700

CHARTERS TOWERS/MOSMAN HALL—REHABILITATION/DUAL DIAGNOSIS UNIT

Tenderer; Address—Amount

McMaster Pty Ltd; PO Box 3713 South Brisbane QLD 4101—\$3,089,000

CBQ Pty Ltd; PO Box 7270 Garbutt MC QLD 4814—\$3,249,000

TF Woollam & Son Pty Ltd; Box 5506 Mackay Mail Centre QLD 4741—\$3,258,000

Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd; PO Box GE31 Garbutt East Townsville QLD 4814—\$3,275,000

Watpac Australia Pty Ltd trading as Watpac; PO Box 1253 Aitkenvale QLD 4814—\$3,278,603

Walter Construction Group Limited; GPO Box 941 Brisbane QLD 4001—\$3,297,725

A Gabrielli Constructions Pty Ltd; PO Box 693 Thuringowa Central QLD 4817—\$3,369,000

ADCO Constructions Pty Ltd; PO Box 1167 Milton QLD 4064—\$3,382,956

St Hilliers (QLD) Pty Limited trading with another as St Hilliers (QLD) Pty Limited and St Hilliers Pty Limited; Unit 5 Pease Street Cairns QLD 4870—\$3,489,680

TOWNSVILLE Q-RAIL—REFURBISHMENT OF TRAIN CONTROL ROOM

Tenderer; Address—Amount

McMaster Pty Ltd; PO Box 3713 South Brisbane QLD 4101—\$469,700

J Hutchinson Pty Ltd trading as Hutchinson Builders; PO Box 523 Aitkenvale QLD 4814—\$491,144

JM Kelly Builders Pty Limited; PO Box 5115 Central Qld Mail Centre Rockhampton QLD 4702—\$517,725

Cordukes Limited; PO Box 144 Mackay QLD 4740—\$529,495

(c) Apart from the mandatory Queensland Building Services Authority Financial Assessment, the only projects with non-price criteria considered were:

COOLOOLA TAFE—TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

The evaluation criteria for this project were Contract Sum—weighting 80% and Quality of the Design Submission—weighting 20%.

KOWANYAMA—REPLACEMENT POLICE STATION

The tender documents for this project contained an Additional Condition of Tender. This Condition required the tenderer to include with the tender a Statutory Declaration stating that "The tenderer has consulted a representative of the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business and ascertained how Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people may be recruited".

The tender documents further stated that the Principal reserved the right to apply a preference to tender submissions employing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

(d) and (e) The issue of placement of "seek advice" flags on McMaster Pty Ltd has been dealt with in a previous answer. The Opposition has also previously been supplied with a detailed explanation of the use of "seek advice" flags. I am not prepared to subject individual companies to hypocritical and irresponsible Opposition attacks by outlining in detail the use of "seek advice" flags on firms still operating and still employing Queenslanders on government or private sector contracts.

(f) The most relevant information in relation to the McMaster collapse remains the impact on its operations from the Coalition's own Goods and Services Tax—as detailed by a director of the collapsed company. It is also relevant that when in government the Coalition in Queensland did nothing to improve the system for government building tendering. It initiated a lengthy inquiry, then scrapped its report before establishing a second committee which delivered absolutely nothing to the building industry or subbies in terms of better security of payment. It is relevant that the Coalition is now touting a policy to guarantee every cent to subbies caught up in a contractor collapse—something it was never prepared to do when in office. It is equally relevant that the Coalition explain how such a system would work—and how it would be funded—or admit that it is yet another cheap and hypocritical attempt to raise the hopes of subbies and cruelly use them for blatantly political purposes.

**1375. Vegetation Management Legislation**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (14/11/00)—

With reference to the guidelines for compensation over the vegetation management legislation—

(1) While there is some talk of compensation being offered in the long term to landholders adversely affected under the endangered



species clause of the legislation, what support is available in the interim for landholders who already are suffering hardship as a result of these new laws?

- (2) Would he and the Premier be prepared to visit my electorate to see first-hand the problems being experienced by landholders as a result of their property being placed within the endangered species category?

**Mr WELFORD** (11/12/00):

(1) The Government's consistent view on assistance to landholders who might be potentially adversely impacted by new vegetation management arrangements is that the matter cannot be progressed until the Commonwealth agree to significantly contribute to any package. Following months of inaction due to the Federal Coalition's inability to develop an agreed policy solution on this matter, the Premier achieved a breakthrough at the recent meeting of the Council of Australian Governments meeting for discussions on this issue to resume. I have asked my officers to commence this process as soon as possible and I am hopeful that discussions can quickly resolve the matter.

(2) I am well aware of the claims by some landholders in the Bundaberg area. The key issue remains the need to recognise that adequate protection for natural vegetation is essential for long-term sustainability. I would urge landholders in Bundaberg and other areas of the State to get involved in the regional vegetation planning processes that are about to commence to ensure that the local plans deliver on this objective.

**1376. McMaster Pty Ltd; Queensland Building Services Authority**

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (14/11/00)—

With reference to her answer to Question on Notice No. 1164 where she advised that "between April and when the company went into liquidation on 13 September 2000, the authority was requested by the Department of Public Works to appraise the company's financial capacity to undertake two special projects"—

Will she advise (a) which two specific projects, (b) on what date was the request made, (c) on what date was the response given and (d) precisely what written advice was given to the Department of Public Works?

**Ms SPENCE** (14/12/00):

(a & b) The Department of Public Works requested the Queensland Building Services Authority to appraise the financial capacity of McMaster Pty Ltd to undertake specific projects—Toowoomba Department of Primary Industries Air conditioning of Blocks A & B and Charters Towers Mossman Hall Rehabilitation/Dual diagnosis Unit—on 11 May and 22 May 2000 respectively.

(c) The response was given 26 May 2000.

- (d) The advice provided was as follows—

"BSA CONTRACTOR ANALYSIS

CONTRACTOR: McMaster Pty Ltd

ACN: 011 059 073

Licence Number: 24213

LICENCE DATA CHECK

Currently Licensed: Yes

Licence Class: General Building/House Building

First Registered: 27 March 1991

Net Tangible Assets for Government: \$942,479.00 as at 31 March 2000

Nominated Supervisor: GEOFFREY DAVID ILES

N/S Licence Number: 43283

\* Liquidity Ratio: 1.01:1

\* AAT: \$50,000,000.00

PERFORMANCE RECORD

Residential Construction Work in last 3 full financial years: No. 0 Value: 0

Number of Disputes: 2

Number of Directions: 1

Number of Claims to Insurance: 0

CREDIT PERFORMANCE CHECK

BISCCAB: Inquiries revealed no problems.

BICB: Inquiries revealed no problems.

Historical Bankruptcy Search:

Inquiries revealed no Prior bankruptcies for any of the directors.

ASIC Search Attached.

FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

Comments: Based on the financial information supplied, the Authority's financial adviser considers this contractor suitable for the projects:

1. Toowoomba Department of Primary Industries—aircondition of Blocks A & B
2. Charters Towers Mosman Hall—rehabilitation/dual diagnosis unit.

ADVICE

Based on the information supplied, this Contractor has been evaluated/assessed as satisfactory. This advice is only valid for 30 days from the date below.

This information has been checked by the Building Services Authority and is correct as at date of certification. This information has been provided for the confidential use of the Department of Public Works & Housing."

**1377. Crime Statistics**

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (14/11/00)—

- (1) What were the number of assaults and break and enters in Rockhampton and Livingstone Shire for the past six months?
- (2) What was the corresponding figures for the previous six months?

**Mr BARTON** (14/12/00): (1 & 2) The Queensland Police Service is unable to present reported offences based on local government boundaries. The official crime statistics for 1999/2000 were tabled in Parliament recently and are presented on a police district basis. The member should refer to these figures.

**1378. Natural Resources Department, Occupation Permits**

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (14/11/00)—

- (1) How many occupation permits exist for communications facilities under section 35 (1)(a) of the Forestry Act 1959?
- (2) What is the (a) name of each permit holder, (b) location of each permit, (c) period of time each permit has been granted (date to date), (d) area of land that each permit covers, (e) level of annual rent set for each permit and (f) level of annual rent charged for each permit under the last rent arrangement and the date on which this was set?

**Mr WELFORD** (11/12/00):

(1) 69 Occupation Permits have been issued by my Department of Natural Resources for communications facilities located on State forests throughout the State.

(2) Refer to the Attachment for details in relation to each permit. The date on which the last rental arrangement was set coincides, in each case, with the commencement date of the current permit term.

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

**1379. Road Maintenance, Shire Councils**

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/11/00)—

With reference to a new State Government directive that has effectively halted council's maintenance performed on gravel roads in their shires by introducing payment for the water they use and paperwork from both truck drivers and councils—

- (1) Why is this directive being introduced when councils have generally maintained streams well, and made arrangements with landowners to supply water to council through council built dams, which also benefited landowners who were able to share the water?
- (2) Is this simply another cash cow for the State Government?
- (3) What plans does Government have to compensate people whose roads are not maintained to a satisfactory standard as frequently as necessary, for the inconvenience, impassability and/or general wear and tear on their vehicles due to poorly maintained roads?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (14/12/00):

(1 & 2) The issues raised in Questions (1) & (2) fall under the responsibility of the Minister for Natural

Resources and should be referred to that Minister for response.

(3) There are no provisions under the current legislation to provide for compensation to people in the circumstances outlined.

**1380. Queensland Fire Rescue Authority, Disciplinary Proceedings**

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (14/11/00)—

With reference to the publication of the 10 October 2000 edition of "Code 2", the official newsletter of the United Firefighters Union and, in particular, to statements made regarding the suspension of a fire officer—

- (1) What has he done to attempt to bring this matter to a head given that the officer concerned has been under suspension for more than 12 months?
- (2) Does he appreciate the enormous strain imposed on the suspended fire fighter and his family as a result of the long delay in resolving this matter?
- (3) Is he aware there is increasing support within the union for industrial action because of the unacceptable amount of time being taken to resolve this matter?
- (4) Is he aware of claims that the Queensland Fire Rescue Authority has deliberately orchestrated the long delay in resolving this matter in attempt to break the union?
- (5) Has there been any previous occasion when a fire officer has been suspended for more than 12 months before any investigation can be finalised and the matter settled?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (14/12/00):

(1) The fire officer in question was charged on 21 June 2000 and since that time this matter has been the subject of Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority disciplinary proceedings. The QFRA's delegated officer is currently considering submissions from the parties and his determination is expected shortly. The terms of the QFRA Code of Practice—Discipline are being followed in resolving this matter.

(2) The investigation and disciplinary processes have been lengthy due to the complexity of the allegations, the volume of material involved, the desire to ensure that all issues involved are given due consideration, and the overriding need to ensure procedural fairness. The duration of this matter has also been lengthened on occasions as a consequence of extensions of time to comply with various steps in the matter which were requested by the officer concerned or his legal representatives. Processes involved in matters such as these can be difficult for all parties, and the fire officer has been encouraged to utilise the QFRA's counselling service.

(3) Disciplinary processes are naturally a matter of concern to unions and their members and the United Firefighters Union has certainly expressed their concern in this regard as I would expect them to do.

(4) I am aware that this comment has been made in some quarters however I regard such comments as inflammatory and baseless. I have been assured that the Senior Executive of the QFRA recognises and respects the role of the union in the working and personal lives of all firefighters and would not stoop to employing the tactics that have been referred to.

(5) The investigation into this matter was finalised after eight months. Whilst this period of time is not common, there have been other instances in which such complex investigations have taken similar periods.

### 1381. Smith Street Connection Road, Noise Barriers

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (14/11/00)—

With reference to the frustration being suffered by residents who are anxiously waiting to see the start of construction of sound barriers on Smith Street in my electorate—

Will he categorically lay to rest rumours that the Beattie Labor Government does not intend to proceed with this project, because it wants to make the sound barriers an election issue; if so, will he give a firm time frame for the completion of this work?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (14/12/00): The works associated with the installation of sound barriers within your electorate, on the northern side of Smith Street Connection Road between James Cagney Close and Olsen Avenue commenced in mid November 2000. These works are scheduled for completion by the end of February 2001.

### 1382. Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (14/11/00)—

With reference to the Patient Transit Scheme and with the recent increases in fuel and accommodation costs and as patients in rural and remote areas are considerably disadvantaged—

Will she consider increasing funding to rural and remote districts to assist in the shortfall currently being experienced by patients?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/12/00): The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) has been put in place to assist Queensland residents to have access to specialist medical services from which they are isolated. Where the specialist service is not available within fifty (50) kilometres of a patient's nearest public hospital, the Scheme subsidises the cost of travel and accommodation for patients to attend the nearest specialist treatment available. Queensland Health provides subsidies under the PTSS to assist patients accessing specialist care, it does not cover the full costs of travel and accommodation. This is consistent with schemes in other States and Territories.

The Scheme aims to ensure that isolated patients continue to have access to specialist medical services within the resources available. The PTSS guidelines allow patients the option of using private

transport by providing a subsidy at a rate of 10c per kilometre. This is calculated on the basis of distance by road from the post office nearest to the patient's local hospital, to the post office nearest to the specialist medical facility the patient is attending. Queensland's PTSS compares favourably with schemes in other states. For example, New South Wales has a fuel subsidy rate of 12.7 cents per kilometre, with eligibility distance criteria of 200 kilometres each way and a personal contribution of \$20 for pensioners and \$40 for non-pensioners. South Australia's fuel subsidy is 10 c per kilometre with the eligibility distance criteria of 100 kilometres and a personal contribution of \$30 on every trip.

A review of the Scheme was undertaken in April 1999, and the budget for the Scheme has increased substantially over the past few years to meet the increasing demand for patient and escort travel. The Scheme received an additional \$1.2M from the 1998-1999 to the 1999-2000 financial year, with a total increase of \$3.1M over the past two financial years.

The State's only involvement in the price of fuel is through the Queensland Fuel Subsidy Scheme. The Government has been paying fuel wholesalers to ensure that fuel prices in Queensland remain at least 8.35c per litre less than interstate prices.

However, with recent concerns that the Scheme was not adequately achieving its objectives, the Government established a Fuel Taskforce of key stakeholders in order to examine ways in which the Scheme could be improved.

Following receipt of the Taskforce recommendations, the new Fuel Subsidy Scheme arrangements were announced on 18 September 2000.

The new scheme has been designed specifically to:

1. stop the transportation of subsidised fuel out of Queensland;
2. deliver the subsidy at the bowser; and
3. ensure that the entire 8.35c per litre is passed on to Queensland road users.

The reforms arising from the Fuel Taskforce will do much to address the structural problems that were inherent in the prior scheme. In this way, while the State Government cannot exert any direct control over fuel prices, we will be ensuring to the maximum extent possible that the Scheme administered by the Queensland Government works efficiently and for the benefit of all Queensland consumers.

The Government has also introduced a petrol price watch system with a telephone hotline 1800 502 230 and an interactive web site <http://www.qld.gov.au/petrolpricewatch>. I urge you to support the Government in this action to ensure a fairer deal for Queensland motorists.

You will also be aware that on Wednesday, 15 November 2000, the Opposition did not support the Premier's motion without notice on fuel prices:

"That the Queensland Parliament, recognising the extreme pressure on Queensland families and small businesses by the continual escalation of petrol prices, requests the Prime Minister, John Howard, and his Government to

immediately give a commitment to Queenslanders that they will not further increase the fuel excise in February 2001."

### 1383. High Risk Child Protection

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (14/11/00)—

After being embarrassed by the news that 15 priority one cases, that is, high risk child protection cases, had been written off recently in one office alone and further that a total of 216 children assessed as being at high risk of future significant harm had been written off, what new methods and processes has she put in place and what processes do the new methods replace?

**Ms BLIGH** (15/12/00): The Honourable Member is mistaken. In March 2000, the Department implemented a new workload management strategy that allows accurate and standardised recording of child protection workload information and ensures that regions focus resources on high need cases by allowing the option of administrative finalisation of initial assessments of low priority cases. Records are retained and notifications that have been finalised in this manner are reassessed if further information is received about the child or children concerned.

No priority one cases have been written off by any office of the Department since statewide data in relation to this new strategy was first collected in June 2000. The 216 cases mentioned by the Honourable Member were responsibly managed by the Department in accordance with the new strategy. I am pleased to say that for the first time in the Department's history, a Statewide system of workload management reporting has been implemented to responsively monitor workload across all Area Offices.

### 1384. Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (14/11/00)—

With further reference to his repeated promise during the Estimates Committees hearing on 10 August 2000 that the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund would receive a guaranteed 23 per cent of the Government's share of gaming machine revenue—

- (1) Why has the Government only budgeted \$55.2m for the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund in 2000-01 when, based on last financial year's takings, that figure should be more than \$80m?
- (2) Has the Queensland Gaming Commission forecast a massive reduction in gaming machine revenue for 2000-01?
- (3) Has the Treasurer indicated to him that he again intends capping the Sport and Recreation Benefit Funds share of gaming machine revenue at a level substantially below the 23 per cent promised by the Minister in Parliament?

(4) When was he made aware that the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund was short-changed by more than \$30m in 1999-2000 because the Treasurer decided to keep the money instead of providing it for sport and recreation activities in the State?

(5) Will he guarantee that 23 per cent of gaming machine revenue in 2000-01 will be made available to the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund this financial year?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (14/12/00): The Member has been repeatedly advised in the past of the arrangements put in place in respect of the gaming machine revenue contributions to sport and recreation in 1999-2001.

I have previously informed the Member that the contribution rate has now been set at 23% and that this would continue.

### 1385. Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, Regional Communications

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (14/11/00)—

With reference to the Ministerial Statement made by the Victorian Minister for State and Regional Development, Mr John Brumby, on 11 November 1999, in which he stated—

"Ministers Yeadon from New South Wales, Mackenroth from Queensland and I intend to establish a tri-state alliance on regional communications. The goals will be to—

identify opportunities for joint telecommunications infrastructure initiative;

identify potential regional nodes for high-performance computers to provide better IT and telecommunications infrastructure in regional Australia;

better focus the Networking the Nation program to ensure better targeted outcomes for regional IT infrastructure;

stimulate informed debate on digital TV policy, which has major implications for all Victorians ..."

and given his intention to establish a tri-State alliance with New South Wales and Victoria—

- (1) What progress has he and/or his department made towards the development of this alliance?
- (2) What, if any, committee/taskforce/working group etc has been established to develop this project and what is and/or has been its composition?
- (3) What budget has been allocated for this project/alliance for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 and what, if any, future allocation is estimated for 2001-02 and further outgoing years?
- (4) Will he detail the date, persons present, cost and venue for any meetings he or departmental staff have had to discuss this matter either internal departmental meetings or with other

Government Ministers and/or interstate departmental staff?

- (5) Will he list the outcomes, to date, of this alliance?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (14/12/00):

(1) There is general informal agreement to discuss common issues, establish common views and where appropriate, jointly present matters at relevant Commonwealth State meetings.

The main forums for this activity are the Online Council, its Officials' meetings and working parties.

(2) A specific committee/taskforce/working group has not been established in this State to facilitate the alliance.

(3) To date, work has been progressed within the existing budget for my Department.

(4) Discussion between officials in each State occur from time to time as and when the need arises.

(5) The outcomes of the alliance to date include the presentations of the States on their telecommunications priorities to the Networking the Nation Board on 27 April 2000 and progressing the development of a joint position Datacasting.

#### **1386. Chassis Line; WorkCover**

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (14/11/00)—

With reference to the issue of the Toowoomba company, Chassis Line, who have claimed that because of an accident which occurred to one of their workers in 1994, their premium repayments will be affected right up until the year 2023—

- (1) What is being done to prevent this anomaly from recurring and why did it take adverse publicity before WorkCover decided to take any action to rectify the situation?
- (2) Will he detail the action that WorkCover is taking?

**Mr BRADY** (14/12/00):

(1) I am advised by WorkCover, which is an independent Statutory Authority, that the article in the Toowoomba Chronicle concerning Chassis Line, who stated that their assessed premium had increased from \$5,500 to \$13,000 due to a common law claim is incorrect.

WorkCover Queensland has advised me that Chassis Line's 1999-2000 assessed premium had increased from \$5,633 to \$11,940. The common law effect was only \$2,952, while the main cause of the increase was due to an increase in the wages bill of the company.

I am also advised that WorkCover did not wait until the Toowoomba Chronicle article to attempt to resolve their issues. Since September 1999, WorkCover has been actively working with Chassis Line and their solicitors, Dean Kath & Kohler, in an effort to resolve the issues surrounding the company's concerns. WorkCover has held numerous discussions and has been in regular contact with them during this period.

(2) WorkCover understands the need for policyholders to minimise their premium costs as much as possible. To assist employers, WorkCover Chairman Mr Ian Brusasco and I announced a review of the Experienced Based Rating premium calculation system in December 1999. The Experienced Based Rating system was introduced in 1997 under the then Coalition Government.

This review was undertaken in consultation with Queensland industry groups and independently assessed by Mr Jim Kennedy. The review resulted in WorkCover implementing a number of measures to assist Queensland businesses, including—

- retrospective premium adjustment following the settlement of common law claims; and
- the introduction of a premium rate cap of twice the industry rate.

WorkCover is continuing to monitor emerging issues with the Experienced Based Rating system and is currently focusing on the perceptions of inequity that exist within the system, including the impact of common law and the length of time it takes for smaller policyholders to revert to their former premium rate.

Consultation is occurring with peak industry associations and policyholders and should be completed in early 2001, at which time it will be considered by the WorkCover Board.

#### **1387. Sunshine Coast Health District, School Dental Services**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (14/11/00)—

With reference to school dental visits on the Sunshine Coast—

- (1) How many completed check-ups were there in 1998-99 compared to 1999-2000?
- (2) How did this compare to the department targets at the beginning of 1999-2000?
- (3) What are the targets for 2000-01?
- (4) How many children meet the eligible criteria for check-ups on the Sunshine Coast for 2000-01?

**Mrs EDMOND** (14/12/00):

(1) In the financial year 1998-99 there were 23,557 completed checkups and courses of care. In addition there were 4,029 emergency and 2,522 extra patients completed. For the year 1999-2000 the Sunshine Coast Health Service District examined and completed 19,906 patients through the school program. In that year there were an additional 3,981 emergencies and 1,827 extra patients completed.

During 1999/2000 Sunshine Coast District experienced a shortage of dental therapists due to a number of staff being on maternity leave. There was significant difficulty recruiting temporary staff to backfill associated part-time and full-time positions. This statewide problem is expected to ease following the first year of graduation of therapists from the University of Queensland this year. In response to the shortage, the District retrained two

dental therapists, previously out of the workforce, in the latter part of 2000.

(2) The Target for 1999-2000 was 22,738. The combined regular examination and extra patients treated is 21,733. Extra patients included those who may have been examined and treated more frequently due to a high disease rate, or who were treated away from their regular school. There were an additional 3,981 completed emergency patients not included in these figures.

(3) The target for 2000-01 is 25,606, an increase of 2,868 over the previous year.

(4) There are 37,482 children enrolled from preschool to grade 10 eligible for public dental care on the Sunshine Coast. In addition there are a small number of four (4) year olds who are eligible but not enrolled in preschool. It is recognised some parents and students chose not to access this free service and either seek no dental care or seek care privately. The 1999-00 consent to treatment rate of 77.6% on the Sunshine Coast is 3.8% above the State average.

### 1388. Hardwood Plantations

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (14/11/00)—

With reference to the establishment of hardwood plantations—

- (1) How many hectares were established by the State Government in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively and how many hectares will be established in 2000-01?
- (2) What is the cost of these plantation establishments for each year?
- (3) How many hectares had to be re-established in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively, what was the reason for planting failures and what was the cost?
- (4) How many hectares of these planting failings can be attributed to the Government's haste to establish plantations and subsequent planting at the wrong time of year?
- (5) How many hectares were established under joint venture arrangements by Government and the private sector in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively and how many hectares will be established in 2000-01?
- (6) Did any of these joint venture plantations have to be re-established in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively; if so, how much, why and at whose cost?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (12/12/00):

(1) The number of hectares established through State Government hardwood plantation initiatives in 1998-99 and 1999-2000, and the estimated number of hectares (ha) to be established in 2000-01 are as follows:

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (estimated)
567.9 ha	457.4 ha	1,300 ha

Whilst planning is on track to achieve at least the 1,300 ha indicated in 2000-01, the actual number of

hectares will obviously depend on operational factors (e.g. weather) over the next seven months.

(2) The cost of establishment of these plantations for each year (including an estimate for 2000-01) is as follows:

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (estimated)
\$800,004	\$675,028	\$2,083,000

(3) The number of hectares that had to be re-established in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively and the cost of re-establishment are outlined in the following table:

Item	1998-99	1999-2000
Hectares replanted	15.5	19.1
Cost	\$10,061	\$10,527

No plantations were totally re-established. However, remedial action comprising replanting of sections of some blocks was undertaken and of these replantings, many only required replacement of some plants in the affected sections.

Causes for planting failures are varied depending on site and prevailing climatic conditions at the time but include droughting, prolonged wet conditions, browsing damage from various animals, spray drift onto plants during weed control operations, poor seedling quality due to both genetic and cultural practices and disease losses.

(4) Nil. Over the two financial years, ie. 1998-99 and 1999-2000, only 34.6 ha of plantations needed to be partially replanted out of a total program over the same period of 1,025 ha or 3.4%. Most of these replantings involved only sections of blocks. These figures are consistent with loss expectations in any commercial forest growing venture.

(5) The number of hectares established under joint venture arrangements by Government and the private sector in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is outlined in the following table:

1998-99	1999-2000
391 ha	163 ha

As at 30 October 2000, 195 ha have been established under joint venture arrangements by Government and the private sector in 2000-01.

The component of joint venture arrangement plantings and plantings on State lands for 2000-01 is dynamic with numerous projects being progressed. Joint venture arrangements are given priority within the overall program of achieving the target of 5000 ha by 30 June 2003.

(6) The area of joint venture plantations that had to be re-established in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and the cost is outlined in the following table:

Item	1998-99	1999-2000
Hectares replanted	9.5	16.6
Cost	\$3,802	\$9,459

The reasons for replanting are the same as those given in my reply to Question 3.

The cost of replanting is generally borne by the joint venturers as a cost to the project. The joint venture partner actually bearing this project cost is credited

with additional project equity and therefore, the party bearing the project cost of replanting varies with the particular case. In a few instances, where correctly applied operational procedures have failed for reasons beyond the management control of the joint venture project, eg. poorly performing plants due to provenance, previously unreported herbicide impacts or record adverse climatic conditions, the cost of replant is born by the program and not the joint venture project.

**1389. Unions, Government Grants and Subsidies**

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Treasurer (14/11/00)—

How much money, individually itemised, has the State Government provided to Queensland unions of employees and unions of employers in arts grants, training subsidies and other grants on a financial year basis for 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01?

**Mr HAMILL** (13/12/00): This data is not held by Treasury and the question should be directed to the appropriate Minister.

**1390. Asbestos, Health Risk**

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Health (15/11/00)—

- (1) Has she any concerns about the deterioration of asbestos roofs of our State schools?
- (2) Have there been any investigations on what effect deteriorating asbestos could have on our children and teaching staff?
- (3) Is she aware that the Brassall State School, Brassall has two classroom blocks with deteriorating asbestos roofs?
- (4) In light of the coming into force of the new regulations on the control of asbestos, will she have her department investigate the effects of asbestos at Brassall State School?

**Mrs EDMOND** (15/12/00):

(1) Monitoring the condition of the roofing of State schools is a responsibility shared by the Department of Education and the Department of Public Works and Housing (QBuild). QBuild maintains a Building Management Plan in respect of each State school, which includes an Asbestos Materials Register where such material has been used at a school. To my knowledge, these departments capably discharge their responsibilities.

As part of this ongoing monitoring schedule, roofs containing asbestos material are replaced with metal deck sheeting when their structural integrity is compromised. This policy has been adopted because there is a far greater risk to the health of people by undertaking the removal of asbestos bearing roof sheeting (from the generation of minute airborne particles) than from such roofing material remaining in situ.

(2) Many independent studies have been carried out, both overseas and within Australia, with regard to the

impact upon human health from deteriorating building products containing asbestos fibres. This research has overwhelmingly determined that spontaneous generation of hazardous, airborne asbestos fibres is extremely low. This is because the asbestos fibres in these products are tightly bound in a cementitious matrix, which is compressed during the manufacturing process. Whilst the product remains intact, there is a negligible, if not no risk to human health, relative to asbestosis.

Queensland Health has not conducted its own study in regard to this issue, because an abundance of evidenced based information espousing this view is published in both print and electronic media. Relevant clinical data gathered to date also reinforces this opinion.

(3) This question should be addressed to the Minister for Education.

(4) The legislation to which I believe Mr Paff is referring is amendment of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 1997 which came into effect on 1 November 2000. This regulation is administered by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations through the Division of Workplace Health and Safety.

Queensland Health is responsible for investigating asbestos related health events, whenever qualified advice or sound evidence of that substance being implicated as a primary factor contributing to the ill-health of a person is provided.

**1391. Wage Rates, Security Industry (Contractors) Award—State**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/11/00)—

With reference to my letter of 9 October to him regarding concerns about the delay in the publication of increases to wage rates, in particular, the Security Industry (Contractors) Award—State and the subsequent detrimental effects on business operations and to his reply in which he stated that delays in notification do occur occasionally after the commission has made a decision to allow for affected industrial parties to provide additional information—

- (1) Does he consider delays of six to seven times in nine years as being occasional?
- (2) As he also stated that the wage rates for this award were now set until at least 20 March 2002, will he confirm that this is definitely correct as I have received advice that the next wage increase will be 3 per cent on 20 March 2001; if so, when will official notification in writing be sent to security firms so this increase can be taken into consideration when quoting for contracts for next year?

**Mr BRADDY** (15/12/00):

(1) The making and responsibility for the publication of these decisions rests solely with the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission which is an entity independent of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

There have been eleven (11) wage variations to the Security Industry (Contractors) Award—State since the fourth of January 1993. In six (6) out of the eleven (11) occasions the date of release of the decision has preceded the date of increase.

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

In the case of the most recent wage increase under the Security Industry (Contractors) Award—State, inquiries by officers of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations have failed to establish any clear reason for the unfortunate delay in the publication of the decision.

I am assured however, that the Commission is aware of the potential costs to Queensland businesses occasioned by such undue delays and that every effort is made by Commission staff to conduct the administration of the Commission in an orderly and expeditious manner.

(2) Wage rates are set under the Security Industry (Contractors) Award—State until 20 March 2002.

In setting the wage rates the Commission has made two (2) adjustments over this period, namely 3% from 20 March 2000 and 3% from 20 March 2001.

Additionally, in setting the wage rates the Commission determined there were to be no safety net increases until 20 March 2002.

Unless a particular employer is a member of an employer organisation or they subscribe to the Department's Industrial Relations Information Service, they are not individually notified of Commission decisions affecting their award provisions.

Employers may contact their local DETIR office to confirm their current award provisions.

### 1392. Hervey Bay Hospital

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Health (15/11/00)—

With reference to the Hervey Bay hospital—

- (1) Will she outline what would be necessary to upgrade this hospital to also cater as a full time medical training facility?
- (2) Will she reconsider this option as it will improve job prospects for Hervey Bay?
- (3) Has she given this any consideration recently?

**Mrs EDMOND** (15/12/00):

(1) Hervey Bay Hospital has been assessed and accredited for the post-fellowship year training for Anaesthetics and an application for accreditation for Surgery is being considered at present.

A barrier to gaining Specialist accreditation in various disciplines is that the patient throughput is insufficient for an adequate volume of training. As an example, there are approximately 400 births per year at the Hervey Bay Hospital, which is too few to provide adequate training for an Obstetrics Registrar to gain clinical competence.

(2 & 3) The number of positions for staff is based on clinical demand and throughput of patients.

### 1393. Irrigation Water Consumption

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (15/11/00)—

With reference to irrigation water—

- (1) What were the consumption levels per annum for the last five years categorised by industry?
- (2) What is the pricing structure in each water board area categorised by industry?

**Mr WELFORD** (11/12/00):

(1) My Department of Natural Resources annual water use statistics provide a breakdown of water consumption by customer type, that is irrigation, urban, industrial or stock and domestic, but are not available on an industry basis. For the last five years, consumption of water supplied from the State's water projects by customer sector was as follows:

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

(2) With respect to pricing arrangements for water supplied from the State's water projects, irrigation water charges are dependent on benchmarked efficient costs of running each scheme (in terms of operations, maintenance, administration and refurbishment costs and in some cases a small capital charge), the economic impacts of water costs on irrigators and the irrigators' capacity to pay.

Based on this information, a five, six or seven year price path has been developed for each water supply scheme and these price paths in the form of the Rural Water Pricing Direction Notice (No 01) 2000] were published in the Queensland Government Gazette on 6 October 2000.

Water prices for urban and industrial water are subject to agreements between the SunWater Corporation and its customers and are generally set to fully cover the above costs including the capital cost.

### 1394. Barramundi Stock

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (15/11/00)—

With reference to the agreement between DPI Fisheries and CSIRO geneticists that no irreversible population damage was likely to occur with translocation of barramundi genetic stock between adjacent fisheries—

- (1) What is the estimated annual recreational catch of barramundi from the gulf region?
- (2) What is the commercial barramundi catch from the gulf region?
- (3) How many barramundi fingerlings are raised and released each year into the gulf waters?
- (4) When will the Government commit to their electoral promise to expand the recreational fishing enhancement program, including stocking and actively assist barramundi stockists in the gulf region?



**Mr PALASZCZUK (12/12/00):**

(1) A statewide recreational fishing survey conducted in 1997 shows that about one third (thirty-four percent) of the recreational harvest of barramundi is landed in the Gulf of Carpentaria. This equates to about 24 000 fish or approximately ninety-five tonnes of harvested barramundi.

The same survey indicated that the Gulf waters account for over half (fifty-four percent) of the barramundi that are caught and released by recreational anglers with about 110 000 fish being released.

(2) In 1999, 680 tonnes of barramundi were commercially harvested.

(3) Stocking of barramundi into the Gulf region started in 1993. About 352 000 have now been released: about 56 000 to Mt Isa, 6000 to Lake Belmore at Croydon, about 190 000 in the Norman River between Normanton and Karumba and about 100 000 in the Albert River near Burketown.

Of these 352 000 fingerlings, about 46 000 were grown-out in Department of Primary Industries (DPI) ponds from excess larvae produced at the Gulf Barramundi Restocking Association's Karumba hatchery and about 306 000 were produced and reared at the Karumba hatchery.

Stocking by season for the Gulf is as follows:

1993/94—	30 000
1994/95—	182 000
1995/96—	Nil
1996/97—	500
1997/98—	23 500
1998/99—	16 095
1999/2000—	14

In addition a further 100 000 were stocked in the Albert River system however departmental records are incomplete.

The small number of fingerlings produced during last season was due to the departure of key personnel from the hatchery. This will be overcome by the appointment of a hatchery biologist (see below).

(4) There has been an increased commitment of \$15,000 this financial year to partially fund the position of a production biologist at the Karumba hatchery. The biologist has been working in the position since August 2000 and should result in increased production figures for the hatchery.

In addition the Department has continued its financial and technical support for the hatchery. Two thousand dollars has been allocated for running costs of the hatchery and staff from the Northern Fisheries Centre, Cairns have continued to work closely with staff at the hatchery in monitoring and aiding broodstock development through hormone implant trials, larval rearing and pond production monitoring.

Under supervision from Northern Fisheries Centre staff, broodstock collected from the wild and donated by Karumba hatchery have been delivered to a commercial hatchery on the east coast. All

fingerlings produced from these broodstock will be delivered for stocking in the Mt Isa region.

A program has also been set up by the DPI Northern Fisheries Centre to deliver any excess larvae produced at Karumba for rearing in other east coast commercial hatcheries.

The initiatives outlined above should result in a significant increase in the number of barramundi fingerlings released in the Gulf region.

**1395. The Great Car Search, Office of Fair Trading**

**Mr FELDMAN** asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (15/11/00)—

With reference to the publication from the Office of Fair Trading entitled The Great Car Search on page 6 under the subheading "Isn't it Cheaper to Buy Privately", there is a number to contact the Queensland Transport Department to confirm the registered owner's details—

- (1) Will the department give out the registration details of vehicles over the phone?
- (2) Is there a charge to obtain the registration and registered owner's details?
- (3) What can she advise a constituent of mine who used this publication and was informed by the department that they do not give out the details of the registered owner of the vehicle?
- (4) What can she advise this same constituent who was also advised that there was a charge applicable to an application for these details but that proof of ownership was an insufficient reason for approval of an application for these details?
- (5) Has Fair Trading confirmed with the department that these details can be given as outlined in the brochure?
- (6) Are there plans to update or correct the information supplied on this Fair Trading publication?

**Ms SPENCE (15/12/00):** In response to your question I wish to provide the following:

(1) A potential buyer of a motor vehicle can telephone Queensland Transport (13 23 80), quote the registration number of the vehicle and the seller's details and the Department will confirm whether or not the seller is the registered owner.

(2) There is no charge for this confirmation check by telephone.

(3) I suggest that if the constituent is looking to buy a car, she could also check the registration certificate for the car's engine number and/or compliance plate. This is the next check recommended in the publication, Post School Survival Tips. The registration certificate gives the seller's details which can be used together with the vehicle registration number to do the telephone check.

(4) As stated earlier there is no charge for this type of confirmation check over the telephone. There is

however a \$10 charge to conduct a search. The Department has tightened up its search procedures and applicants must give a reason why they are searching.

(5) As stated earlier, Queensland Transport will confirm whether or not a person is the registered owner of a vehicle.

(6) This publication, Post School Survival Tips, is currently being rewritten and updated to take into account telephone numbers, addresses and procedures. It is planned to reprint and distribute the publication (Version 2) to all Queensland Year 12 students in March 2001.

### 1396. Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund

**Mr HEALY** asked the Treasurer (15/11/00)—

With reference to the Government's pledge to provide 23 per cent of gaming machine revenue to the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund—

Will he guarantee that 23 per cent of gaming machine revenue in 2000-01 will be provided to the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund?

**Mr HAMILL** (14/12/00): Yes.

### 1397. Ergon Energy, Photovoltaic Generation System

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/11/00)—

With reference to a letter I have written to the Chief Executive Officer of Ergon Energy on behalf of a constituent regarding the installation of a photovoltaic generation system and the application to connect to the Ergon Energy distribution network—

- (1) Is he aware that a clause in the Small Scale Renewable Energy Electricity Purchase Agreement is causing insurance companies to refuse house insurance?
- (2) Is he also aware that the Federal Government rebate available to installers of the generation system will be lost if the agreement with Ergon is not signed within a six-month period after installation?
- (3) What will he do to fix this problem?

**Mr McGRADY** (21/12/00):

(1) I am aware that the Ergon Energy's Small Scale Renewable Energy Electricity Purchase Agreement did include a requirement for the occupant to indemnify Ergon Energy against risks which house insurance companies may not cover. However this Purchase Agreement has been withdrawn, and is being replaced with one that does not require the occupant to indemnify Ergon.

(2) The original requirement for a network agreement to be signed was to offer a policing method that would protect the scheme from being misused.

The Federal Government rebate makes reference to a six-monthly time frame for an installation to be

completed and, if unable to be done so, the customer only need write to my Department explaining the circumstance and an extension will be considered.

(3) As soon as members of the public made me aware of these issues, I requested the removal of the requirements of a signed connection agreement before a payment is made. This has been implemented. I have instructed the Office of Sustainable Energy to have discussions with energy service providers in relation to the whole content of their purchase agreement.

### 1398. CityTrans

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/11/00)—

With reference to the recently introduced "CityTrans" coordinated services operated by Brisbane City Council and Queensland Rail and promoted by Queensland Transport—

- (1) What has been the patronage level of the "CityTrans" services?
- (2) What has been the average number of passengers per bus per day?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (18/12/00):

(1) In its first operational month, CityTrans services carried over 7,000 passengers.

(2) It should be remembered that these services have been designed as collector services, bringing passengers to the station in the AM peak and returning to collect the next load and vice versa in the PM peak. Off peak services are monitored for customer convenience. The average passengers per bus in the AM peak, off peak and PM peak for each of the services are as follows:

Average passengers per bus:

Period	Forest Lake	Riverhills	Bracken Ridge	Upper Kedron
AM Peak	8.1	9.0	1.2	3.3
Off Peak	2.6	1.3	0.7	1.1
PM Peak	5.2	9.3	1.4	4.4

### 1399. Fishing Industry Adjustment Scheme, Gulf of Carpentaria

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (15/11/00)—

With reference to the Gulf of Carpentaria Fisheries Adjustment Scheme which is receiving an annual contribution from each N3 fishery symbol holder of \$1000 annually and which during 1999, \$102,000,000 was contributed by the holders of licences in that fishery—

- (1) What contribution has been made by the Government to the buy back?
- (2) How many licences were bought back in that fishery over the last two years and what amount was spent in the process?
- (3) Have any of the funds allocated by the Government, or raised by the N3 licence

holders in the Gulf been raised for any purpose other than that area's buy back scheme?

- (4) Was an offer made to the Gulf fishermen of establishing a fund by the Government on a dollar for dollar basis with the industry; if so, was the commitment honoured?
- (5) As an investment warning was issued for the Gulf of Carpentaria Crab Fishery in 1997 but after three years no management plan has been forthcoming and as this has caused uncertainty for those involved in the fishery, why has it taken so long for a determination for the crab fishery's future direction?
- (6) If it is necessary to reduce effort in this fishery, what level of financial assistance will be provided by the Government?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (12/12/00):

(1) Under the Government Fishing Industry Adjustment Scheme in 1998 there was an allocation of up to \$500,000 for adjustment in the Gulf of Carpentaria N3 fishery. A total amount of \$220,000 was used from the Scheme for licence/symbol acquisition. A total of \$102,000 was collected by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) from commercial fishers in 1999 as their contribution to the Scheme. Queensland Fisheries Science has agreed to match the 1999 funds with \$102,000. The total extent of Government contribution to the Scheme is \$322,000.

(2) Three full licences and one N3 fishery symbol were bought back under the Fishing Industry Adjustment Scheme (first phase) at a total cost of \$220,000 in 1998. There is a current invitation to N3 fishery symbol holders to surrender their N3 fishery symbol for \$30,000. This invitation closed on 30 November 2000 and will be followed by an invitation to surrender their full commercial fishing boat licence.

(3) All funds allocated by the Government and contributed by commercial fishers have been either used in the Gulf of Carpentaria Fishers Adjustment Scheme to buy-back licences or quarantined solely for that purpose.

(4) There was no offer or commitment to fund the Scheme on a dollar-for-dollar basis. However the QFMA agreed to match commercial fishers contribution of \$102,000 for 1999 on a "once only" basis. Government agreed to contribute up to \$500,000 to assist the Scheme. A total of \$322,000 has been contributed to date.

(5) The Investment Warning relating to the Gulf Mud Crab Fishery was issued in October 1997 as a means of limiting increased effort in the fishery until the management planning process for the Mud Crab Fishery could be finalised. A Discussion Paper on the future management options for the Queensland Mud Crab Fishery was released for public comment in March 1999. This included the proposal to establish separate management arrangements for the Gulf of Carpentaria Mud Crab Fishery. Government's priorities for developing management plans for all its major fisheries have focused on the East Coast Trawl Fishery at this time.

(6) It may not be necessary to reduce effort in the Gulf of Carpentaria Mud Crab Fishery and sustainability may be achieved through capping effort at the level existing immediately prior to the Investment Warning of October 1997. Consequently no financial assistance from Government may be required.

#### **1400. Bundaberg Hospital**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Minister for Health (15/11/00)—

With reference to the Bundaberg Base Hospital's new children's playground equipment area, which I understand has been left unused for about 12 months—

- (1) What is the safety issue that has caused the problem?
- (2) What improvements must be carried out to resolve the issue?
- (3) How much is the work anticipated to cost and has funding been allocated in the 2000-01 Budget?
- (4) When will work begin and when will sick children finally have access to the new play equipment and larger facilities?

**Mrs EDMOND** (15/12/00):

(1) The Bundaberg Base Hospital's redevelopment was opened in May 2000. The redeveloped paediatric unit at the Hospital has provided two play areas for children. The indoor play area has been functioning since the Unit's commissioning in August 1999.

The outdoor play area has been completed in accordance with design specifications and the Building Code. In July 2000, staff identified potential safety concerns with the use of the area by adolescent children.

Safety concerns identified include risks that children may be able to climb the fence/wall surrounding the play area; children throwing articles over the wall; floor coverings; and the need for supervision of children in this area.

(2) The hospital's Workplace Health and Safety Officer has inspected the play area and recommended that the installation of a mesh cover on part of the fence/wall surrounding the play area will significantly reduce risks in the use of the area. Appropriate supervision of children using the facility is also being planned.

(3) Changes to the outdoor play area are expected to cost approximately \$5400. This expenditure has been scheduled to occur during 2000/2001.

(4) Works are expected to be completed before the end of the current financial year.

#### **1401. ENERGEX, Maroochydore and Geebung Depots**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (15/11/00)—

- (1) Will ENERGEX close or downgrade its Maroochydore and Geebung depots and shift jobs to Caboolture after the next State Election?
- (2) What guarantee will he give that this won't happen?

**Mr McGRADY** (20/12/00):

- (1) I am advised that ENERGEX has made no decision to close or downgrade its Maroochydore and Geebung depots and shift jobs to Caboolture.
- (2) Given my answer to the Honourable Member's first question, I do not need to make any further comment.

#### **1402. Western Downs Electorate, Regional Development**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Premier (15/11/00)—

With reference to his Government's policy of developing a Statewide strategy of regional development and his promise to be a Government for all Queensland and as his Government has either stalled or scrapped the Kogan Creek Power Station, the Condamine Weir and the Nangram Weir—the projects identified and developed by local councils and industry groups over recent years—

Will he identify the projects his Government plans to promote in the electorate of Western Downs now that he has succeeded in stopping these projects the locals chose as our best options?

**Mr BEATTIE** (15/12/00): My Government is committed to increasing Statewide development to enable Queensland's regions to prosper. The Western Downs region plays an important part in the overall prosperity of Queensland and my Government is focusing on building continued growth and development in this region. In response to the Honourable Member's question, I provide the following information:

The \$946 million Kogan Creek Power Project, as proposed by Southern Energy Asia-Pacific Limited (SEAP) and CS Energy Limited (the Proponents), is a 755 megawatt coal fired power station to be located near Chinchilla. The project will generate 240 full time positions in the operational phase and 1,400 full time positions during construction. The Kogan Creek Power Project has received all environmental and regulatory approvals necessary to continue with its construction and operation. However, the Proponents recently announced its decision to defer the project after reviewing the expanding electricity market and Queensland's future balance of electricity supply and demand. The timing of the commencement of construction will be decided during the next twelve months.

In relation to the Condamine and Nangram Weirs, the Environmental Impact Assessment process for both weirs has been substantially progressed. However, their further consideration awaits finalisation of the Water Allocation and Management Plan (WAMP) for the Condamine Balonne Valley. While not being specifically identified as works to proceed in the scenarios presented in the draft WAMP, they do

continue to exist as development options to be considered should there be any expanded water opportunity for this part of the Condamine Balonne Catchment. Extensive consultation on the draft WAMP has been under way since its release on 14 June 2000. My Government is considering submissions on these proposals and other water development options as part of finalising the WAMP early in 2001. In this context, it has been inappropriate to advance these weir proposals while the WAMP planning has been proceeding.

A number of other infrastructure projects are at various stages of investigation, planning and development in the Western Downs Region and include:

#### Coal Gasification Project near Chinchilla

A joint venture by Linc Energy and CS Energy has spent approximately \$2 million establishing a pilot underground coal gasification trial near Chinchilla. These organisations are currently considering the feasibility of a larger demonstration at this site, which is proposed to include trial power generation at an anticipated cost of \$7 million over two years. If it proceeds, this phase of the project will require additional environmental approvals and any larger scale testing will require a mining lease.

#### Chinchilla East Coal Mine

Tarong Energy Corporation Limited has been seriously investigating plans to source coal from Glen Wilga to supply the power station at Tarong North. It is proposed that a 500,000 tonne per annum mine could be established north of the Condamine River with coal being transported to Tarong by truck. Mine development costs are anticipated to be approximately \$60 million, with the proponents seeking to be in production by 2002. Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines for this project are currently being reviewed by my Government and mining leases have been applied for. Negotiations between Tarong Energy Corporation Limited and the relevant Shire Councils regarding road transport impacts are currently under way.

#### Chinchilla East to Tarong Rail Link

Tarong Energy Corporation Limited is currently carrying out studies for a proposed 120km rail connection route between Brigalow and Tarong to haul coal from their undeveloped Glen Wilga Deposit, with the project cost anticipated to exceed \$100 million. A final decision on this project has not yet been made. However it will be necessary to demonstrate commercial viability and be able to meet various Government statutory requirements if it is to proceed.

#### A Cleaner Energy Strategy

The Queensland Government's Cleaner Energy Strategy is providing a major stimulus to coal seam gas developments in this electorate. Tri-Star Petroleum Company's Fairview Coal Seam Gas project east of Injune is being significantly expanded as an additional 20 wells are planned to be drilled in the next 12 months. Further expansion of this project in the next few years is likely to meet the growing energy needs associated with industrial development

and growth in electricity generation in the Gladstone and Townsville regions.

#### Transport and Main Roads Projects

Transport-related projects planned for the electorate of Western Downs include:

re-railing of the main western line, Chinchilla to Miles. This project is expected to cost \$8 million and will be undertaken in the 2000-2001 financial year;

re-railing of the main western line, Miles to Muckadilla. This project is expected to cost \$26 million and will be undertaken in the 2001-2002 financial year; and

approximately \$46 million in Main Roads funding has been planned in the Western Downs Electorate over 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, details of which are outlined in the Department of Main Roads "Roads Implementation Program".

My Government is committed to working with local communities to ensure the development of regional areas in Queensland. In relation to the Western Downs electorate, the significant projects outlined demonstrate my Government's commitment to regional development and will continue to be a priority of my Government.

#### 1403. Backflow Prevention Program; BHF (Aust) Pty Ltd

Mr **LAMING** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (15/11/00)—

With reference to the legal action under way between his department and the proprietors of BHF (Aust) Pty Ltd—

- (1) What has been the total legal costs of the department to date (for both internal and external sources)?
- (2) What is the source of funding (departmental entity or program) for the above costs?
- (3) What is the anticipated total expenditure for legal costs associated with this action?
- (4) What will be the source of funding (departmental entity or program) for any future expenditure on legal costs pertaining to this action?

Mr **SCHWARTEN** (20/12/00): Refer to the response to Question on Notice No. 1441.

#### 1404. Termite Management System

Mr **SPRINGBORG** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (Mr Mackenroth) (15/11/00)—

With reference to the amended standards for the control of termites which are due to come into effect on 1 January 2001—

- (1) What consultation did he or his department undertake with the Australian Environmental Pest Management Association representing the termite control industry and or individual pest

controllers who stand to be significantly affected by the new standards?

- (2) In particular, how many meetings were held with the above body or individuals during the consultation process in order to assess industry views and concerns?
- (3) Will he provide an assurance that if significant problems continue to arise with the new standards that they will be modified to address these concerns?

**Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM** (14/12/00):

(1) I am advised that, in reviewing the termite protection provisions for houses in the Building Code of Australia (BCA), my Department consulted extensively with the public, key industry groups and providers of both chemical and physical pest termite management systems, including the Australian Environmental Pest Management Association.

(2) I understand that on 22 August 2000, my Department conducted a full day workshop with stakeholders to address concerns relating to the termite provisions of the BCA. Representatives of the Australian Environmental Pest Management Association were among the 25 participants, and the Association was one of three key stakeholders invited to provide a stakeholder perspective at the commencement of the workshop.

A follow-up workshop was conducted on 5 September 2000, involving 22 participants including representatives of the Association. Draft changes to the termite provisions of the BCA proposed at the initial workshop were discussed and supported at this forum.

The draft changes to the code were further developed and distributed to stakeholders, including the Association, for comment on 5 October 2000.

(3) My Department will monitor the effect of the changes to the BCA on the building industry, the termite control industry and homeowners and recommend appropriate action where necessary.

#### 1405. Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts

Mr **SHELDON** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (15/11/00)—

With reference to his self professed support of Aboriginal issues in general and in the Arts in particular—

- (1) Why has he persistently refused to increase the budget for the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts which was initiated by the previous coalition Government?
- (2) Why will he not provide any funding for the International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference scheduled to be held in Brisbane in 2004?

Mr **FOLEY** (15/12/00):

(1) Current funding for the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts was determined by the former Coalition Government on a triennial basis through the

1997-98 Mid-Year Budget Review. Future funding requirements for the Centre will be assessed as part of the normal triennial review.

(2) The organisation has received \$10,000 towards costs for a business development consultant to explore strategies for ACPA to fulfil its role as host of the International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference in 2004.

#### 1406. State Land Asset Management

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (15/11/00)—

With reference to complaints regarding the 10 per cent funding cuts in Regional State Land Asset Management Units and to the temporary staff being dismissed and not being replaced and as work has now to be prioritised and that much of the remaining staff's time is being taken up with ministerial answers—

What is he doing to overcome these issues, particularly in view of the fact that recent legislation has put more work onto his departmental staff?

**Mr WELFORD** (11/12/00): State Land Asset Management (SLAM) activities continue to be given priority by my Department of Natural Resources. In recognition of this and the importance of these activities to the regional communities of Queensland, budget allocations for the current year have been maintained at levels favourable to the provision of effective SLAM services in the Regions.

Recent benchmarking of SLAM activities across the Regions provided a strong basis for the introduction of continuous improvement processes which are yielding increased efficiencies through a better targeting of resources to priority areas and the development of a strong performance culture in SLAM staff. These improvements are supported by the establishment of expertise based teams relevant both to the activity and to the landscape/community in which they are undertaken, to ensure that the right services are provided to meet community needs.

These processes are being enhanced through the adoption of a more integrated approach to my Department's business, which will see the consolidation and better coordination of activities in the Regions, resulting in more streamlined delivery of services, not only in the State Land Asset Management area, but across all my Department's service delivery functions.

As a consequence of the increased efficiencies resulting from these improved business and operational processes currently being implemented, my Department can continue to provide quality and timely services in all the Regions of the State.

With regard to temporary staff, separation of temporary employees is a normal occurrence in the area of State Land Asset Management, as it is in other areas of my Department. This occurs at the conclusion of temporary contracts or when temporary employees leave of their own volition. Contracts are for defined periods as they generally relate to a specific project which is funded for a finite

period of time, or to replace other employees absent for a defined period. Fluctuations in the numbers of temporary employees occur from time to time and in this case, it is not expected that a reduction in these numbers will impact adversely on my Department's ability to deliver core services in the State Land Asset Management area at this time.

#### 1407. Apprentices and Trainees, Workplace Harassment

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/11/00)—

With reference to the statistics on workplace violence in his departmental report, "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Trends Statistics Report", which indicated that 56 per cent of respondents experienced verbal abuse, 31 per cent bullying, 7 per cent violence and 6 per cent sexual harassment in their workplaces, and to the "Bullying at Work" statistics on page 22 of the Sunday Mail of 5 November which indicate a similar situation with 32 per cent of respondents reporting that they felt they had been harassed or bullied—

In the time that has elapsed since his department made him aware of this problem in February 1999 (a) what strategies has he put in place to reduce the incidents of these workplace issues, (b) what follow-up statistical research has been done to measure the effectiveness of these strategies and (c) will he table the results of this research?

**Mr BRADY** (15/12/00):

(a) The Division of Workplace Health and Safety within the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations has produced workplace bullying guides for both employers and workers.

The Division of Workplace Health and Safety released an Enforcement Note for Workplace Bullying in July 2000. This document provides advice and guidance to inspectors in the handling of workplace bullying complaints. The Enforcement Note presents an escalating range of options which can be implemented ranging from information and referral through to the issuing of improvement notices.

The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, through its regional offices, has a network of Senior Training Support Consultants whose principal function is to assist apprentices and trainees with any concerns in the workplace. This includes problems arising from or contributing to any forms of harassment or violence in the workplace.

The availability of these resources and support arrangements through this Department are well referenced as part of the induction which now takes place as trainees and apprentices are signed up in this State.

On 10 November 2000, the Honourable Judy Spence MP, Minister for Women's Policy launched Risky Business: A Useful publication for employers for preventing and resolving workplace bullying developed by the Queensland Working Women's Service, and sponsored by the Premier's Council for

Women. Risky Business is a user friendly publication with additional resources for employers to develop anti-workplace bullying strategies, and how to control incidents of workplace bullying. For this financial year, the Department provided a grant of \$100,000 to the Working Women's Service.

(b) There has been no formal statistical research to measure the effectiveness of these initiatives but the following activity has been reported:

The workplace bullying guides were launched on 26 November 1998 and since their release the Division has continually received requests for them. Since their release in November 1998 the web site alone has had over 26,000 hits on these guides. The inquiries to the site show a 2:1 ratio of interest for the employer guide compared with the worker guide indicating a high level of awareness of employers of their obligation.

Since the introduction of the information guides by the Division of Workplace Health and Safety, records indicate that the number of requests for assistance and information about workplace bullying have increased. In the majority of these cases the matters at issue can be resolved fairly readily and procedures call for the involvement of departmental training consultants should the matter involve an apprentice or trainee.

The increased reporting of workplace bullying does not necessarily mean an increase in the prevalence of this occurrence. Greater reporting is likely to lead to an increased awareness of the problem and provide more incentive for all obligation holders to implement control strategies.

(c) There has been no formal statistical research undertaken.

#### 1408. Public Housing

**Mr BLACK** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (16/11/00)—

With reference to public housing in Mackay—

- (1) At 16 November 2000, 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** (20/12/00):

(1) Data for most reporting criteria is compiled at the end of each month. Department of Housing staff have advised me that at 31 October 2000, there was a total of 27 public rental dwellings vacant in Mackay city. Five of the dwellings were undergoing basic maintenance. Four dwellings were ready to be allocated. Ten dwellings were scheduled to be sold with funds generated to be used for public housing capital works. Three dwellings were scheduled for

major upgrade. Five dwellings were scheduled for demolition or removal to make way for new building projects. The dwellings to be sold were not economic to refurbish and fell below the departmental standards of accommodation.

(2) Department of Housing staff have advised me that as at 31 October 2000, there were a total of 376 applicants on the waitlist for one, two, three and four-bedroom dwellings in the city of Mackay. These comprised 50 applicants for seniors' accommodation, 143 applicants for one-bedroom accommodation (other than seniors), 92 for two-bedroom accommodation, 71 for three-bedroom accommodation and 20 for four-bedroom accommodation. The total number of public housing tenancies in Mackay at this time was 576.

(3) This question has been answered previously.

(4) Department of Housing staff have advised me that the average waiting time for clients allocated public housing in one, two, three and four-bedroom dwellings in the city of Mackay during the six months to 31 October 2000 was 8.4 months. A total of 52 clients were allocated in this period. A breakdown of clients allocated by waiting time and number of bedrooms is as follows:

Bedrooms	Allocations	Average Wait Time (months)
1	13	5.9
2	23	7.9
3	14	9.4
4	2	25.3

#### 1409. Rosewood Ambulance Station

**Mr PAFF** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/11/00)—

With reference to the Rosewood Ambulance Station, Rosewood and as a result of a complaint received that on 13 November 2000 at about 6 p.m. a teenager was conveyed to Rosewood Ambulance Station with breathing problems and on attempting to use the emergency outside telephone which did not work, the parents were unable to contact any ambulance and in light of this complaint and community fears of a serious incident or a fatality—

- (1) Will he immediately instigate the opening of Rosewood Ambulance Station to a 24 hour station?
- (2) What steps is his department taking to address a falling-off of services to the local community?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (18/12/00):

(1) The Rosewood Ambulance Station provides 24hr Ambulance coverage through a mix of day shift and emergency availability on-call, servicing the needs of the community.

(2) There has not been a "falling-off" of services to the community.

With the opening of the new joint QAS/QFRA facility at Rosewood this government has demonstrated a commitment to delivering high quality patient care to the community. This is further evidenced by a marked improvement in response to calls throughout the area.

**1410. Vehicle Registration Concessions for TPI Pensioners**

**Mr DALGLEISH** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/11/00)—

- (1) Is he aware that there are only 6,123 TPI pensioners registered with the Department of Veteran Affairs in Queensland?
- (2) How many (a) cars, (b) trucks, (c) boats, (d) boat trailers, (e) motorcycles, (f) caravans and (g) box trailers are currently registered with concession for TPI pension recipients?
- (3) What is the total dollar amount of concession provided in each of these categories of registration for Queensland TPI pension recipients?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (19/12/00):

- (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs have advised that as at 30 June 2000 there were 6250 TPI pensioners recorded.
- (2) There are 8298 cars, 40 motorcycles and 1010 boats with TPI concessional registration. Trucks, boat trailers, caravans and box trailers are not eligible for concessional registration.
- (3) Individual write-off amounts are \$1.275M for cars, \$400 for motorcycles and \$44,000 for boats.

**1411. Centenary Highway and Ipswich Motorway, Noise Barriers**

**Dr PRENZLER** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/11/00)—

With reference to the noise barriers that have been/are being constructed on the Centenary Highway and on Ipswich/Brisbane Highway—

- (1) What is the cost per suburb of erection of these barriers on the Centenary Highway?
- (2) Are any more barriers being planned for this highway and at what cost?
- (3) What is the cost per suburb of erection of these barriers on the Ipswich/Brisbane Highway at Goodna, Redbank and Riverview?
- (4) Are any more barriers being planned for this highway and at what cost?
- (5) Once the decision to upgrade the Ipswich/Brisbane Highway has been made, will the upgrade interfere with the existing noise barriers; if so, why are these barriers being constructed now only to be moved in the near future?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (19/12/00):

- (1) For the purposes of these answers, we assume where the Member says Ipswich/Brisbane Highway he means the Ipswich Motorway. The Department of Main Roads does not measure the cost of constructing noise barriers per suburb. Costs are measured per metre of barrier and, at present, the average cost of constructing a noise barrier is \$120 per metre. This does not include the cost for the design of the barrier nor any landscaping associated with the construction.

A total of \$2.5 million was estimated for the construction of noise barriers along the Centenary Highway, from the Ipswich Motorway interchange to the Brisbane River.

(2) In accordance with the Department of Main Roads noise policy guidelines, no more barriers are required along the Centenary Highway. Other associated works yet to be completed include landscaping and possibly community artwork.

(3) As stated above, the average cost of noise barrier construction is \$120 per metre.

\$1.6 million was allocated for the construction of noise barriers along the Ipswich Motorway from Redbank to the Logan Motorway interchange.

(4) Further noise barriers will be provided along the Ipswich Motorway. A total of \$2.75 million has been allocated for the construction of barriers along this section of the Motorway.

(5) No funds have been allocated by the Federal Government to upgrade the Ipswich Motorway, however Main Roads is currently undertaking a planning study into upgrade options. In the meantime, the State Government is committed to an ongoing program to provide noise barriers, funds permitting, where highest needs have been identified.

**1412. Queensland Sugar Corporation**

**Mr KNUTH** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (16/11/00)—

With reference to the current parlous state of the Queensland sugar industry which I am sure that he is acutely aware of and given this Government's recent contribution of approximately \$10m in assistance to the industry and as any increased income that growers can realise may well be the difference between their survival or their demise—

- (1) Can he confirm or deny what appears to be a greater than \$300m loss due to foreign exchange transactions that appear in the balance sheet and accompanying notes of the Queensland Sugar Corporation for 1998-99?
- (2) If such a loss did occur, will he explain how this loss occurred and give an assurance that all documents relating to this loss will be tabled in the House?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (12/12/00):

(1) The primary objective of the Queensland Sugar Corporation (QSC) was to maximise the Australian Dollar return to producers. In doing this, QSC used US Dollar sugar futures based sales and was required to take forward exchange contracts to hedge the value of those sales in Australian Dollars.

At its 30 June Balance Date, the QSC was bound by Australian Accounting Standards to value these unrealised contracts at the market price on that balance date.

In the year referred to there was an unrealised loss of the order referred to recorded in the books of the QSC. There were also similarly large realised and unrealised profits from sugar futures hedging activity recorded in the same manner.



In the case of the unrealised currency transactions, these were accounting losses and not actual cash losses. It is natural, because of the forward hedging activity necessary to price sugar, that the QSC would, at any balance date, record unrealised profits and losses in its accounts, depending on the valuation of these contracts against the market value on the balance date.

The combination of all of the sugar futures and currency hedging activity for any year makes up the majority of the final value of the sugar pool. For 1998 this combination produced the very good result for the sugar industry of \$356.93 per tonne for the No 1 Pool which, as a result of the early hedging program that was done in that year, resulted in pool returns that were approximately \$100 per tonne or \$466 million overall, better than if the sugar had been priced at the spot rates ruling at the time the sugar was actually sold.

(2) All of the transactions of the QSC were audited by the Auditor-General at the time the accounts were produced in 1998 and were fully disclosed in the QSC Annual Report and accompanying Financial Statements and Notes. These were tabled in Parliament on 3 November 1998.

#### 1413. Queensland Building Services Authority

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (16/11/00)—

With reference to the proposed selection process to select a general manager for the Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA) and in view of ongoing problems with the QBSA and its monitoring role over Queensland building contractors—

- (1) Will she consider appointing someone with relevant industry experience rather than a public service appointment?
- (2) Does she agree that the failure of a number of Queensland building contractors could be as a result of inexperienced management of the QBSA?

Ms SPENCE (18/12/00):

(1) The appointee to the Office of General Manager of the Queensland Building Services Authority will be selected on the basis of merit and performance against the selection criteria. Substantial knowledge of Queensland building and construction industry issues, policies and legislation is listed amongst the selection criteria.

(2) I do not agree that the failure of a number of Queensland building contractors could be as a result of inexperienced management of the QBSA. There is no correlation between the financial failure of building contractors and the management of the QBSA. The recent failures can be attributed largely to GST-influenced factors including the downturn in building activity, which has generated cashflow problems. QBSA Management cannot be held responsible for matters outside its control.

#### 1414. Butchers Creek State School

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Education (16/11/00)—

With reference to the Butchers Creek State School which was told that it needed 51 students and as soon as it reached this level, it was told it had to get 54 students and as the P & C Association and the students and teachers of Butchers Creek State School worked hard to attract extra students to meet the 51 student criteria and now the goal posts have moved once more—

- (1) What is the number of students required to maintain three classroom teachers in a small community school?
- (2) Will he help this school in any way?

Mr WELLS (18/12/00): The department informs me that Butchers Creek State School is staffed on a model that is applied to every state primary school in Queensland. During 2000 Education Queensland has assisted Butchers Creek State School during 2000 by:

staffing the school with three teachers in response to the principal's predictions of 53 students for the commencement of the 2000 school year;

maintaining the three-teacher staffing level at Butchers Creek State School during 2000 even though the February 2000 enrolment was 48 and the July enrolment was 49;

providing the Butchers Creek State School with an additional classroom space by relocating a demountable classroom from Stratvell State School.

I am informed by the department that the Principal of Butchers Creek State School has provided information on expected enrolments but none is confirmed at this time.

The most recent figures indicate the school is looking at a predicted enrolment of 48 for 2001. There may be other enrolments but none is confirmed at this time.

According to the current statewide model for the allocation of primary school teachers to maintain three classroom teachers at Butchers Creek State School in 2001, the school's enrolment will need to be sustained at 51 or more.

#### 1415. Traffic Counts

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/11/00)—

Will he provide average daily and peak period traffic counts, the dates recorded and the percentage annual increase in these counts on the following roads—

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| (a) Brisbane City |  |
| 140/091/3         | Redland Sub Arterial<br>Gateway Motorway-Mt Cotton |
| 140/095/48        | Samford Sub Arterial<br>Cobalt Street-Ferny Way,   |

- (b) Gold Coast City, Brisbane Beenleigh  
160/204/3 Fletcher Street-Boundary Street,
- (c) Maroochy Shire, Sunshine Motorway  
80/150B/6 Mooloolaba Road-Maroochydore Road  
80/150A/2 Sunshine Motorway  
Bruce Highway to Mooloolaba, and
- (d) Redland  
34/110/17 Panorama Drive-Cleveland Redland Bay Road?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (19/12/00): The Department of Main Roads' South East Queensland Region maintains a program of scheduled traffic counts on all State-controlled roads. Traffic census data is collected using a combination of permanent count stations and other sites, including intersections, to ensure adequate data is collected. Traffic data from non-permanent sites is collected at least once every 2 to 3 years. Based on the most recent traffic counts, the required information pertaining to average daily and peak period traffic counts, the dates recorded and the percentage annual increase in these counts on the roads in question are as follows:

(a) Brisbane City

140/U91/3 Redland Sub Arterial  
Gateway Motorway-Mt Cotton  
Latest Date of Count: 10/6/1999  
Average Daily Traffic: 30,900 vehicles per day  
AM peak period: 7.00 am-8.00 am (2,000 vehicles per hour)  
PM peak period: 5.00 pm-6.00 pm (2,300 vehicles per hour)  
Annual increase: 3.8 percent per annum (from 1996 to 1999)

140/U95/48 Samford Sub Arterial  
Cobalt Street-Ferny Way  
Latest Date of Count: 10/8/2000  
Average Daily Traffic: 23,400 vehicles per day  
AM peak period: 7.45 am-8.45 am (2,080 vehicles per hour)  
PM peak period: 5.00 pm-6.00 pm (1,880 vehicles per hour)  
Annual increase: 4.8 percent per annum (from 1996 to 1999)

- (b) Gold Coast City, Brisbane Beenleigh  
160/204/3 Fletcher Street-Boundary Street

The Brisbane-Beenleigh Road, Fletcher to Boundary Street section, has an Annual Average Daily Traffic volume of 23,934 vehicles per day. The peak period volume is 2,207 vehicles per hour recorded between 4.00 pm and 5.00 pm on weekdays. These volumes are recorded on temporary traffic counters.

The Annual Average Daily Traffic volume from 1 January 1999 to 30 December 1999 was 22,572 vehicles per day. The peak period volume was 1,959 vehicles recorded between 3.00 pm and 4.00 pm on weekdays. With the limited information available, the traffic growth is determined as approximately 4 percent per annum over the past 5 years.

- (c) Maroochy Shire, Sunshine Motorway  
80/150B/6 Mooloolaba Road-Maroochydore Road

This section of road has an Annual Average Daily Traffic volume of 28,500 vehicles per day. The peak period volume is 1,140 vehicles per hour recorded between 4.00 pm and 5.00 pm on weekdays. These volumes are recorded on permanent counters and averaged over one year, from 1 January 1999 to 30 December 1999. The annual increase is 6 percent.

80/150A/2 Sunshine Motorway  
Bruce Highway to Mooloolaba

This section of road has an Annual Average Daily Traffic volume of 23,000 vehicles per day. Peak period counts are not available for this section of road. The annual increase is 7 percent.

(d) Redland Shire

34/110/17 Panorama Drive-Cleveland Redland Bay Rd

Latest Date of Count: 26/9/2000  
Average Daily Traffic: 13,830 vehicles per day  
AM peak period: 7.30 am-8.30 am (1,740 vehicles per hour)  
PM peak period: 4.30 pm-5.30 pm (1,780 vehicles per hour)  
Annual increase: 2.1 percent per annum (from 1996 to 1999).

**1416. Power Outages**

**Mr SEENEY** asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (16/11/00)—

How many power outages have been recorded by both Ergon and ENERGEX for each month this calendar year, where did they occur and what was the duration and cause of each of those outages?

**Mr McGRADY** (20/12/00): ENERGEX and Ergon Energy have advised that because of the sheer volume of information requested, collation of the details concerning location, duration and cause of the interruptions would unreasonably divert the operational resources of both Corporations.

**1417. Townsville Railway Station**

**Mr JOHNSON** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/11/00)—

With reference to previous undertakings given in relation to a new \$12m rail station for Townsville—

- (1) What is the current position in relation to the public consultation process being undertaken in relation to this project?

- (2) When will the final site for the new station be announced?
- (3) When will construction commence and when will it be scheduled for completion?
- (4) Will he give an assurance that a rail connection to the existing station will be maintained as promised?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (19/12/00):

(1 & 2) Following extensive community consultation in 1999, a preferred site was chosen for the new Townsville railway station in the vicinity of the old North Yard Workshops, at Flinders Street West.

The Townsville CBD Taskforce has incorporated the new station location into its draft Master Plan for revitalising Townsville CBD by creating new living and working environments. The final Master Plan is expected to be placed on public exhibition from 30 November 2000.

Providing no major planning issues emerge from this consultation process, Queensland Rail will be immediately authorised to proceed with final designs and construction of the station.

(3) Preliminary engineering and design studies have already commenced in

preparation for final site approval. Construction work is expected to commence towards the end of 2001. Completion is being targeted to coincide with the commencement of the Cairns diesel tilt train service scheduled for December 2002.

(4) Consistent with my earlier undertaking, the Townsville CBD Taskforce Master

Plan identifies the maintenance of a rail link from the mainline and heritage workshop buildings back to the existing heritage listed station building. This track will give train access to the existing station for special events and ceremonial purposes, without impacting on frontage of the commercial centre to Flinders Street West.

#### **1418. SUDAW Developments; Surat Basin**

**Mr SLACK** asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (Mr Elder) (16/11/00)—

With reference to his comments during Parliamentary Estimates Committee E in which he stated that the Government was deciding whether to again extend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SUDAW Developments on the Surat Basin rail and port infrastructure project—

- (1) Has the Government renewed a MOU with SUDAW Developments; if so, for what length of time does the MOU extend and have clear objectives been set for the progression of this project during that time; if so, what are these objectives?
- (2) If a MOU has not been renewed, has any other arrangement been entered into with this company and what are the terms of this agreement?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (22/12/00):

(1) No.

(2) In regard to the Surat Basin rail and port infrastructure project, no other formal agreement has been entered into by the Government with SUDAW Developments Ltd at this time.

#### **1419. Flying Foxes**

**Mr ROWELL** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (16/11/00)—

As there is a major problem in Queensland for the horticulture industry with flying foxes that are destroying crops and there is a severe impact on the viability of a number of farming operations due to the losses that are occurring, will he advise what measures are being taken by the Department of Primary Industries to protect crops that are vulnerable to flying fox attack?

**Mr PALASZCZUK** (12/12/00): The issue of flying fox damage in fruit crops is complex and has been around for many years. The Department of Primary Industries has committed considerable staff and financial resources to this issue and is working in collaboration with others towards providing better options for growers.

The Department has convened the Flying Fox Consultative Committee (FFCC) for almost two years. This committee has been responsible for bringing stakeholders from industry, government, environment and community together to address the problem of flying fox damage to fruit crops.

A survey of over 100 growers conducted by DPI has provided information on the relative effectiveness of various flying fox control methods. Based on this information, further work in relation to netting and deterrents has been pursued by DPI.

A project was developed by DPI to assist growers to determine whether netting is a cost-effective option for their own situation. A computer program for assessing economics of orchard netting was developed and a comprehensive report has been prepared outlining the netting systems available, their pros and cons and other useful advice. Ten workshops were held across the State with around 150 growers attending. This project has enabled growers to make more informed decisions about their crop protection options.

Most recently, the FFCC has sponsored a project to investigate the potential of smell and taste deterrents as a control method. DPI is working with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) to advance this project. Trials of the compounds are likely to commence in December. Once results of preliminary trials are available, further field testing will be required. It is hoped that the investigation of taste and smell deterrents will identify potential new means of control as a much needed alternative for areas where other methods are impractical.

The FFCC has also investigated a number of other areas relating to the flying fox issue including the risk of lyssavirus, potential for flying fox forecasting, economic assistance and conservation status. A poster for the identification of flying fox species and

a list of flying fox preferred tree species have been developed.

#### 1420. Four Corners—The Numbers Game

**Mr QUINN** asked the Premier (16/11/00)—

Will he assure the House that the "Paul" referred to in the ABC Four Corners—The Numbers Game program is not a member of his current Government?

**Mr BEATTIE** (18/12/00): I have no knowledge of the identity of the person referred to as "Paul" in the Four Corners program.

#### 1421. Toowoomba Range Crossing

**Mr HORAN** asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/11/00)—

With reference to the problems being caused by heavy transport on the Warrego Highway coming up and down the range at Toowoomba and travelling through the city via the main east west road of the city, James Street, and traversing up to eleven sets of traffic lights and as this main route from Brisbane to Melbourne and Darwin carries Australia's highest freight tonnage—

Will he include the second range crossing in the Queensland list of projects for the additional funding announced by the Prime Minister on the weekend of 11 and 12 November?

- (2) What amount could be included in the list to enable preliminary work to commence on the project and thus to bring forward the commencement date of this vital road?

**Mr BREDHAUER** (19/12/00):

(1) Queensland National Highway priorities are included in Main Roads National Highway Investment Strategy which I forwarded to the Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services, the Honourable John Anderson MP, in 1998 but have yet to receive a formal reply. The second range crossing at Toowoomba is included in this Investment Strategy.

In relation to the recently announced Federal Government "Roads to Recovery" initiative, I offered to provide the Honourable John Anderson MP with Queensland's priorities for the local roads and National Highways components of this package at the recent ATC Meeting in Launceston.

My offer was declined.

(2) Main Roads have made several representations to the Federal Government seeking additional funds for this project. In particular, the Department sought Federal funding approval in December 1998 and June 2000 to a revised limit of \$30 million to complete detailed planning, design and corridor acquisition activities by 2002-2003.

To date, the Federal Government has not seen fit to approve the extra funds required.

#### 1422. Queensland Fire Rescue Authority, Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/11/00)—

With reference to the suspension of a fire officer on 21 October 1999 pending an investigation into allegations made against him by another employee—

- (1) Has the investigation been completed?
- (2) Why has it taken more than 12 months to investigate this matter?
- (3) What has been the department's expenditure on legal costs (internal and external) to date in this matter?
- (4) Has the fire officer (in question) been legally represented in this action; if so, has his legal representation been provided or assisted by United Firefighters Union (in line with its policy)?
- (5) Given that Crown Law acts upon instructions from either the Minister or his department's instructions, why have public funds been expended to delay this case for more than 12 months?
- (6) Is it his intention to financially savage the United Firefighters Union and break the morale of its members by delaying this case?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (18/12/00):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The investigation into this matter was finalised after eight months. For further information, please see my answer to Question on Notice number 1380, asked by you on Wednesday, 15 November 2000.
- (3) The Department's Legal and Legislative Services Unit has been involved in the progress of this matter, however, a detailed estimate of resources expended on individual cases is not currently available. Funds expended in this case are not unusual given the seriousness and complexity of the matter.
- (4) I am advised that the fire officer in question has been legally represented. The source of that representation is not a matter for myself or the Department.
- (5) There has been no attempt by either myself or the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority to deliberately delay the progression of the investigation or disciplinary process.
- (6) Impact on the United Firefighters' Union or its members was never an issue in progressing the due disciplinary process followed in this case.

#### 1423. Gaming Machine Revenue

**Mr HEALY** asked the Minister for Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Sport (16/11/00)—

With reference to his answer to an Estimates hearing question that the 1999-2000 budgeted figure for gaming machine revenue was \$290m and given this figure was actually \$350m, as this revenue has such a big bearing on the Sport and Recreation Queensland Budget—

- (1) Has he endeavoured to find out why the 1999-2000 estimated revenue from gaming machines was so wildly inaccurate—almost 20 per cent below the actual figure—and did this inaccurate

figure affect the Budget of Sport and Recreation Queensland?

- (2) Has he complained to the Treasurer about the grossly inaccurate budgeted figure for gaming machine revenue in 1999-2000; if so, what was the Treasurer's response?
- (3) Has he taken steps to ensure that the 2000-01 budgeted revenue from gaming machines and therefore the 23 per cent share for his department, is a more accurate figure; if so, what were those steps?
- (4) Given that the budgeted gaming machine revenue to be made available for sport and recreation purposes in 2000-01 is \$55.2m (23 per cent of the total gaming machine revenue) does he believe the State will only collect a total of \$240m in gaming machine revenue, a drop of more than \$110m on the 1999-2000 figure?
- (5) Does he intend checking the figure with the Treasurer?

**Mr MACKENROTH** (14/12/00): The Member has been repeatedly advised in the past of the arrangements put in place in respect of the gaming machine revenue contributions to sport and recreation in 1999-2001.

I have previously informed the Member that the contribution rate has now been set at 23% and that this would continue.

#### 1424. World Firefighters Games 2002

**Mr BAUMANN** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/11/00)—

Does the Government have the full support of the United Firefighters Union in staging the World Firefighters Games in Brisbane in 2002?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (18/12/00): Rank and file members of the United Firefighters Union strongly support the World Firefighter Games 2002. The QFRA conducted a survey of some 2000 permanent and 2000 auxiliary fire fighters in April/May of this year. In response to the question "Do you support Queensland as the host for the World Firefighter Games in 2002", 93.8% of 1346 staff who responded to the survey signified their support for the World Firefighter Games to be held in Brisbane in 2002.

#### 1425. Federal Government Employee Entitlements Scheme

**Mrs SHELDON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/11/00)—

With reference to the Federal Government's Employee Entitlements Scheme—

Why did employees of the following insolvent companies—Expo Industries, P & W Freight Lines, BAVE, All Make Mowers, Clyberg, Travelcafe, Precenance, Lady Dale, Morrison Plumbing, BMB Factors, Gartoll and Multilift—receive an average of 35 per cent less of their entitlements than they would have otherwise received if the Queensland

Government had contributed to the Federal Government's Employee Entitlements Scheme?

**Mr BRADY** (18/12/00): No State has agreed to participate in the federal government scheme.

Queensland has repeatedly called upon the federal government to cooperate with the States to establish an effective national scheme to safeguard employee entitlements. Unfortunately, rather than cooperate with the States, the federal government has acted unilaterally to establish an unsatisfactory scheme.

Queensland will continue to push the federal government to take appropriate action to resolve this issue, as follows:

A national scheme that covers all employees should be established.

As far as possible the scheme should ensure payment of full entitlements.

Payments from the scheme should be timely.

Employers should meet the costs of the scheme but these costs should be minimised as much as possible.

#### 1426. Cardiac Patients, Gold Coast

**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Minister for Health (16/11/00)—

How many public cardiac patients are travelling from the Gold Coast area to Brisbane to access treatment?

**Mrs EDMOND** (18/12/00): The number of public cardiac patients who travelled from the Gold Coast for interventional procedures in 1999-2000 was as follows:

The Prince Charles Hospital—168

Princess Alexandra Hospital—328

Royal Brisbane Hospital—58.

I am advised, according to Australian Health Technology Advisory Council Guidelines, this is well below the recommended minimum number of patients for a free standing interventional cardiac unit.

This advice has not changed since this question was asked by the Member for Maroochydore on 19 October 2000.

#### 1427. Family It's Forever; Putting Families First

**Mr BEANLAND** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (16/11/00)—

With reference to the recent extravagant publicly campaign, "Family It's Forever", "Putting Families First"—

What were the costing details of that project, including the individual print items in the kit, packaging and delivery costs of all kits forwarded by mail or courier and particularly the cost of the electronic media advertisements that formed part of the project?

**Ms BLIGH** (19/12/00): The total cost for all aspects of the Putting Families First initiative is

approximately \$852,000. This includes production of a number of major reports, the Queensland Families magazine and the television commercials. The cost of media advertisements is approximately \$614,000 for development and placement. It should be noted that this cost will be more than matched by the value of community service announcements and corporate sponsorships.

#### 1428. Queensland Health, Private Vehicle Use

**Mr HOBBS** asked the Minister for Health (16/11/00)—

How much does Queensland Health reimburse or pay to staff members who use their own vehicles for work related travel on a cents per litre basis and when was this amount last increased?

**Mrs EDMOND** (18/12/00): As is the case with all government departments, Queensland Health employees are paid a motor vehicle allowance for the distance necessarily and actually travelled when using their private motor vehicle to undertake official duties, in accordance with Directive 21/99 under the Public Service Act 1996.

Details of amounts payable under the Directive are published in the Government Gazette and are also available on the website of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (DETIR).

#### 1429. Workers Assistance Program

**Mr GRICE** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/11/00)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 99 of 2000 in which he referred to the Workers Assistance Program his department's Employment Taskforce administers—

- (1) What is the total funding disbursed by the taskforce under the Workers Assistance Program to date?
- (2) What is the total administrative cost of resourcing the Employment Taskforce in the current financial year to date (including salary, travel, accommodation costs of taskforce staff)?

**Mr BRADY** (18/12/00):

(1) The total funds disbursed by the Employment Taskforce under the Worker Assistance Program to 20 November 2000 are \$854,929.68.

(2) According to the Department's financial management system, the total costs of administering the Worker Assistance Program from 1 July 2000 to 20 November 2000 is \$132,526.

#### 1430. GST on Fuel Sales

**Mr ELLIOTT** asked the Treasurer (16/11/00)—

- (1) Approximately how much will the State Treasury receive from GST on the sale of fuel sold in Queensland during the first quarter of the current financial year?

- (2) How much of this GST tax windfall is the Government prepared to forgo in order to reduce the fuel tax burden on Queensland motorists and businesses?

**Mr HAMILL** (18/12/00):

(1) Under the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Reform of Commonwealth-State Financial Relations (IGA), any windfall increases in GST revenue in the first two years of the operation of the new tax system accrue to the Commonwealth Government. GST revenue is collected by the Commonwealth Government and distributed to the States and Territories on the basis of the Commonwealth Grants Commission's horizontal fiscal equalisation principles. This redistribution of funds reduces the cost to the Commonwealth of budget balancing assistance to States and Territories whose GST revenue is below their Guaranteed Minimum Amount. In the Commonwealth Government's mid year fiscal review, it is estimated that GST revenue will exceed Queensland's Guaranteed Minimum Amount by \$1.1 million in 2000-2001 and the benefit of this amount will be retained by the Commonwealth. Any additional GST revenue, from whatever source, will also be distributed to other States and Territories to reduce the cost to the Commonwealth of providing budget balancing assistance. There is no GST tax windfall for the Queensland Government.

(2) The Queensland Government will receive no GST tax windfall for the reasons described above. However, the Queensland Government is very concerned with the recent volatility in fuel prices impacting upon the Queensland motorist. To this end, the Government continues to maintain the State Fuel Subsidy scheme for the benefit of consumers. The State Fuel subsidy passes on 8.354 cents per litre to the retailer, which in turn decreases the GST component payable at the bowser. The fuel subsidy scheme is maintained as an expense to the State and represents the Government's continuing support of Queensland's low tax status.

#### 1431. Forde Inquiry

**Mrs GAMIN** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (16/11/00)—

How many abusers have been prosecuted as a result of the Forde Inquiry into institutional child abuse?

**Ms BLIGH** (19/12/00): This is a matter that falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Honourable Tom Barton MP, Minister for Police and Corrective Services. I am aware that Minister Barton has recently answered Question on Notice No 1259 in relation to this matter.

#### 1432. Mount Isa Mental Health Service

**Mr MITCHELL** asked the Minister for Health (16/11/00)—

With reference to the Mount Isa Mental Health Unit—

- (1) How many full time equivalent mental health staff does this unit have?

- (2) In what job categories are these staff employed?
- (3) How many vacant positions are there and in what categories?
- (4) How much mental health funding in Mt Isa Health District remains unspent?

**Mrs EDMOND** (18/12/00):

- (1) The financial year to date full time equivalent (FTE) staff employed to provide mental health services in the Mt Isa District is 10.83 employees.
- (2) Staff are employed in clinical professions and administrative roles.
- (3) There are currently 6 vacant clinical professional positions.
- (4) As at 30 October 2000, 69.5% of the Mount Isa Mental Health Service 2000/01 budget remains unexpended.

#### **1433. Bundaberg TAFE College Maritime Training**

**Mr STEPHAN** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/11/00)—

- (1) Will he explain why no officer of Wide Bay Institute of TAFE was considered competent to provide industry liaison and marketing of the Bundaberg College of TAFE Marine Campus by undertaking the development of proposals, etc?
- (2) Will he table those proposals, etc, developed by the consultant the institute employed at a cost of \$9350 to undertake this activity?

**Mr BRADY** (18/12/00):

- (1) The Institute employs instructional staff with expertise in Maritime training and also marketing officers. The Institute sought specialist advice from an entity with recognised experience in marketing of maritime activities to guide the future activities of these instructional and marketing staff.
- (2) As a result of these investigations and negotiations an Agreement was entered into with the Directors of the Australasian Maritime Education Services, Captain Rod and Mrs Valerie Short; a Memorandum of Understanding has been instigated with Seafood & Maritime Industries Training Ltd, Darwin, NT to work collaboratively to deliver programs within the Maritime sector; and a Capability Statement is also under development to complement continued discussions with the International China-based company, COSCO.

#### **1434. Forde Inquiry**

**Mr SANTORO** asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (16/11/00)—

To date, how much has been disbursed from the \$1m trust fund the Government indicated it would establish to assist the victims of institutional abuse recognised by the Forde Inquiry?

**Ms BLIGH** (19/12/00): The Forde Foundation is an independent legal entity administered by the Public Trustee. The Government has no role in making decisions about disbursing funds. This is the function of the independent Board of Advice, which includes former residents as members. The Board of Advice to the Forde Foundation recently advertised the availability of funds and called for applications from former residents.

#### **1435. Breaking the Unemployment Cycle**

**Mr DAVIDSON** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/11/00)—

With reference to his media statement of 21 October 2000 concerning Noosa unemployed people in which he gives a range of very detailed statistics specific to Noosa Shire concerning Community Jobs Plan funding, project and participant numbers, Community Employment Assistance Program funding and participant numbers, the total cash incentives paid to specific numbers of employers and group training companies for specified numbers of additional apprentices and trainees and the number of additional trainees taken on by public sector agencies and he has also provided similarly detailed statistics in relation to a range of other areas and cities—

- (1) As this information is obviously readily available from his department's data base on a city and shire basis, will he table similarly detailed statistics from the "Breaking the Unemployment Cycle" initiative for all remaining Queensland cities and shires which he has not mentioned to date?
- (2) Will he also provide it on an electorate by electorate basis as he has done previously?

**Mr BRADY** (18/12/00):

(1) Statistics within media statements with respect to the Community Jobs Plan, the Community Employment Assistance Program and the Private and Public Sector Apprenticeship and Traineeship Programs are calculated by research staff and included in the statements as required. The method to derive detailed statistics under these programs for all Queensland cities and shires is resource intensive and time consuming and is therefore considered onerous and an unreasonable drain on departmental resources.

(2) The following statistics have been provided by electorate:

Attachment 1: Public Sector Apprenticeship and Traineeship Program

Attachment 2: Private Sector Apprenticeship and Traineeship Program

Attachment 3: Community Jobs and Community Employment Assistance Program

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

**1436. Kilcoy, Mobile Dental Services**

**Miss SIMPSON** asked the Minister for Health (16/11/00)—

With reference to the mobile dental van servicing Kilcoy—

How often is this used for school children and could it be used to provide adult services at the town's nursing home to save elderly patients having to be transported to Caboolture for public dental services?

**Mrs EDMOND** (18/12/00): The mobile dental van was at Kilcoy from June to August this year, servicing the State Primary and High School. The facility visits Kilcoy on an annual basis and treats children exclusively. This particular mobile dental van visits all schools in the area west of Caboolture to Kilcoy and is in constant use throughout the year.

The facility is specifically designed to treat children, and does not have easy access for adult patients, particularly those with limited mobility.

To cater for patients requiring emergency dental care in Kilcoy, an Outsourcing Agreement is in place with the local private dental practitioner. This enables eligible Kilcoy residents to access emergency dental care locally. This is particularly important in cases of emergency dental care when the opportunity to arrange transport to Caboolture at short notice may be limited.

**1437. TAFE, Budget Allocations**

**Mr VEIVERS** asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/11/00)—

With reference to the Budget allocations for TAFE institutes for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 as indicated in the documents he provided for the Estimates Committee—

In relation to each of those institutes whose allocations have (a) declined by more than \$500,000 or (b) increased by more than \$500,000, on what grounds has the respective decline or increase been justified?

**Mr BRADY** (18/12/00): The institute budget differences were the result of changes to the delivery plans negotiated by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations with each Institute, and to the methods of distributing non-profile funding for systemic projects and Commonwealth tied funding.

The method for distribution of non-profile funding in 2000-2001 was developed by the Board of TAFE Queensland which comprises all TAFE Institute Directors.

**1438. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority; Mr W. Hartley**

**Mrs PRATT** asked the Premier (16/11/00)—

With reference to an investigation carried out in 1999 by the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) in relation to Chief Commissioner of Emergency Services, Mr Wayne Hartley and a decision of misconduct which was handed down, but Mr Hartley was allowed to serve out his contract, which was not renewed and

this decision allegedly enabled him to continue his career, earning a large salary and ultimately a very generous superannuation—

- (1) Was Mr Hartley allowed to receive his superannuation entitlements when other politicians and Chief Executive Officer's found guilty of misconduct have been denied the same privilege?
- (2) Is the full report of the CJC's findings concerning Mr Hartley and which was delivered to this Government, available to the taxpayer whose taxes paid for this inquiry?
- (3) Is the full report of the incident available under Freedom of Information; if not, why not?
- (4) Is the Government hiding something?

**Mr BEATTIE** (18/12/00):

(1) On 24 February 1997, Mr Hartley was appointed by the Borbidge-Sheldon Government for a period of five years to the position of Chief Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority and is currently employed in that capacity. He has not been paid any superannuation.

(2) Documents pertaining to the investigation are held by the Criminal Justice Commission, the Department of Emergency Services and the Misconduct Tribunal Registry. Application can be made to these bodies for access to the records.

(3) Each application for access to documents under the Freedom of Information Act 1992 would be considered on its merits in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

(4) No.

**1439. Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams**

**Mr COOPER** asked the Premier (16/11/00)—

With reference to the proposed heavy charges for use of Wivenhoe and Somerset Dam recreational areas and to remarks by him that he would have "some small influence" in relation to these charges and as these charges will have a detrimental affect on visitations as well as on the people's pocket and as these are supposed to be public recreational areas, open and accessible to all—

Will he use that "small influence" to ensure free-of-cost access remains to the people, to these beautiful recreational facilities?

**Mr BEATTIE** (18/12/00): The South East Queensland Water Company is a jointly owned company of south east Queensland local governments, with the Queensland Government being a minority shareholder having a 20 per cent shareholding in the company.

As the Government is a minority shareholder, issues relating to the strategic direction of the company are best addressed by the 12 local governments who own 80 per cent of the company.

**1440. Gaming Machine Revenue; Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** asked the Treasurer (16/11/00)—



With reference to the Government's promise to provide 23 per cent of gaming machine revenue to the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund and given that the budgeted gaming machine revenue to be made available for sport and recreation purposes in 2000-01 is \$55.2m—

- (1) Does this indicate that Treasury is budgeting on a massive reduction of more than \$110m in gaming machine revenue in 2000-01?
- (2) Will he explain why gaming machine revenue is estimated to be \$50m less than the 1999-2000 estimate and more than \$110m less than the 1999-2000 actual figure?
- (3) Has he ascertained why the 1999-2000 budgeted figure for gaming machine revenue (\$290m) was so wildly inaccurate when compared with the actual figure of \$350m?
- (4) Is he confident that the 2000-01 budgeted figure for gaming machine revenue of \$240m is accurate?
- (5) Will he pledge to provide 23 per cent of gaming machine revenue to the Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund in line with the promise he extracted from the then Treasurer in 1997 when he was Shadow Treasurer?

**Mr HAMILL** (18/12/00):

(1-3) 1999-2000 Actual Gaming revenue was \$306.1m rather than \$350m. The budgeted reduction for 2000-01 was \$65.3m and was a result of the reduction in the gaming machine tax rate as a consequence changes made to Commonwealth/State financial relations with the introduction of the Commonwealth's tax package.

The variation between budgeted and actual 1999-2000 revenue was \$16m (rather than \$60m) or 5.7%

(4) Budgeted revenue figures are appropriately conservative estimates made with the best information available at the time.

(5) Yes.

**1441. Backflow Prevention Program; BHF (Aust) Pty Ltd**

**Dr WATSON** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (16/11/00)—

Given that on 29 June 2000, BHF (Aust) Pty Ltd were officially notified that their contract would end on 30 June 2000 and subsequently advised "the role of the program coordinator for the next phase of the Backflow Prevention Program will be undertaken in-house"—

- (1) How much money has actually been spent from this program to date using "in-house resources"?
- (2) Has the "risk management" methodology been used in all cases?
- (3) What is the comparative cost of delivery and rectification per project for 2000-01?
- (4) What was the cost of delivery and rectification per project for the previous three financial years?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (21/12/00): I note the Honourable Member is once again acting on behalf and in the interests of a private firm, namely BHF, and its principals Brendan McKennariey and Graham Doyle, who are currently in litigation with the state government and have laid complaints with the Criminal Justice Commission on issues related to the backflow prevention program.

The Honourable Member will recall he has acted as these persons' mouthpiece previously both inside and outside the Parliament.

This consistent advocacy on behalf of a company which first secured access to government work under the Borbidge Coalition government should itself raise questions about the relationship between the Honourable Member and Messrs McKennariey and Doyle—specifically whether any undertakings have been provided to BHF by the Honourable Member or other Coalition MPs in relation to any contracts any future Coalition government would award BHF.

This question and others by the Opposition yet again seek information to advantage Mr McKennariey and Mr Doyle in relation to their action against taxpayers.

No doubt the information sought would also be used by the Honourable Member and other Opposition Members to generate another baseless and irresponsible scare campaign on this issue.

The release of such information is not appropriate given the fact that BHF's action against the government is proceeding, and the fact the firm has also made a complaint to the Criminal Justice Commission.

Such information will, if appropriate, be made available as part of the legal process in preparation for any court case resulting from the action initiated by BHF.

But, given the Honourable Member's disgraceful performance on this issue so far, it comes as no surprise that he is again acting as a taxpayer-funded lobbyist for BHF.

BHF has been extremely fortunate to have found someone as gullible, unscrupulous and desperate as the Honourable Member whose sole motivation since this issue first arose has been to shore up his faltering leadership by generating misleading media reports on a program for which he was responsible as a previous Minister for Public Works.

He has sought to spread unfounded alarm by raising baseless concerns about something as basic as the safety of water in government-owned premises and unnecessarily frightening Queensland residents—especially parents with school-age children, staff and patients in hospitals and the elderly in nursing facilities.

The Honourable Member has actively assisted BHF and its principals in a deceitful and spineless war of attrition against the state government and the Department of Public Works.

He has willingly parroted all the lines fed to him by BHF, while blatantly ignoring the fact that he had absolutely no concerns about backflow programs when he was Minister for Public Works.

The material leaked by BHF to the Opposition was used by the Honourable Member and other Opposition MPs without checking its veracity or currency.

On behalf of BHF, the Honourable Member knowingly leaked an outdated list of government-owned sites on the backflow works program—including schools, hospitals and other buildings and sites.

This helped generate headlines such as "Water scare" (Fraser Coast Chronicle 7.6.99); "Is our water safe?" (Queensland Times 8.6.99); "Backflow threat to water" (Cairns Post 7.6.99); and "Our kids at risk" (Townsville Bulletin 7.6.99).

While these headlines may have satisfied the Honourable Member's cheap and short-term political aims, they created considerable unfounded anxiety across the state.

The irresponsibility of his actions was underlined by an article in the Toowoomba Chronicle (8.6.99) which reported: "a spokesman for Dr Watson could not confirm the authenticity of the list".

It was further confirmed by the principal of Biloela State School who stated the school had already been fitted with backflow devices, despite its inclusion on the list released by the Honourable Member. (Central Telegraph 2.6.99)

It was that type of baseless scaremongering which led the Bundaberg News-Mail's editorialist on 8 June 1999 to quite rightly ask of Dr Watson: "If (backflow is) a health disaster waiting to happen now, as he claims, then why didn't he speak out when it was his responsibility?"

It is also notable that both the Honourable Member and Mr McKennariey cowardly avoided fronting the July 1999 all-party Parliamentary Public Works Committee hearing into the backflow program—a hearing in which even Opposition Members did not disagree with the risk-management approach adopted under the program.

It is equally notable that when Mr Doyle did appear he made claims identical to those previously made outside the hearing by the Honourable Member which were, nevertheless, successfully demolished by evidence from other, more reliable, witnesses at the hearings.

At the heart of this issue is the willingness of a Minister—or potential Minister—to bend to the wishes of a private company seeking access to taxpayers' funds.

I believe that is the basis of all the attacks on me as Minister, the state government and the Department of Public Works since early in 1999.

Mr McKennariey and Mr Doyle have attempted to undermine the government because they expected me as Minister to overrule the Director-General on his decision to close the Quality Water marketing consortium of which BHF was a part.

Because they were at the time members of the Labor Party, they apparently expected me as Minister to give them preferential treatment—similar to the

treatment they had been shown under the Coalition which first engaged them.

Mr Doyle has since become close to the Liberal Party after losing ALP preselection for the seat of Ferny Grove.

Information which came to me following the June 1998 change of government indicated that both Mr McKennariey and Mr Doyle were loudly telling anyone who would listen that "Schwarto will look after us".

In other words they expected me to be open to corruption by assuming I would "sling" millions of dollars in taxpayers' funds to "Labor mates".

That is not the way I operate as Minister.

My behaviour in dealing with this issue has been entirely proper.

Unfortunately, that is the simple reason I have been singled out for political attacks by BHF—willingly aided and abetted by morally corrupt Coalition MPs such as the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Member has clearly sided with a particular private firm on a specific taxpayer-funded program.

Taxpayers have a right to know why.

The Honourable Member should detail all meetings, contact or correspondence with BHF and Messrs Doyle and McKennariey and the meetings, contact or correspondence any members of the Shadow Ministry have also had with them.

The Honourable Member might also like to declare whether he is prepared to commit a future Coalition government to the backflow prevention proposal worth hundreds of millions of dollars which BHF put to the Borbidge government.

As the agent of BHF, the Honourable Member can assure the firm that the Department of Public Works will be defending the action brought against it by Mr McKennariey and Mr Doyle.

When it reaches court, the Honourable Member himself and those of his frontbench colleagues who have had so much to say on this issue, may have the opportunity to justify their previous public statements under oath—in particular their repeated public statements incorrectly alleging that I as Minister cancelled a contract with BHF.

The Honourable Member clearly was not prepared to have the truth of his previous statements tested before the Parliamentary Public Works Committee.

I can assure the Honourable Member that the protection of the public interest and the protection of taxpayers' funds will continue to guide my attitude to this issue.

While costs in defending the action taken by BHF are not being drawn against the backflow program itself, I have an expectation that taxpayers should not suffer any loss due to this politically motivated action.

I suggest taxpayers themselves have that expectation.

Finally, I also note that the Honourable Member—in taking the side of BHF—supports its view that officers of the Department of Public Works, including his former Deputy Director-General, Mal Grierson, lied to the Parliamentary Public Works Committee.

It is little wonder the Honourable Member took the department to its lowest ebb in morale when he was Minister.

Both Mr McKennarney and Mr Doyle have engaged in a series of underhand activities designed to undermine my and the government's position. The latest of these included a phoney Christmas greeting.

These people, who lack the courage to openly and honestly advocate their case, have found in the Honourable Member a companion as morally bankrupt as themselves.

You would also be aware that Mr McKennarney and Mr Doyle have made a complaint to the CJC which amongst other things accuses Mr Grierson, Mr Smith, Mr Tiley, Ms Turbit and myself of official misconduct in regard to this matter.

No doubt they did so with your encouragement.

I am delighted to advise that the CJC has completely exonerated all of the above.

Clearly the allegations that you and others have made publicly and on behalf of BHF have been completely discredited.

If you had any decency, which, of course all Queenslanders know you haven't, you would apologise to the innocent people whose names you have besmirched.

#### 1442. Backflow Prevention Program

**Mr LINGARD** asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (16/11/00)—

With reference to the tabling by him on 8 June 1999 of an internal memorandum from the General Manager—Project Services, Mr Max Smith, to Director-General, Mr Mal Grierson, regarding the Department's Backflow Prevention Program and to the memorandum, in which Mr Smith states "I am taking action to further service the Queensland Health (Stage 2) project by invitation of competitive tenders for the work involved"—

Have competitive tenders been called; if so, who was invited to tender and what were the details of the successful tenderer?

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (20/12/00): Refer to the response to Question on Notice No. 1441.

#### 1443. Mr W. Vitali

**Mr SPRINGBORG** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (16/11/00)—

- (1) Was psychologist Walter Vitali hired at public expense to interview women in the Native Title Section of the Crown Law Office?
- (2) Will he provide a copy of any resulting report as well as details as to why this contract was entered into and the costs of the contract, as well as what action has been taken relating to any of the recommendations?

**Mr FOLEY** (18/12/00): No. Mr Walter Vitali is an employee of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. He is not a psychologist and he has not interviewed any member of the Native Title team. Consequently, he has not produced any reports relating to the Native Title team.

#### 1444. Yeppoon Fire Station

**Mr LESTER** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/11/00)—

With reference to moves to take away the 24 hour permanent fire officer coverage of the Yeppoon Fire Station which means four permanent officers will work during the day shift and the rest of the time, this expanding community will be covered by auxiliary fire officers and as this issue is of huge concern to the community—

- (1) How will this benefit the community?
- (2) If the community wanted eight permanent fire officers giving 14-16 hours coverage, how much would a levy cost the ratepayer?
- (3) If the community wanted 12 officers to give further permanent fire coverage, what would this levy cost the ratepayers of Livingstone Shire?

**Mr ROBERTSON** (18/12/00):

(1) The new rostering system at the Yeppoon Fire Station is a better utilisation of existing staff through changed roster arrangements to provide for safer crewing levels for firefighters attending emergency incidents. It also allows firefighters to be proactively involved in public safety and community fire prevention activities.

(2 & 3) The QFRA staffing model for fire stations is based on the risk profiles of the area. The profile determines the level of resources required in an urban fire levy area.